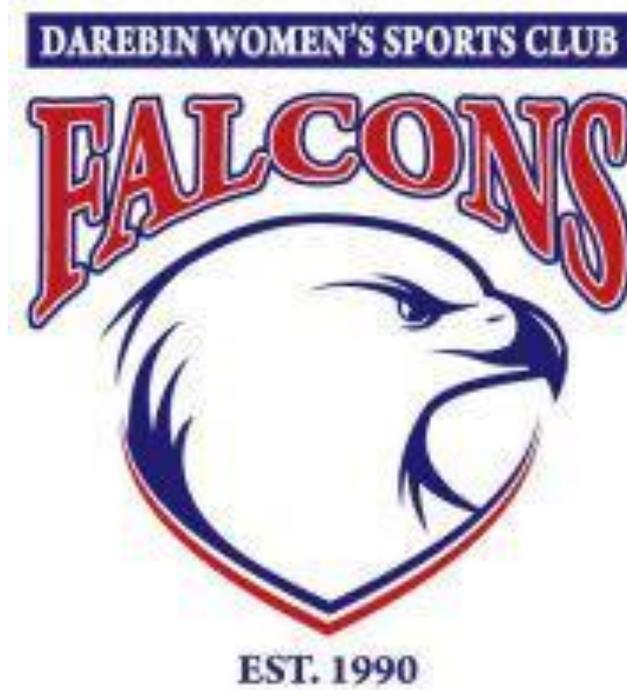


**Darebin Women's Sports Club  
Incorporated**

**Annual Report 2022**



**ABN: 28 780 574 660  
Incorporated Association A0022830T**

**Darebin Women's Sports Club**

Email: [contact@falcons.org.au](mailto:contact@falcons.org.au)

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Postal address: PO Box 4035, Gilberton, VIC 3072

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.

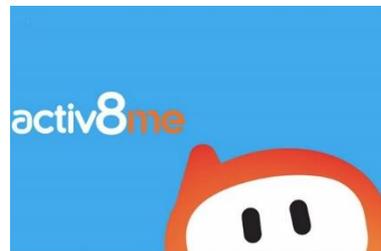
## **Table of Contents**

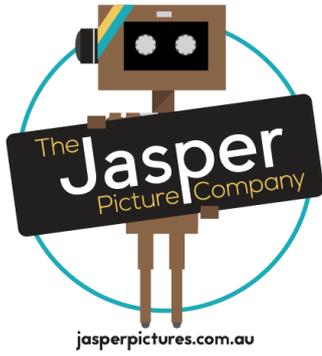
<b>2022 Sponsors</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>2022 Board</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>President's Report</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	<b>Page 9</b>
<b>2022 Club Awards</b>	<b>Page 10</b>
<b>Community Programs</b>	<b>Page 11</b>
<b>30 Year History Project</b>	<b>Page 13</b>
<b>Junior Football Report</b>	<b>Page 14</b>
<b>Senior Football Report</b>	<b>Page 16</b>
<b>Masters Football Report</b>	<b>Page 19</b>
<b>VFLW Report</b>	<b>Page 21</b>
<b>Soccer Report</b>	<b>Page 24</b>
<b>Junior Cricket Report</b>	<b>Page 31</b>
<b>Eight Ball</b>	<b>Page 33</b>
<b>Audited Accounts</b>	<b>Page 35</b>

## 2022 Sponsors

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

# Nelson Alexander





**2022 Funding Partners**

**Thank you also to our funding partners**



# Darebin Women's Sports Club 2022 Board

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Vice President & Head of Soccer and Cricket  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Board Member & Head of Football  
Board Member - Sponsorship and Merchandise  
Board Member - Strategic Partnerships  
Board Member - Culture, Wellbeing & Child Safe Officer  
Board Member - Communications and Media  
Board Member - Sponsorship and Membership

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Mereki Nieman  
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## DWSC Governance

Senior Football

Junior Football

Soccer

Cricket

8 Ball

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Finance,  
Governance & Risk

Comms, Media &  
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& Development

Board

# President's Report

**Jane Ryan**  
**President**

2022 really was a great year for the Falcs, building on our efforts last year to keep players on the park despite the disruption of the ongoing pandemic.

It's been great to see so many back to play soccer, Aussie rules, cricket and 8 ball and this year we had 4 soccer teams in finals, including our under 16 running out premiers, as well as an under 13 finishing as league champions. We had Aussie rules grand finals appearances for our Div 1, and Over 35s.

I'm so proud of our efforts to recognise and support all elements of getting soccer teams on the field with our Emerging Referees, Skills Acquisition Program (SAP) and our MiniRoos Young Coaches program.

I'm also super proud of some of off-field achievements, including the development of this year's VFLW Pride jumper designed by under 16s footy players Ella Wright and Izzy Baker, and our continuing partnership with our sister club the Fitzroy Stars and their involvement in our first VFLW Indigenous jumper designed by Rebecca Bell with our players.

Our community programs have really grown this year with our all-abilities program - Footy Funability, and our diversity and inclusion Jump Start program. With the help of our partners, including Darebin City Council and the Victorian Government, we hope to continue to build on the Club's efforts to reach those that face barriers for involvement in organised sport.

I'd also like to give a shout out to our new sister aussie rules club the Mt Alexander Falcons up Castlemaine way. We're really proud of all you've done this year for regional women and gender diverse people to get a run!

Sadly, we lost one of our pioneering Falcs this season - Life Member Ann Rulton. She played an important part in Aussie rules admin in our early days, as well as supporting the St Kilda Sharks and a range of roles in state Aussie rules governing bodies.

Despite never playing or coaching herself, her work meant that so many actually did get to play at a time that women were provided with very little support. Her role with the Falcs meant that we could continue to field a team and the competition was able to grow.

The AFL celebrated Ann's passing at this year's VFLW awards night, also awarding their annual VFLW award for volunteers -the Ann Rulton Award. This year, out of all the elite Clubs competing in the competition, we were proud that one of our Board members, Julie Boffa, won this award for all her work at the Falcs.

This year we were able to progress materials to celebrate our 30-year herstory! Over the last couple of years, we have documented our journey from 1 team in 1990 to the 44 teams we have this 2022 season. Our rich history full of great tales are now not just legendary stories told by one season's teams to the next, rather anyone can see how persistent our foremothers were in making sure there was space for us in the sports we love. We can also see how our Falcons' family is supported to grow today.

I would also like to make sure you all know and thank our current Falcon board members - they do a heap of unseen work behind the scenes to allow this large Club to continue to effectively operate. Beyond their contribution highlighted in this report, some key pieces of work this year include updating

important policies in child safety, gender diversity, as well as updates to our website and membership infrastructure.

This year, the Club has been magnificently served by the efforts of board members Robin Shepherd, Sally Chapman, Emily Booth, Julie Boffa, Mereki Newman, Jas Hirst, Dan Jacobson, Jill Scanlon, and Tanya Gallina.

Our Club is proud about how we provide opportunities for women, girls and gender diverse people to be able to bring their whole selves to a club, their sport and their team.

The way we do things at the Falcs has been passed on from generation to generation. It's an invisible thread that ties us together, a vision, our shared purpose, how we pull together to achieve. By putting on the Falcon uniform this season- be that for soccer, Aussie rules, cricket or 8 ball - you are connected to previous generations of Falcs.

And all of you that support those players, thank you so much for all your efforts this year. To the sponsors, coaches, team managers, supporters, scorers, refs and game-day helpers. No matter what the effort, we appreciate your contribution to our Club being able to get everyone on the park in 2022.

I commend you to read this year's report to follow all of the brilliant activity that has been going on - continuing to boost the health, wellbeing and confidence of Darebin's girls, women and gender diverse people.

And I look forward to seeing you all at a game or two next season!

# Treasurer's Report

**Danielle Jacobson**  
**Treasurer**

In 2022 our community sports income and expenses all come within budget, with a net profit which can be reinvested back into the club. Our VFLW team cost \$115,430 to run and was funded by a combination of grants, sponsorship and fundraising.

We made a net profit of \$76,645. We had budgeted to break even but a number of facilities projects (including clubhouse and grounds upgrades) were delayed and will now take place in the 2023 financial year.

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 end the year with \$356,744 which puts us in a solid position to meet the costs of the coming year, and work towards financial sustainability.

## Club Awards

### 2022 Club Person of the Year Mereki Nieman



### Life Members awarded in 2022

Life Membership is intended to be an award of significant distinction to recognise special, meritorious, or exceptional service made by individuals to the Club.

