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# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

DAREBIN WOMEN'S SPORTS  
CLUB INCORPORATED



ABN: 28 780 574 660  
INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION A0022830T

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### **Darebin Women's Sports Club**

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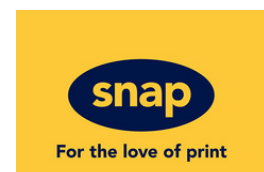
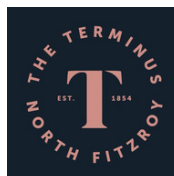
Darebin Falcons acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet, the Wurrundjeri Woiwurrung people of the Kulin nation and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

## 2024 CLUB SPONSORS

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our generous sponsors for their support throughout the year. Your commitment to our club has played a vital role in helping us achieve our goals and deliver meaningful programs and events.

With the support of sponsors, we have been able to foster growth, engagement, and positive change within our community. We deeply appreciate your investment in our mission, and we look forward to continuing to work together to create an even stronger, more vibrant club in the years ahead.

Your support truly makes a difference!



## 2024 DAREBIN WOMEN'S SPORTS CLUB BOARD

### ROLE

President  
Vice President and Head of Soccer and Cricket  
Treasurer  
Company Secretary  
Board Member and Head of Football  
Board Member - Cricket  
Board Member - Communications  
Board Member - Communications  
Board Member - Strategic Partnerships  
Board Member - Strategic Partnerships  
Board Member - General Member

### NAME

Jane Ryan  
Jasmine Hirst  
Kylie Lord  
Lauren Roy  
Julie Boffa  
Emma Sampson  
Alex Dandanis  
Jessica List  
Emily Booth  
Kristie Healy  
Lynne Dryden

## DAREBIN WOMEN'S SPORTS CLUB GOVERNANCE

SENIOR FOOTBALL

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

SOCCER

CRICKET

8BALL

### BOARD COMMITTEES

FINANCE,  
GOVERNANCE &  
RISK

COMMS, MEDIA &  
BRANDING

MEMBERSHIPS &  
STRATEGIC

CULTURE,  
WELLBEING &  
DEVELOPMENT

**BOARD**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT JANE RYAN



I'm excited to present this Annual Report as a remarkable collection of all we have achieved in 2024. Our Club has a lot to celebrate this year, and I'm keen to share that with you in this report.

I'd like to start by acknowledging that we are celebrating our year on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation and I pay my respect to their elders past and present and extend that respect to all First Nations members of our community. I recognise that we play sport on the floodplains of the Merri creek on unceded land and waters and that it always was and always will be Aboriginal land. I also recognise the sports we play originated from Marn grook and other games played by First Peoples of this place.

What a year we've had – on and off the field, the Falcons supported close to a thousand girls, women and gender diverse people to enjoy the camaraderie, the shared efforts, as well as the mental and physical health benefits from playing sport.

With thanks to our partners and supporters we have been able to continue to offer activities that include people experiencing barriers to participating in sport. In particular, we appreciate our important partnership with the State Government and Darebin Council who have worked with us for a long time to make sure that anyone who wants to play, can play.

I'd like to also thank our number one ticket holder, Chris Scott and all our partners this year. Have a look at the sponsors listed in this report and please continue to support businesses that are part of our Falcs family.

In terms of support, I want to thank everyone who contributed to our VFLW program to make sure we have a 2025 season. Every donation that was made is a political act for women's sport and a contribution to our Club's staunch stand as the only VFLW standalone Club for women, girls and gender diverse players. Our reputation as pioneers and gamechangers is important in the history of women's sport. While changes in the women's elite competitions may change what we can contribute, our Club will always have an eye on how to do elite sport differently on and off the field.

And as always, the backbone of this Club are the volunteers that undertake a range of tasks to make sure players are on the field. I want to make a call out to everyone that worked hard to support us – the team managers, administrators, the coaches and the refs and umpires. We salute your efforts and your extraordinary dedication to keeping our club going. Our 30 year legacy has been built on the back of a Club built to give girls, women and gender diverse people opportunities to play sport despite the serious barriers.