#### Shevaun Hogan



#### Aasta O'Connor



#### Maria Caruso



#### Davide Codini



# Community Programs

Julie Boffa

Board Member & Head of Football

## Social-value and Skills Programs

The Darebin Women's Sports Club is increasingly investing in a range of social-value and skills development programs that aim to activate strength and sporting abilities in girls, women and gender diverse people, through encouraging confidence and ability through participation, skill development and leadership, with associated health and wellbeing benefits that ensue.

Wherever possible, in footy, we employ our AFLW alumni and current VFLW players, the latter as part of their club community reciprocal leadership program, to undertake these roles. These programs are described below.

As described in the soccer section of this report, parallel programs aim to develop players as young referees and coaches to build future leadership capacity; social programs such as Go Fives and Soccer mums encourage participation for players across the age range; while the soccer Skills Acquisition Program, elite academies, and the appointment of Mati Keynes as the Head of Soccer focus on developing players on field capabilities and self-belief.

These programs are largely funded through the Darebin Women's Sports Club *Promoting Women and Girls in Sport* partnership with Darebin Council; our *Girl Power* project, a partnership with *Change Our Game*, funded over three years by Sports Recreation Victoria (ending May 2023); other grants and sponsorship (particular thanks to *Nest Legal* for their sponsorship of the Young Referees program); and most recently, *Jump Start* funding from Vic Health for our Inclusion and Diversity Manager and program (Aasta O'Connor, see below).

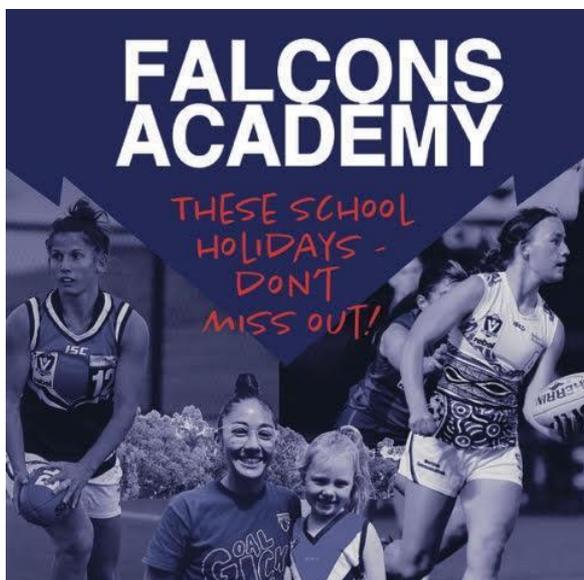
We are looking to continue to expand and develop these programs over coming years.

## AFLW Player in Residence

In its second year, Jess Dal Pos was again our AFLW Player in Residence.

Jess has been a Falcon from 15 years of age, a multiple premiership player, first playing with, then coaching, our Youth Girls team, and later, as a player with our senior, premier division team (VWFL/VFLW). Jess joined the inaugural Greater Western Sydney AFLW team as a priority selection in 2016, played VFLW footy back with the Falcons in 2021, before transferring to Carlton AFLW where she plays now.

Jess' footy journey has been steeped in Falcons' culture, where striving to be the best person you can, on and off the field is *the Falcons way*. The AFLW Player in Residence program is designed to role model to current generations of players what it means to be your competitive best on field, backed by solid skills and technical ability, while valuing fairness, inclusion and welcome to all.



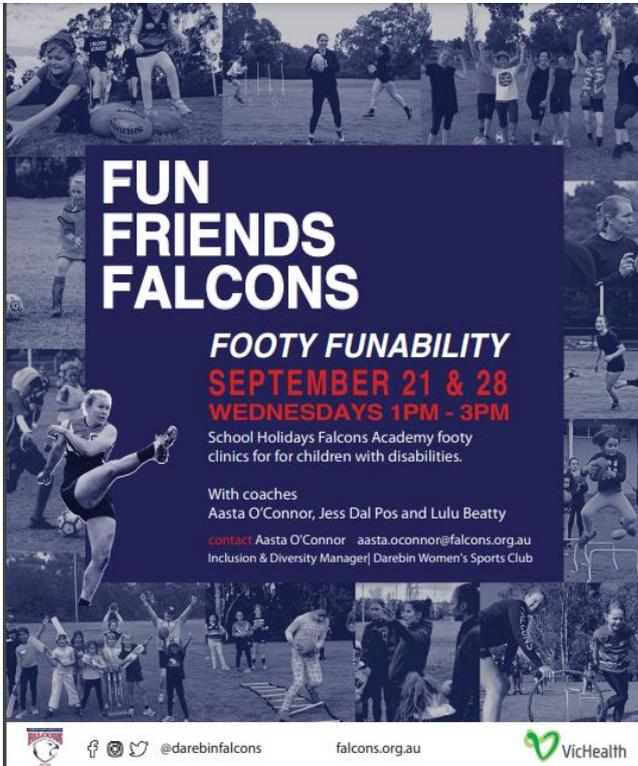
In the AFLW Player in residence role, in 2022 Jess provided specialist skill training to both our junior and senior footy teams, coached the July and September/October Falcons Academy school holiday session, participated in the *Footy Funability* program at Croxton Special School (see below), and undertook a number of skills and insight sessions in local primary or secondary schools.

## Falcons Academy

This year, Falcons Academy sessions were held in both weeks of the July and September/October school holidays. This year we explicitly promoted Falcons Academy to both girls and gender diverse players as well as including Footy Funability sessions for children with special needs.

Head Coach Jess Dal Pos was joined by co-coach Darcy Vescio (former Falcon and Carlton AFLW player) with additional support from Northern Knights/Falcons VFLW players Lulu Beatty and Tannah Hurst. Aasta O'Connor also joined the September sessions in her role of Inclusion and Diversity Manager (see below) to lead Footy Funability.

As well as our own players, it was great to see increased participation from other clubs, in particular, Research and Wallan Junior Football Clubs and the Brunswick Dragons. More to come next year!



### Footy Funability

With the support of a Darebin Council Community grant, in 2022 we initiated *Footy Funability* - a partnership with Croxton Special School to encourage a love of physical activity, and increase coordination and confidence, in children with special needs through fun focussed footy activities.

The six week, Term 2, program was led by retired AFLW player, multiple Falcons premiership player, 2022 Life Member, Aasta O'Connor, supported by Darcy Vescio and VFLW players Alice Caddy and Kiara Camelleri. This initial program culminated in a footy disco, with AFLW Player in Residence Jess Dal Pos joining Aasta and Darcy to ensure the kids had a day to remember, leading into a number of children joining the Footy Funability school holidays session to complete the program.

Footy Funability is continuing as a program within our Inclusion and Diversity programs, as below.

### Inclusion and Diversity Program

We feel very privileged to have received Jump Start! funding from VicHealth enabling us to employ Aasta O'Connor as our inaugural Inclusion and Diversity Manager.

Jump Start! is all about community-led initiatives to build healthier communities through sport, active play, art and food, focusing on children and young people to 25 years of age.

Our grant submission emphasised the social-value programs already undertaken by the Darebin Women's Sports Club and committed to expanding these with particular focus on the physical, social and psychological health and wellbeing benefits that comes with inclusion and participation in sport and active play.

Particular focus for our inclusion and diversity programs are continuing to develop our relationship with the Fitzroy Stars and the First Nations people; expanding Footy Funability; continuing our activities to include gender diverse players; as well as our internal young leaders programs. We are also looking to extend our reach with multicultural groups, with other girls, women and gender diverse people who are often excluded or lack confidence or pathways to participate in physical activity or sport.

Aasta started in August 2022 and has hit the ground running, holding weekly footy based, fun activity sessions for mothers and their children at a local women's refuge, re-initiating Footy Funability with Croxton School and commencing discussions with the Northern School of Autism and other disability services; and is in contact with Queerspace and City of Darebin Recreation as well as Equity and Inclusion program officers about 2023 programs. A Falcons multicultural Mini Roos program will also be a feature of new year activities.

Contact [Aasta.oconnor@falcons.org.au](mailto:Aasta.oconnor@falcons.org.au) to find out more or get involved.

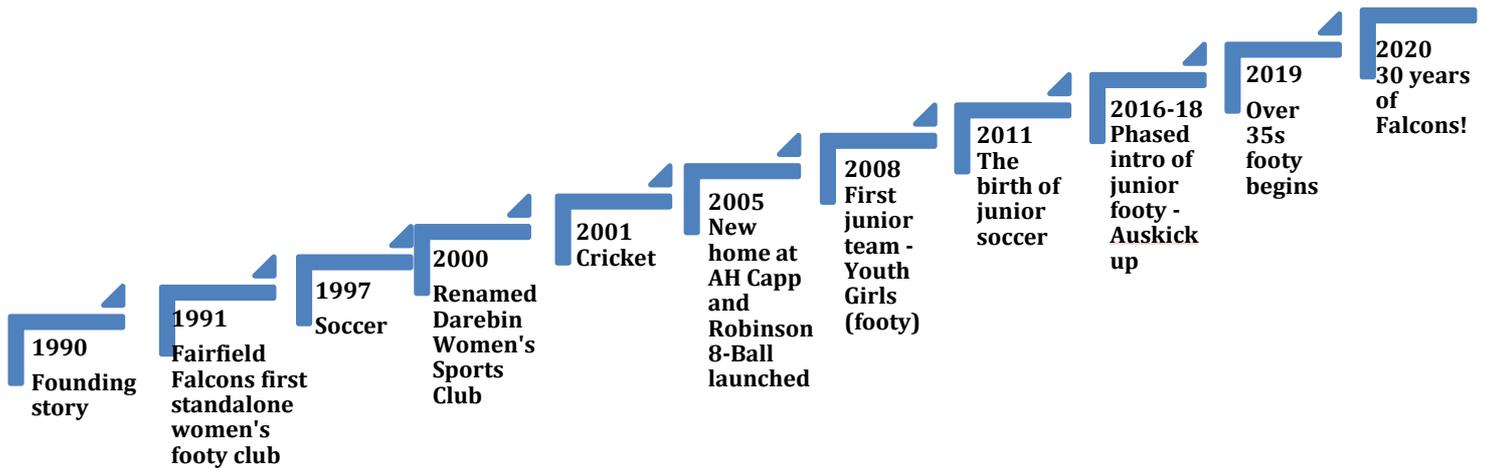
# 30 Year History Project

The Falcons 30 Year History Project is now complete and available on the website.



This tells the story of the Falcons, the story of the many women who have carried the baton of a Club run by women, for women, and also the story of the key defining moments throughout the Club's history. Among those moments are the foundation story of the Club, the first ever Aussie Rules premiership, the developments of soccer, cricket and eight-ball teams, and the expansion into junior girls sport over the last decade.

Visit [Falcons.org.au/about/history](http://Falcons.org.au/about/history) to read the full story



# Junior Footy Report 2022

Jackie Lynch

Junior Footy Coordinator

In 2022, Junior Footy roared back to life at AH Capp, with the first full season since 2019.

Even after the long breaks due to COVID, we managed to field U10s, U12s, U14s, U16s, but sadly we couldn't find enough players to field a standalone U18 team this year. Many thanks to Wallan, and especially Michelle Gussenhoven who welcomed in our U18s players so that they could have a season. Well done to Brad Hill for his work behind the scenes on this.

Despite this, player numbers at U10s, U12s and U14s were more than healthy, with many players coming across from other clubs or trying out footy for the very first time.

Our U14s team made the finals, bowing out in an honourable loss in the first round.

Our Auskick program was terrific - around 14 players came down to take part in the "friends, fun, footy" feeling around the club. Thanks to all of the VFLW players who participated in training sessions, it was pretty special. Many thanks to Ella Wright, U16s player who came to every training session just to help out!

Our mission this year was to bring the "good vibes" and our players and families certainly did that, with season highlights including the contributions of U16 players Ella Wright and Isabelle Baker in designing the VFLW Pride Jumper, participation on events such as the Pride Dinner and Falcons Academy, celebrations of player milestones, pizza nights, and much enthusiasm (especially from the U10s and U12s) for training in the mud at AH Capp.

A big highlight of the year was AFLW Player in Residence Jess Dal Pos taking various training sessions.

Many, many thanks to all of the coaches, team managers, volunteers and players who make this club the place to be to play fun, inclusive, stereotype busting sport.

Special thanks to Lulu Beatty, the Junior Registrar this year who juggled her own playing commitments and study with an enthusiastic can-do attitude around the club all season.

You can't run a club without coaches and team managers. Huge thanks to all of the following people.

**U18s** - Coach: Brad Hill

**U16s** - Coach: Nikki Clare, Coach: Liam Stephens, Assistant Trainer: Rachel Harris. Manager: Kristan Baker with Jacinta Love assisting.

**U14s** - Coach Mike Frencham, with Nicole Carwyn stepping up to coach as well. Manager: Tamara Colosimo

**U12s** - Coach Tannah Hurst, Coach Steve Crowe. Manager: Carolyn

**U10s** - Coach Aasta O'Connor, Coach: Darcy Vescio. Manager: Daniel Cantone

**Auskick** – Jackie Lynch with Ella Wright assisted by VFLW Players

Congratulations to all of the following Falcons players below:

**NAB League - Northern Knights:** Tannah Hurst, Lulu Beatty, and Mia Haas (these three players also played in the VFLW for Darebin this season)

**NFNL Under 15 Girls Representative Squad:** Poppy O'Loughlin

**U16s Red Best and Fairest:** Third Place, Poppy O'Loughlin

Huge congratulations to all junior Falcs who polled in the NFNL awards

U16 - Alice Lietz

U14 - Abigail Crowe

U14 - Mikaila Theodoropoulous

And finally in our club awards, huge congratulations to the following players.

**U14s**

Best and Fairest: Emily Pivetta  
Runner Up: Molly Atkinson  
Best First Year Player: Betsy Kelly  
Coaches Award: Adele Thompson

**U16s**

Best and Fairest: Alice Lietz  
Runner Up: Poppy O'Loughlin  
Coaches Award: Madeline Vandenboom

**U18s**

Coaches Award: Evie Lee  
Players Player: Christina Papadimitriou

All Falcons players of all junior teams received a medal to commemorate their seasons. The U10s and U12s coaches didn't have individual awards this season in recognition of the dedication of all players.

Finally, personal thanks from me to Julie Boffa and Jane Ryan who have both been so kind and supportive in my first year of coordinating this amazing program.

On to bigger and better things in 2023!

GO FALCS

# Senior Footy Report

**Julie Boffa**  
**Head of Football**

2022 brought another great season and many memorable moments for the Darebin Falcons NFNL Division 1 and Division 2 Australian Rules teams.

The year started potentially perilously when, after years of stability under Head Coach Elise Casamento, who stepped away at the end of the 2021 season, our newly appointed Div 1 coach withdrew mid preseason.

Not to be daunted, our to-be Div 1 Assistant Coach, Maddie Webster, with several years as a valued Assistant Coach under her belt, stepped up to the challenge of Head Coach, with Sam Pritchard moving up from the Div 2 Assistant to Div 1 Assistant Coach role.

Both Maddie and Sam had been Div 1 players in 2021, with injuries curtailing their playing days (Pritch looking to return in 2023 after a second ACL) and, along with the returning Div 2 coach, Tom McGuigan, all three were known and respected members of the Falcons senior footy community. Together, they set about working collaboratively and collegially to build the 2022 program from foundations of traditional Falcons' strengths of inclusion, welcome, fair play and skill development, along with a healthy dose of competitive spirit.

The Club was able to support the coaches' development by introducing Aasta O'Connor as Senior Coaches mentor, providing developmental and strategic advice, including providing feedback through training and game day observations.

Jess Dal Pos offered further expertise through specialist skills sessions in her role as AFLW Player in Residence, and we were also grateful to have the regular coaching assistance of Shan Egan, a Falcons multiple Premiership player with our Youth Girls and VWFL/VFL teams, while recovering from injury.

We could not be more pleased with the season results. Many new players joined our ranks in 2022 and were seamlessly inducted into the Falcon Way. We were not without our tribulations – COVID and winter illnesses at times played havoc with player availability and we had to dig deep to fill teams at times with a total of 77 players pulling on the jumper for Div 1 or 2 across the season.

A key highlight was the inaugural Pride Round for our NFNL teams, playing a double header against long-time rivals, dating back to previous VWFL days, in Diamond Creek Women's Football Club.

Timed to show support for the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT Day, 17 May), Pride Round saw Capp adorned in pride colours, including the 50m arcs. This provoked many an interesting conversation about inclusion and love with our youngest Falcs, with Auskickers and U10s delighted by the rainbows on their footy field! With one win each on the day to the Falcs and Diamo, equality was definitely in the air!

A further highlight was our, again inaugural, Div 2 NAIDOC round against the Fitzroy Stars women's team on July 8. Moved to AH Capp at the last minute due to ground conditions at Sir Douglas Nicholls oval, the game was played under lights and no amount of rain and cold could extinguish the flame of friendship now burning bright between our Clubs!