So I'd like to thank all the people who have helped us – the parents, players, the families and friends – your support makes it all possible and I thank you.

Sadly, this year a number of our Falcs family have had important people in their lives pass and our thoughts go out to them. These difficult times highlight the importance of reaching out to Club members, checking in with each other and making sure your team mate or club supporter knows you're there for a hug or someone to talk to. I'm so proud of our Club's inclusive culture and I'm positive you will get what you ask for no matter how long you have been at our Club. In my experience, our members work hard to be the Club to which we all want to belong.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT JANE RYAN

I'd like to also thank all our board members this year for all their work, from the operational tasks to the strategic and financial. The passion and commitment of our Board really is incredible and blows me away almost every board meeting. If you would like to be involved in any role around the Club, please get in contact – in particular we have roles on our communications subcommittee, child safety and grant writing needs.

So without further ado, I hope you enjoy the stories in this document because we are proud of what we have achieved this year. Participation of women, girls and gender diverse people in sport is still an uphill battle to find facilities and to play without harassment. We remain steadfast that until everyone plays, nobody wins.

So thanks for everyone's efforts this year and hopefully we'll see you again next year!

### **Victorian Australian of the Year - Local Hero Award**

We couldn't continue without celebrating that this year our Vice President and Head of Soccer Jasmine Hirst was recognised for her contribution to Victoria through the Australian of the Year Awards, name Local Hero. She will represent Victoria at the 2025 Australian of the Year Awards.

Jasmine launched the Darebin Falcons Women's Sports Club junior girls' soccer program with just one team in 2011. Fast forward to the 2024 season, Jasmine has made possible over 30 junior and senior soccer teams (with waitlists) and enabled more than 550 females to play soccer, including the largest girl-exclusive MiniRoos and MiniTillies programs in Victoria.

Her tireless efforts have given females access to scarce local facilities, grounds and equipment – creating Australia's biggest soccer program for girls and women.

In 2020, Jasmine launched the young referees program to increase the number of female referees in Victoria and to pay them for their services.

One of Australia's few female soccer administrators, Jasmine's trailblazing work has had a profound influence on growing football participation rates across Australia and an extraordinary impact on girls and women's sport.

We could not be prouder!



## TREASURER'S REPORT KYLIE LORD

The Falcons had a sound year financially in FY2024.

Actual results were a net loss of \$18K, which was favorable to the budgeted loss of \$99K.

Actual to budget variance can be materially attributed to favorable variances relating to:

- Specific new, unbudgeted, fundraising campaign for the VFLW 2025 season
- Community soccer; and
- Higher than expected club income from merchandise and grants & partnerships.

This was partially offset by:

- Higher than expected facilities costs, including increased electricity and line marking costs.
- Lower than expected club income from general fundraising and donations.

In 2024 our community sports operated with a net profit which can be reinvested back into the club. Our community soccer program ran at a profit, and our community football and cricket programs materially broke even.

Our VFLW team cost \$150K to run and was funded by a combination of sponsorship, fundraising and the club's investment.

We are appreciative of the continued financial support of 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.

Thanks to the members of the Finance & Governance Committee for their ongoing efforts to ensure the Board has the information they need to make financial decisions for the club and help provide a strong governance framework.

Additionally a huge thank you to Lynne Dryden for her role of volunteer bookkeeper for the Falcons, this is a pivotal role for the club and her dedication and expertise is greatly appreciated.

We end the year with a cash balance of \$190K.

## 2024 CLUB AWARDS SAL REES CLUB PERSON OF THE YEAR

### TASH GROVES



Each year at our Senior Teams Presentation Night, we award the Sal Rees Club Person of the Year award. The 2024 winner was the very deserving Tash Groves, who has contributed to the Falcons so continuously, and in so many different and impactful ways.