The night opened with a Welcome to Country from Auntie Julie Edwards, followed by a celebratory dance by the Stars team, with Paul Kelly on Yidaki (didgeridoo) and Nikayla Bamblett with Clap sticks,



A great game of footy was played, capped off by a Falcons win and the Elder Medal for Best on Ground going to Falcon, Alex Reynolds, presented by Aunty Linda Bamblett.



On field, the highlight without doubt was our Div 1 team reaching the Grand Final after a stellar final series, winning our way through after a nail biting, one point Elimination Final victory over Greensborough. Comfortable wins followed over Montmorency and West-Preston Lakeside with our Div 1 side peaking at the business end of the season! Victory in the Grand Final was not to be ours, however, with Diamond Creek Women's, who'd finished the season as minor premiers, winning the day. It remained a proud day for the Falcons, not least of all, playing in our Indigenous jumper as our clash strip, and a huge achievement for first year coaches Maddie and Pritch.

The efforts of our Div 2 team are also not be underestimated, missing finals by the hair's breadth of a last round opposition forfeit stealing the opportunity to compete for the opportunity! Once again, Div 2 fielded many new players, a number totally new to footy, and it was a credit to Tom, the coaching team, and the support of established players to see them improve round by round, and end the season so greatly improved. We are definitely looking forward to seeing where another season of footy can take this group in 2023!

Thanks are due to many people for supporting the teams on game day. Special mentions are always dangerous for whom they leave out – but saying that, thanks are particularly due to Alison Smirnof for fronting up weekly as the Div 1 runner, and new Falcon, Clare Massey, joining originally as Div 2 Team Manager and later doubling up as player! Hugest gratitude goes to our Trainers, Steve Ferguson (Div 1) and Emma Thompson (Div 2) for their tireless support and care shown to our players both on game days and many, many training sessions extending across many, many very chilly winter nights.

Off field, thanks go the NFNL Senior Teams Committee for their behind scenes work and support Chair (and Team Registrar), Div 1 Assistant Sam Pritchard, plus committee members, Rachel McNamara, Emily Ivanka, Emily Dal Pos, Tash Groves (huge shout out and thanks for organising and ordering uniforms all year!), Ruby Cray and back of house support from our VFLW Captain, Stephanie Simpson, who is always ready to lend a hand from admin, to social posts and fundraising. Again special acknowledgement is due to Rach for organising our stall at the Thornbury Maker's Market and Vanks for the incredible effort in mustering forces for the greatest Capp clean up and clear out in living Falcon memory!

Finally we congratulate our individual award winners:

**Division 1**

Best & Fairest - Julia Phung  
B&F Runners Up - Cameron Williams  
Most Improved - Holly Allen  
Coaches Award - Julia McArdle

**Division 2**

Best & Fairest Winner: Alex Reynolds

Best & Fairest Runners Up: Caitlyn Jeffress  
Coaches Award: Rowyn Williams  
Most Improved: Rachel McNamara

Befitting the unity within our squad, a combined Div 1 & 1 Players Player award, voted by their peers, went to Cameron Williams

And lastly we are very proud of our players selected in the #NFNL Women's Teams of the Year. DIV 1 had four representatives in this side, with Falcons' winger Julia Phung making it back-to-back Div 1 TOTY appearances, alongside Claire Hardi, Julia McArdle & Cam Williams, while congratulations also go Caitlyn Jeffers & Alex Reynolds and our Div 2 representatives.



Div 1 2022 Grand Final team

# Masters AFL Report 2022

Fiona Munn

Masters O35 Footy Coordinator

The AFL O35 team was so excited to be back playing competition football in 2022!

It has been a new look side, with many of the very experienced O35 Falcons unavailable due to coaching commitments in the AFLW, the VFLW and then the AFLW again. This provided 'opportunity for others', with eight new players to the O35 team, including five who have never played AFL before.

After all the interruptions of the last two years, the O35 team has really reaped the rewards of a core group being able to train and play consistently together. As many teams will have experienced in 2022 however, the line up on the field at the first bounce often changed significantly from what was anticipated earlier in the week!

The O35 team has a rotating captaincy. This year, inspired by and in honour of Ochre Shaw, each captain nominated the captain for the next game with a short explanation and the presentation of the Falcons Pride jumper.

Round 1 once again coincided with AFLW Grand Final Day. We celebrated with a banner (the first of many) bearing the catch cry of pre-season - 'How good is footy!'. It was the first ever AFL game of Catherine Haslock and Pete Sirec and the first game as a Falcon for Chloe Horner and Emma Wearmouth.

Sam Hayman played their first game in the O35 team in Round 3.

A Pride Game with VU Western Spurs in Round 4 featured Life Member Di Smith and Lisa Roper (on permit from the fabulous Fitzroy Stars) playing their first games for 2022. Bel Smith also played her first ever AFL game.

The Falcons hosted two games at AH Capp Reserve in Round 5, where it was just another day with a burst water pipe! This was less than ideal for the pre-game requirements of O35 women but it was all fixed by the end of the first quarter of Game 1. In a season highlight, Falcons U10 Assistant Coach and Carlton AFLW star Darcy Vescio provided the pre-game address, held the banner and then ran water. We also celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> game of Rachel Hoult, the first game for 2022 of Roi Boutsikakis and the first ever AFL game of Kali Doyle.

We collaborated with the Northside Lions to establish The Arnell Cup in Round 7 to recognise the contribution of Lauren (Loz) and Brenda (Junior) Arnell to their respective clubs and women's football. It was such a thrill to have Junior at the game, all the way from Queensland, to present the Cup to our winning O35 team. For their first games of 2022, we welcomed Life Member Sarah Hammond (after preserving her body for a surfing trip to the Maldives), Kathy Zacharopoulos (making the round trip from Leongatha to Werribee) and Alana Wearne (on a break from establishing our sister club, the Mount Alexander Falcons, in Castlemaine). For the record, Hammo won the 'Loz Medal' for best on ground for the Falcons, as voted by the Northside Lions.

For Round 8, the O35 women's teams developed a Festival of Footy where the whole competition came together at JL Murphy Reserve, Port Melbourne. New initiatives QuickKick (AusKick for O35 women) and Lightning Footy (a non-tackling version of AFL) were showcased, accompanied by a round robin of modified football between the teams and novelty events.

Devastatingly, Round 9 was marred by the most serious injury of the season – a badly damaged right knee to our rover turned left wing Cathy Minniti.

After nine rounds of competition football, we finished the season in second place on the ladder, bettered only by the Port Melbourne Colts with a superior percentage. This set up an enticing Semi Final against Mordialloc Superules who we had played twice during the season for one loss and one win.

The inaugural finals series in the Women's O35 Competition started on a sunny, late August day at Elgar Park, Mont Albert North. We put in a terrific team performance to win through to the Grand Final!

Grand Final Week was a heady mix of nerves and excitement, with most of the team having never played in an AFL decider. An inspirational video from a Falcons legend was received each day, with

their sentiments ultimately reflected in the message of our Grand Final poster: 'Putting on the Falcons jumper – one of life's best decisions'. Before a vocal crowd in dismal conditions at Crispe Park, Reservoir, the game was an extremely tight contest. It seemed we were headed for a draw and extra time when the Port Melbourne Colts scored a goal with less than two minutes on the clock. Unfortunately, there was just not enough time left for our team to score from a final push forward. It was amazing experience to cap off a tremendous season for the O35 team, while such a narrow loss provides great motivation for 2023.

My particular thanks to our fabulous coaching panel, trainer(s) and volunteers, as well as to Rebecca Hickmott for her invaluable guidance and advice.

Finally, a massive thank you to Brigid Ryan, who has worked tirelessly since January with the other O35 women's teams and the AFL Masters Victorian Metropolitan League to organise a wildly successful 2022 season. It simply would not have happened without you.

GO FALCS!

**Coaching panel:** Julia Boyle, Taryn Escreet, Briony Milesi, Alice Minns, Louise Potter.

**Trainer:** Emma Thompson, assisted by Ochre Shaw and Emma Wearmouth.

**Volunteers:** Tope Adepoabi, Julie Boffa, Sarah Logan, Megan McClelland, Lucy O'Hagan, Carla Sgro, Ochre Shaw, Kerry Stephens.

**Best and Fairest:** Carley Allan, Chloe Horner.

**Coaches' Award:** Cathy Minniti, Jane Ryan.

**Volunteer Award:** Carla Sgro.



# VFLW Report 2022

**Julie Boffa**  
**Head of Football**

2022 was a season of great improvement for our VFLW team, finishing in 8th place on the ladder, and narrowly missing finals. Round 1 set the tone with a stirring come-from-behind win against Williamstown, with our fans in full voice cheering on the team!

We were delighted to field a strong 2022 coaching panel led by a champion group of Falcon women. Kate Tyndall, Falcon multiple premierships player and our 2018 VFLW captain, among other career accolades, took the reins as Head Coach and, alongside player development and game plan, instilled Falcons' values and culture across the group.

Joining Kate was another Falcons multiple premierships player, a 2022 Club Life Member, Shevaun Hogan as backline coach; Roi Boutsikakis, Falcon past player and current O35s team member took control of the midfield; Susan Cadman, doubling up as a NFNL Falcons grand final player, was midfield coach; while Anna Schwager, another Falcons multiple premierships player, added support as Specialist ruck coach. Hayden Pflugst, in his first year with the Club as Development Coach, proved a valued member of the team. Chris Rubrick who has previously been involved with the NAB league, brought his coaching and positive mindset expertise to the program. We thank all our coaches for the time, commitment, and skill they brought to their roles.

Highlights of 2022 included Pride and Sir Douglas Nicholls rounds, with each round featuring specially designed jumpers that equally embedded Falcons' values. Our Pride jersey was designed by our Under 16 footy players, Ella Wright and Izzy Baker, featuring multi-coloured feathers, each displaying different colours and patterns to reflect the welcome of inclusion and diversity Ella and Izzy so value in the Club. A second victory for the season against Willy at their home oval, completed the triumph of the day! We also thank Nelson Alexander for sponsoring our jersey and the Club's accompanying Pride Dinner.



Our Indigenous jumper was designed by Rebecca Bell of the Fitzroy Stars. A group of our VFLW players joined Bec in a yarning circle, talking about what makes our Club special to them, and Bec, quite spectacularly, translated this into the artwork for the jumper. At centre is Merri Creek running alongside what the players described to Bec as our spiritual home, AH Capp Reserve; many circles joined by lines reflect the many players, coaches, volunteers, families and fans that make up our community; while large footprints reflect our past players returning to continue to contribute, and small footprints, our juniors. Our VFLW players wore the jumper with enormous pride, Bec running out with the team – though, with our team depleted by COVID, we unfortunately fell narrowly to Port Melbourne in the last round of the season.

We further thank Todd Kenny for leading our Strength and Conditioning program, supported by Andrew Di Bernardino; James McFarlane and Tom Radicevic from our Club sponsor, Evado Studios Thornbury for physio and rehab, and our Sports Trainers, Brad Holt, Holly Chatham and Freya Purdy, for their tireless and committed care for our players and Club. Special thanks and appreciation go to Larissa Payne, our VFLW Operations Manager from late 2019 through to the 2022 season, who sadly stepped away after being promoted to an operations role with the Collingwood AFL program, and to Brad, for stepping up to support the Ops role for the remainder of the season after Larissa's departure.

Finally, we thank the members of the Darebin Women's Sports Club Board and volunteers who supported the team throughout the year. In particular, special mention and thanks is given to Mereki Nieman for producing the weekly VFLW Newsletter, with feature article contributions, including match reports, by Over 35s player, Brigid Ryan. Again we thank Mereki, with the support of fellow Board member Tanya Gallina, for delivering the Player Sponsorship program. Board Media Manager, Jill Scanlon, is thanked for maintaining a high social media profile for our team, with huge credit and thanks to Rob Lawson for his wonderful photographs and our VFLW Captain, Stephanie Simpson, and again, Brad Holt for their support in generating content. Match day timekeeping owes thanks to Falcons NFNL player, Tash Groves.

We proudly congratulate backline stalwart Victoria Blackwood, named in the squad, and Nic Callinan a member of, the VFLW Team of the Year after having an incredible season.

We also acknowledge and congratulate the winners of our Club awards:  
For the second consecutive year Best & Fairest was awarded to Nicole Callinan and Best & Fairest Runner-Up to Gena Lawson-Tavan. The Coaches Award went to Sally Lynch and Players' Player to Rachel Hibbert.

Congratulations also to Gena on being drafted to the inaugural Sydney Swans AFLW team.

Finally, we offer huge thanks to Darebin Council for their support through our club-wide Girls and Women in Sport Partnership, and our generous sponsors, Nelson Alexander, The Terminus Hotel including weekly VFLW Best on Ground awards; Activ8me, Thornbury Horticulture & Design, Evado Studios, and most importantly, our individual player sponsors. We wouldn't be able to field a VFLW team without this generous financial contribution and support for which we are truly grateful.

### Player Sponsors

- Player sponsorships totalled \$13,500 in 2022
- Thanks to Chris Scott for her generous support in 2022 through the sponsorship of 10 players.
- Sponsorships from Falcons Alumnae included Daisy Pearce, Lauren Arnell and Julia Chiera
- Also of note is the master's Team and the U18s Teams both sponsoring players in the 2022 season
- Many returning sponsors in 2022, plus new sponsors joining the flight.

#### Player

Player Sponsorship 2022 - 10 Players  
 Player Sponsorship 2022 - Alice Caddy  
 Player Sponsorship 2022 - Alice Caddy  
 Player Sponsorship 2022 - Angelique Reibei  
 Player Sponsorship 2022 - Ashleigh Gunn  
 Player Sponsorship 2022 - Chloe Weston-Sirett  
 Player Sponsorship 2022 - Ellen Buckley  
 Player Sponsorship 2022 - Ellen Buckley  
 Player Sponsorship 2022 - Emma Mackay  
 Player Sponsorship 2022 - Gena Lawson-Tavan  
 Player Sponsorship 2022 - Julia McArdle  
 Player Sponsorship 2022 - KARLY MCNIECE  
 Player Sponsorship 2022 - Karly McNiece  
 Player Sponsorship 2022 - Katelyn Hazlett  
 Player Sponsorship 2022 - Manaia Huta  
 Player Sponsorship 2022 - Manaia Huta  
 Player Sponsorship 2022 - Mikayla Plunkett

#### Sponsor

Chris Scott  
 Melbourne Chain Wire Fencing  
 Supreme Wire Fence & Gate  
 Daisy Pearce  
 Chris Payne  
 Annette McLaren  
 Darebin Falcons u18s  
 Cam Reid  
 Julie Boffa  
 Julia Chiera  
 Darebin Falcons u18s  
 Northcote Park Football Netball Club  
 Thornbury Horticulture & Design  
 Daisy Pearce  
 Haley Hire and Sales  
 Annette McLaren  
 Lauren Arnell

**Player**

Player Sponsorship 2022 - Millie Shone  
Player Sponsorship 2022 - Nicole Callinan  
Player Sponsorship 2022 - Nicole Callinan  
Player Sponsorship 2022 - Paije Kearney  
Player Sponsorship 2022 - Rachel Harris  
Player Sponsorship 2022 - Rachel Hibbert  
Player Sponsorship 2022 - Rachel Hibbert  
Player Sponsorship 2022 - Ruedin, Shone, Normington-Dickens  
Player Sponsorship 2022 - Sabine Cowley du Parquet  
Player Sponsorship 2022 - Sally Lynch  
Player Sponsorship 2022 - Simone Ruedin  
Player Sponsorship 2022 - Sophia Padovano  
Player Sponsorship 2022 - Steph Simpson  
Player Sponsorship 2022 - Stephanie Normington-Dickens  
Player Sponsorship 2022 - Tori Snelleksz  
Player Sponsorship 2022 - Tori Snelleksz  
Player Sponsorship 2022 - Trinity Mills  
Player Sponsorship 2022 - Vanja Smiljanic  
Player Sponsorship 2022 - Victoria Blackwood  
Player Sponsorship 2022 - Victoria Blackwood

**Sponsor**

Fade Australia  
Pallino Bar  
Thornbury Horticulture & Design  
AK Bricklaying  
Darebin Falcons u18s  
Kel Rowe  
Footy Fans Against Capitalism  
Darebin Falcons Masters Team  
Julie Boffa  
Support for Me  
Climate-Control Insulation Co. Pty  
Robert Padavano  
McKenzie Construction  
Georgia Steward  
S-elect Group Vic  
Dor-Group Developments  
MBI Racing  
Julia Chiera  
Charlie & Nita Blackwood  
Backpocket

# 2022 Soccer Report

Jasmine Hirst

Vice President & Head of Soccer

2022 has been another incredible year. The Falcons players and families have proven once again that they are a really special group of people. While there has been a lot of talk about the decline in community sport numbers since the pandemic, this did not play out at the Falcons and we had our biggest year ever. We now have 489 registered players including 85 in our miniroos kick off program and 29 teams from Under 8s up to Seniors.

And with all those players are all the volunteers that support them. We are a program run entirely by volunteers from beginning to end including 45 team coaches, the 35 team managers, our 18 young referees, the administrators, the fundraisers, bbq and canteen helpers.

The season began with another Go Fives event over 4 weeks from 9 November 2021 to 9 December 2021. A total of 300 players took part from all the junior Falcons teams as well as other local clubs and some new players. It was again a fantastic way for us to re-engage with the community after the lock down and it's our belief that this contributed significantly to the retention and recruitment of players for the 2022 season. Once again, we were able to have our Emerging Referees taking on the role of referees for the event with 11 referees taking part.



Our Community Day on Sunday 13 February was well attended with lots of girls from the local community coming down to take part. We were able to showcase the junior soccer program and encourage them to join our miniroos kick off program or a team in the 2022 season and begin their soccer journey with the Falcons.

## Preseason

Preseason training began in late February. We used A H Capp Reserve, G H Mott Reserve, Merri Park and Bell Primary School Oval for Pre-season training. Thanks again to Bell Primary for assisting with the usage of this facility.

Jayne Crowley, our club registrar had a huge task in registering all the current and new players over the January and February period as well as coordinating the uniforms for all of them. However, she managed this with a great deal of efficiency.

As part of our Strong Girls SRV funded program, we ran a strength and conditioning program for players Under 12 and up from 25th Feb to 8th April with Ingrid Jukk, European Heptathlete.

We held Gala Days with Essendon Royals, Northern Falcons and other friendlies with other clubs in the lead up to the season.

Our State League 4 Team competed with the help of several Under 18s in the Nike Cup and were unlucky to finish their campaign with a 2-1 loss against Malvern City in the second round.

At Boys and Girls FC in March 26/27 we had 5 teams attend the event in Bendigo and our Under 14 White Team finished as champions, Under 15 Purple team finished runners up and Under 17 White Team won the Plate competition.



## Head of Coaching Appointment

For the first time we were able to appoint a Head of Coaching to the Darebin Falcons soccer program. Mati Keynes joined us and began work immediately, recruiting our remaining coaches for Under 8 and 9 teams and coordinating the young coaches for our MiniRoos Kick off program. Mati also mentored coaches from a number of different age groups throughout the season, ran some courses and coordinated coach get togethers.

## The season

The season began for all teams on April 24.

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

Teams included 2 x U8 Joeys, 3 x U9 Joeys, 3 x U10 Joeys (with one regrading to Wallabies mid-year), 3 x U11, 4 x U12 (3 x Joeys (one regraded to Wallabies), 1 x Wallabies/Kangaroos), 4 x U13 (2 x C Grade, 2 x D Grade), 3 x U14 (1 x B Grade, 1 x C Grade, 1 x D Grade), 2 x U15 (1 x C Grade, 1 x B Grade), 2 x U16 B Grade, 1 U18 B Grade and 2 Senior Women's (1 x SL4 and 1 x SL5).

All in all, it was our most successful on field season yet. We had two team regrade up (Under 10 Red and Under 12 Red), 5 teams make finals including Under 16 Red - League Champions, Under 15 Purple - League Runners Up, Under 13 White - League Champions and Under 12 Red - 4th place. Our Under 14 Blue team finished as league runners up but didn't make finals due to the format in their league. Overall, we have 7 new pennants for the club rooms.



## MiniRoos Kick Off Program

The MiniRoos Kick Off Program began on Sunday 1 May with 81 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 23 April organised through Football Victoria.

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

### Melbourne Victory visit

On Monday 23rd May Kayla Morrison (captain) and Jeff Hopkins (coach) from Melbourne Victory A-League Women's Team came down for a Q&A. This was a really inspiring evening for the Darebin Falcons players and coaches who learnt a lot about what it takes to succeed at the highest level.

### School Holiday Clinic with EFF

In the July School Holidays, we held a clinic with Elite Female Football which had over 80 registrations. It was rainy and very muddy, but our Falcs were not to be deterred, all turning up for a fun day of activities with some great role models.



### Junior to Senior transition

This was something that happened several times throughout the season thanks to the hard work of Maria Berry, Under 18 coach Joe Baruzzo and the players themselves who have strengthened the junior to senior pathway this year. We are aiming to ensure the transition from top age junior level into senior football is as smooth and un intimidating as possible and have undertaken to build and strengthen this pathway.

### Emerging Referees

The Emerging Referees program finally had its first full season.

There were 18 Referees as part of the program, aged 13 and up who signed up to become club referees. A training session was again provided with FV referee, Staci Timms. During the season The Emerging Referees were engaged to referee home games for the MiniRoos teams U8-U11.



There were so few FV referees appointed to home games for Under 12 and 13 at Robinson Reserve that the club referees in the Emerging Referee program were able to fill this gap. By Round 10 we had had a grand total of 2 FV referees turn up to a game each so it was fortuitous that we had begun the referee program when we did.

### List of Coaches & Team Managers

Team	Coaches	Team	Coaches
Coaching Director	Mati Keynes	Under 10 Blue	Chris Hotham
MiniRoos Kick Off	Charlotte Delahunt	Under 10 Blue	Anna Kelly
MiniRoos Kick Off	Jeremy Taylor	Under 10 Purple	Gareth Elvidge
MiniRoos Kick Off	Alexandra Cornthwaite	Under 10 Red	Chris Drummond
MiniRoos Kick Off	David Barrett	Under 10 Red	Natasha Groves
MiniRoos Kick Off	Helen ??	Under 11 Blue	Tak Troung

MiniRoos Kick Off	Jill Walker	Under 11 Red	Cameron Schmelitschek
MiniRoos Kick Off	June Dibble	Under 11 Red	Kiran Gurung
MiniRoos Kick Off	Clara Dwyer	Under 11 Red	Phil Blythe
MiniRoos Kick Off	Annika Filips	Under 11 White	Paul Pagliaro
MiniRoos Kick Off	Camille Goodman	Under 12 Blue	Nicholas Aberle
MiniRoos Kick Off	Zoe Hayman	Under 12 Purple	Vince Fruci
MiniRoos Kick Off	Eilan Healy	Under 12 Red	Thomas Howie
MiniRoos Kick Off	Simon Hede	Under 12 Red	Andrew Petropoulos
MiniRoos Kick Off	Dong Jin	Under 12 White	Jane Holroyd
MiniRoos Kick Off	Akira Krasavec	Under 13 Green	Mark Sinton
MiniRoos Kick Off	Audrey Boyle	Under 13 Purple	Ray Marsh
MiniRoos Kick Off	Amelie Brown	Under 13 Purple	Rupert North
MiniRoos Kick Off	Giulia Codini	Under 13 Red	Shoni Maguire
MiniRoos Kick Off	Makisa Mulemba-Bastian	Under 13 Red	John Stensholt
MiniRoos Kick Off	Milly Ormandy	Under 13 White	Jarod Lyon
MiniRoos Kick Off	Ava Sampson De Moasier	Under 13 White	Trent MacCarthy
MiniRoos Kick Off	Lily Sibillin	Under 13 White	Emma Sampson
MiniRoos Kick Off	Nik Filips	Under 14 Blue	Anthony Noal
MiniRoos Kick Off	Matthew Spangler	Under 14 Purple	Ken Koh
MiniRoos Kick Off	Steve Walsh	Under 14 White	Julian Delahunt
MiniRoos Kick Off	Ada Breach	Under 14 White	Simon Perotta
MiniRoos Kick Off	Elena Cooke	Under 15 Purple	Mereki Nieman
Coaching Director	Mati Keynes	Under 15 Purple	Davide Codini
Under 8 Blue	Mandy Rio	Under 15 Red	Martin Pradel
Under 8 Blue	Seb Rio	Under 15 Red	Joel Ritchie
Under 8 Blue	Sam Gauntlett	Under 16 Purple	Rebecca Duffy
Under 8 Red	Peter Vassili	Under 16 Purple	Abbey Bowland
Under 9 Blue	Greg Rafferty	Under 16 Red	Dave Curwood
Under 9 Purple	Ramon Ralifo	Under 18 White	Joe Baruzzo
Under 9 Red	Gaetano Galati	Under 18 White	Ivo Pes
		State League 4	Maria Berry
		State League 5	Duncan Cole

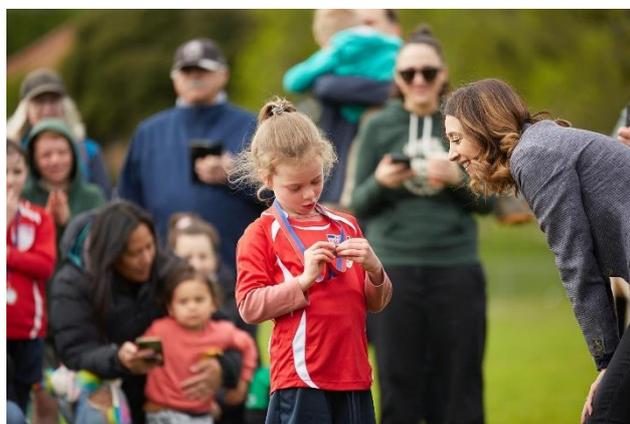
Team	Team Manager	Team	Team Manager
U8 Red	Rabeeh Charif	U13 Green	Jo Bradley
U8 Blue	Hannah Brooks	U13 Purple	Sonya Schurmann
U9 Blue	Jackie Hanson	U13 Red	Kate Gleeson
U9 Purple	Shoni Le Nepveu	U13 Red	Kane Leeder
U9 Red	Dani Pes	U13 White	Shanuagh Lyon
U10 Blue	Rachel Tonge	U13 White	Trenton Gilbert
U10 Purple	Joe Dodd	U14 Blue	Jane Holroyd
U10 Red	Sarah Ryan	U14 Purple	Meagan Block
U11 Blue	Angela Coad	U14 White	Simon Perrotta
U11 Red	Matthew Swinson	U15 Purple	Jack Coleman

U11 White	Carmel Ganino	U15 Red	Leanne Lowry
U12 Blue	Germaine Koh	U16 Purple	Geri Malvaso
U12 Blue	Kate McCarthy-Ficai	U16 Red	Andrew Brown
U12 Purple	Kim Schell	U18 White	Michael Pummell
U12 Red	Chris Fulton	State League 4	Jayne Crowley
U12 Red	Andrew Petropoulos	State League 5	Kayla Archibald
U12 White	Rachael Bohan		
U12 White	Nicholas Barboussas		

### Presentation Days & Nights

We held 5 separate Presentation Sessions for the Junior Teams (U9-U16) and MiniRoos Kick Off over the Sundays of September 11th (with Kat Thoepanous Member for Northcote in attendance) and September 18th. Each included up to 6 teams. All players received a participation medal and teams Under 12 and up were presented with individual awards for players that have been most admired by their teammates, that have worked hard and improved their skills over the season, and always played fairly and brought their best for the team.

For the first time, our Under 18 Team was invited to the senior presentation night for their end of year celebration to emphasise the pathway from our junior to senior teams.



### List of award winners

Team	Award	Player	Award	Player
U12 White	Best & Fairest	Delilah Johnson	Coach's Award	Milla Walsh
U12 White	Most Improved	Quinn Shanahan	Player's Player	Greta Alves
U12 Purple	Best & Fairest	Bella Sculli-Smoothy	Coach's Award	Pippa Schell
U12 Purple	Most Improved	Rosalie McConville Robson	Player's Player	Bella Sculli-Smoothy
U12 Blue	Best & Fairest	Alice Ficai	Coach's Award	Celeste Koh
U12 Blue	Most Improved	Josephine Aberle	Player's Player	Alice Ficai
U12 Red	Best & Fairest	Ilaria Faulknor	Coach's Award	Georgia Petropoulos
U12 Red	Most Improved	Romy Baker	Player's Player	Claudia Wood
U13 Purple	Best & Fairest	Ada Connolly	Coach's Award	Scout Ballard
U13 Purple	Most Improved	Alice Griffin	Player's Player	Anika Reich Barber
U13 Red	Best & Fairest	Abbey Leeder	Coach's Award	Alice Johnson-Lee
U13 Red	Most Improved	Gemma Bettio	Player's Player	Klara Stensholt

U13 White	Best & Fairest	Talia Brown	Coach's Award	Finlay Lyon
U13 White	Most Improved	Indi Koester	Player's Player	Neave Snelders
U13 Green	Best & Fairest	Clio Fayers	Coach's Award	Eliza McGinlay
U13 Green	Most Improved	Neve Hancock	Player's Player	Clio Fayers & Izzy Connell
U14 Blue	Best & Fairest	Issy Davis	Coach's Award	Daniella Lanza
U14 Blue	Most Improved	Grace Galbraith Rouw	Player's Player	Clara Dessi
U14 White	Best & Fairest	Eva Peric	Coach's Award	Romany Faulknor
U14 White	Most Improved	Madelyne Delahunt	Player's Player	Claire Pace
U14 Purple	Best & Fairest	Amelia George	Coach's Award	Fern Lyall
U14 Purple	Most Improved	Fran Lababidi	Player's Player	Ava Patel
U15 Purple	Best & Fairest	Mila David	Coach's Award	Olivia Cifone
U15 Purple	Most Improved	Piea Kelly	Player's Player	Siena Dowsing
U15 Red	Best & Fairest	Elinor Hastings	Coach's Award	Ada Breach
U15 Red	Most Improved	Nicola Butler	Player's Player	Zoe Pradel
U16 Red	Best & Fairest	Olivia Curwood	Coach's Award	Hannah Brown
U16 Red	Most Improved	Tahlia Blamey	Player's Player	Olivia Gembarovski
U16 Purple	Best & Fairest	Isabelle Catchlove	Coach's Award	Sienna Liberatore
U16 Purple	Most Improved	Sophie Bowland	Player's Player	Saraya Hamoui-Asquini
U18 White	Best & Fairest	Sumaya Atwa	Coach's Award	Hessie Clark-Walsh
U18 White	Most Improved	Jemma Billing	Player's Player	Emily Boyle
U18 White	Golden Boot	Maryam Sahi		
State League 4	Most Consistent	Camille Goodman	Most Improved	Claire Young
State League 4	Stand Up and Be Counted	Louise Moll	Best & Fairest	Ines Gracic
State League 4	Best & Fairest Runner Up	Fran Anderson	Golden Boot	Millie Park-Caesar
State League 5	Most Improved	Kristy Griffiths	Players' Player	Elaine MacLeod-Rose
State League 5	Coach's Award	Alexsandra Pontonio	Players' Player	Kimberley Cook
State League 5	Golden Boot	Venetia Bird	Volunteers Award	Chris Mackie

### Skill Acquisition Program (SAP)

Under the guidance of Head Coach Mereki – our Skill Acquisition Program began on Friday nights on May 27th. Mati Keynes, Giulia Codini and Paul Pagliaro all assisted with the coaching. Players in the U10 and U11 age groups joined an extra session to hone and extend their skills. The SAP training was provided at no cost to the players.

### Coaching Committee

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

### **Waiting List**

We have ended the season with 84 enquiries on our waiting list who could not be offered a place in 2022. These enquiries will all be asked to resubmit their interest for 2023.

### **Facilities**

Lights were installed at Mott Reserve mid-season and we thank the Council for undertaking their project and providing us with extra training space.

With the heavy rain throughout the winter this year and the poor state of the pitch at Robinson Reserve, we had to make a decision to cancel all full pitch games there and aim to move them to Mott or other grounds.

With 2023 a home World Cup year, we expect interest to explode and will begin a campaign in earnest for the pitch to be upgraded.

### **Life Members**

We have two new wonderful Life Members from the junior soccer program, Davide Codini and Maria Caruso who have both been instrumental in getting the program set up over the past 10 years and making it what it is today. We could not be where we are without them so I congratulate them both on their very worthy awards of Life Membership of the Falcons.

### **Thanks**

Thank you so much to all the Darebin Falcons coaches, team managers, volunteers and in particular Maria Caruso, Jayne Crowley, Kirsty Althorp who were the Sunday crew at Robinson Reserve and made sure it all ran smoothly. Jayne has put in an enormous effort this year to ensure all our processes and systems are in place so that we can hit the ground running next season and make the most of the strong foundations we have in place now.

Thanks once again to all our wonderful players and families for a fantastic season post lockdown and bringing back the friendships, skill development and fun to the pitch. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!



# Junior Cricket Report 2022

Emma Sampson  
Cricket Coordinator



Junior cricket at the Falcons has gone from strength to strength, with 5 junior teams in the NWMCA competition with a total of 42 Players registered. These included 1 Under 10s, 2 Under 12s, and 2 Under 14s.

One of the Under 14s team coached by Emma Sampson and assisted by Jayne Crowley also made the Grand Final, finishing the season as runners up against Maribyrnong St Marys. The second Under 14 team coached by Ray Marsh and Dan Miles also did well. It was the first time in this age group and with a hard ball for all players and they showed persistence and always had fun!

The 2 Under 12 teams also had a great season on the pitch coached by a trio of Chris's! Chris Hotham, coaching one of the teams and Chris Wright, assisted by Chris Schurmann the other, who finished with a premiership.

The Under 10s team was coached by James Ryan, who put his heart and soul into the team! The players had a lot of fun, developing their skills so much over the season in all areas of the game.

Three players from the Falcons were selected to represent NWMCA at the VMCU Rep Carnival in January 2022. Dorothea and Abigail played in the VMCU U12 Claudia Fatone Shield with their team making the Grand Final and coming runners up. Xanthe Wright-Hall played in the Under 12 Rookies Team representing the Falcons well. Two other Falcons players, Lily Sibillin and Mackenzie Runciman were selected to participate in the female Under 15 Youth Premier League. They all had a fantastic experience and learned so much.



In addition, three of our players received NWMCA Junior Awards this season. In the U12 All Girls North fixture - Abigail Pratt won the NWMCA Junior Batting Award with Runner Up going to Ada Collins and

Abi also won the Fielding Award and came runners up for the Bowling Award. Mackenzie Runciman received the Under 14s 2nd Fielding Award. Abigail Pratt also received the prestigious Under 12's "Spirit of Cricket Award" for the whole of NWMCA Under 12 competition. What a fantastic effort by these players!



The Darebin Falcons cricket program was a recipient of Cricket Australia's First Innings Funding grant to run programs to help more girls become involved in cricket. With the funding we were able to purchase new equipment for our Under 10s team and run a Woolworths Cricket Blast program which targeted girls aged 4-10.

We conducted outreach activity to local multicultural groups to advertise the program and encourage girls from all backgrounds to attend.

This was the first time we ran a Cricket Blasters program and had 10 register for a 4 week pop up blaster program. The older players ran these sessions which provided them with good coaching experience.



## **2022 Eight Ball**

**Sally Rees**

**Head of Eight-ball**

Eight-ball continues to regroup after venues being hard hit by Covid. Not to be deterred, our Falcons eight-ballers- led by past footy player and former Club President Sal Rees - meet for social games most Mondays nights.

Sal, who doubles as President of the Victorian Women's Eight- ball Association, is planning for a return to competition in 2023. New players are always welcome!

If interested in joining in, let us know at [contact@falcons.org.au](mailto:contact@falcons.org.au) and we'll put you in touch.

# Audited Accounts



**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)*

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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 2022."

Yours sincerely,

**NAGLE ACCOUNTING PTY LTD**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elise O'Dea", written over a faint, stylized graphic element.

**ELISE O'DEA**  
Chartered Accountant 533816

Dated 7 November 2022

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

PO Box 2136, Fitzroy, Victoria, 3065  
tel 61 3 9415 7000 • admin@nagle.net.au • abn 32 005 340 590

[nagle.net.au](http://nagle.net.au)

# Balance Sheet

Darebin Womens Sports Club

As at 31 October 2022

Cash Basis

	31 OCT 2022	31 OCT 2021	31 OCT 2020
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Bank</b>			
Darebin Womens	2,492.21	52,374.61	149,820.72
Everyday Account	323,247.49	214,423.97	-
Petty Cash Account	31,003.95	2,213.55	-
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>356,743.65</b>	<b>269,012.13</b>	<b>149,820.72</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>356,743.65</b>	<b>269,012.13</b>	<b>149,820.72</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
GST	(3,327.92)	(1,758.26)	(2,318.08)
Historical Adjustment	(2,028.01)	(2,028.01)	(2,028.01)
Rounding	0.89	(0.15)	(0.19)
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>(5,355.04)</b>	<b>(3,786.42)</b>	<b>(4,346.28)</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>(5,355.04)</b>	<b>(3,786.42)</b>	<b>(4,346.28)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>362,098.69</b>	<b>272,798.55</b>	<b>154,167.00</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Current Year Earnings	89,300.14	118,631.55	146,982.27
Retained Earnings	272,798.55	154,167.00	7,184.73
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>362,098.69</b>	<b>272,798.55</b>	<b>154,167.00</b>

# Profit and Loss

## Darebin Womens Sports Club For the year ended 31 October 2022 Cash Basis

2022

### Trading Income

#### Fees & Uniform - Soccer

Fees - Soccer	89,545.65
Revenue - Soccer Uniforms	4,512.62
<b>Total Fees &amp; Uniform - Soccer</b>	<b>94,058.27</b>

#### Fees & Uniform - Community Football

Fees - AFL Masters	5,047.78
Fees - Junior AFL	15,086.85
Fees - Senior AFL	22,257.99
Revenue - AFL Uniforms	8,685.76
<b>Total Fees &amp; Uniform - Community Football</b>	<b>51,078.38</b>

#### Fees - Cricket

Fees - Cricket	5,353.33
<b>Total Fees - Cricket</b>	<b>5,353.33</b>

#### Partnerships, Grants & Fundraising

Fundraising & Donations	18,478.17
Grants & Partnerships	152,087.00
Sponsorship	33,983.46
<b>Total Partnerships, Grants &amp; Fundraising</b>	<b>204,548.63</b>

#### Other Revenue

Other Revenue	384.55
Other Revenue - Academy	7,554.67
Other Revenue - Canteen	29,853.30
Other Revenue - Club Events	13,338.21
Other Revenue - Membership	763.97
Other Revenue - Merchandise	17,755.07
Other Revenue - Club Fee (internal)	17,550.00
VFLW - Income	12,015.09
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>99,214.86</b>

Interest Income	675.72
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>454,929.19</b>

**Gross Profit** 454,929.19

### Operating Expenses

#### Soccer Costs

Soccer - Coaching Course	47.23
Soccer - Equipment	4,244.12
Soccer - Honorariums	11,500.00

Soccer - Junior Referees Program	1,818.18
Soccer - Referees	5,606.37
Soccer - Sundries	216.88
Soccer - Trophies & Coaches Gifts	8,562.18
Soccer - Uniforms	13,534.79
Soccer - Fee Refund	13,366.45
Soccer - Club Fee (internal)	12,325.00
<b>Total Soccer Costs</b>	<b>71,221.20</b>
<b>Community Football Costs</b>	
Community AFL - Coaches Courses	1,036.36
Community AFL - Equipment	3,462.29
Community AFL - Honorarium	10,385.45
Community AFL - Masters Costs	4,687.72
Community AFL - NFNL Costs - Other	690.00
Community AFL - NFNL Fees - Senior	9,930.85
Community AFL - NFNL Fees - Junior	4,074.11
Community AFL - Other	367.27
Community AFL - Trainers & Physio	1,212.73
Community AFL - Trophies & Gifts	1,570.83
Community AFL - Uniforms	10,793.23
Community AFL - Fee Refund	906.44
Community AFL - Junior Club Fee (internal)	1,725.00
Community AFL - Senior Club Fee (internal)	1,475.00
<b>Total Community Football Costs</b>	<b>52,317.28</b>
<b>Cricket Costs</b>	
Cricket - Coaches Gift	348.75
Cricket - Junior - Equipment	1,581.82
Cricket - Registration Fees	181.82
Cricket - Uniforms	561.00
Cricket - Honorarium	820.00
Cricket - Club Fee (internal)	1,050.00
<b>Total Cricket Costs</b>	<b>4,543.39</b>
<b>Facility Management</b>	
Facility Management	9,338.63
Facility Management - Electricity and Gas	3,208.56
Facility Management - Rent	6,512.67
<b>Total Facility Management</b>	<b>19,059.86</b>
<b>VFLW Costs</b>	
VFLW Program - Equipment	1,741.23
VFLW Program - Facilities	20,282.49
VFLW Program - Honorarium	40,401.00
VFLW Program - Medical	5,827.97
VFLW Program - Nutrition	1,077.05

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VFLW Program - Other	6,192.92
VFLW Program - Player Merchandise	1,202.00
VFLW Program - Player Payments	10,450.00
VFLW Program - Player Uniforms	10,103.64
VFLW Program - Sports trainers / doctors	23,407.29
VFLW Program - Technology	6,759.90
<b>Total VFLW Costs</b>	<b>127,445.49</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>	
General Expense - Merchandise	19,449.19
General Expenses - Academy	14,344.85
General Expenses - Altruism Fund	990.00
General Expenses - Canteen Stock	9,658.40
General Expenses - Event Costs	19,583.27
General Expenses - Other	25,164.62
Marketing & Promotion	1,274.50
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>90,464.83</b>
Bank Fees	577.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>365,629.05</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>89,300.14</b>

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