Her very significant achievements and contributions include:

- Coaching the U13 Community Premier League Team
- Assisting with the implementation of the inclusion and diversity program
- Running the first full-year Soccer Mums program which has so far seen almost 60 participants take part
- Founding and coaching the inaugural over 30s soccer team
- Organising the inaugural Falcons summer junior futsal program with 10 Falcons teams
- Implementing cross facility amenities and liaising with a range of stakeholders
- Coordinating soccer social media
- Representing the club at conferences, focus groups and events

Tash is a true Falcons community champion who lives and breathes the values of the club and inspires others to live and breathe them as well. We are delighted to name her as the 2024 Sal Rees Club Person of the Year.



## 2024 CLUB AWARDS LIFE MEMBERS

### JESS DAL POS & DARCY VESCIO



**The 2024 Life Members award saw us break with tradition and name two Life Members, the inseparable duo, good friends, hearted, committed Falcons and AFLW stars, Jess Dal Pos and Darcy Vescio.**

**Jess Dal Pos** has been a valued member of the Darebin Falcons community since 2009, when she first joined the Youth Girls team as a 15-year-old. From that point, Jess not only played but also coached the Under 18s to an impressive four premierships—two as a player and two as a coach.

Jess's senior career was equally remarkable, transitioning to the senior team and thriving alongside some of the sport's top players, including Daisy Pearce, Darcy Vescio, and Katie Brennan. She won four premierships, two All-Australian selections, and represented Victoria five times, solidifying her place as one of the club's greatest players.

In addition to her Falcons achievements, Jess played for the Western Bulldogs and Melbourne in the early AFLW demonstration matches before being drafted by the GWS Giants as a priority pick in the inaugural 2017 AFLW season. That year, she was named an All Australian and won the GWS Best and Fairest Award.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Jess, along with teammates Darcy Vescio and Aasta O'Connor, co-founded *Strong Girls Work in Progress*, a project aimed at encouraging women and girls to be their best through sport. Through this initiative, Jess developed and shared online resources like Falcons Footy Fundamentals and health and fitness tips, while also offering empowerment sessions for schools, community groups, and corporate audiences.

Returning to play for Carlton in 2020, Jess further deepened her involvement with the Falcons, taking on the role of AFLW Player in Residence from 2021 to 2023. In this capacity, she led specialist skills clinics for our junior and senior teams, including the NFNL, Over 35s, and VFLW teams. She also coached in our Falcon Academy program during school holidays, making skill development fun and engaging for players of all ages.

As a player development coach at Carlton in 2023, Jess continues to inspire those around her with her leadership, passion, and commitment to the Falcons Way. Her ability to teach both football skills and important values sets her apart and represents the very best of what the Darebin Falcons stand for.

Having been a Falcon for over half her life, Jess's impact on our club, both on and off the field, will be felt for years to come. Congratulations, Jess, on an extraordinary career and thank you for being an unwavering inspiration to our community.

**Darcy Vescio's** journey with the Darebin Falcons began in 2012 when they moved to Melbourne from a small town near Wangaratta. Prior to that, Darcy had been forced to stop playing football at age 14 due to a lack of opportunities for girls and gender-diverse individuals. Darcy joined the Falcons' Premier Division VWFL team as soon as they arrived in Melbourne, marking the start of a remarkable career.

In their first year, Darcy played in the 2012 Grand Final, despite the team's loss to Diamond Creek. Over the next few years, they were key to the team's success, playing in every winning grand final from 2013 to 2016. Darcy earned Best on Ground honors in 2015 and 2016, though a knee injury kept them from playing in the 2017 Grand Final.

Beyond the field, Darcy made great contributions to the Falcons' community. In 2015, they played a key role in the Silver Jubilee Committee, celebrating the club's 25th anniversary, and provided live commentary during the past players' game. Darcy's creative talents also helped the club, designing flyers and graphics in the early years.

Darcy's AFLW career began when they were selected as a marquee player for Carlton ahead of the inaugural 2016 AFLW draft. They became one of the league's brightest stars, winning AFLW Leading Goal Kicker in 2017 and 2021, and Mark of the Year in 2017. Darcy was named an All Australian twice (2017, 2021).

Off the field, Darcy is an advocate for equality and respect. As an AFL Multicultural Ambassador, they've spoken out on social issues, including the same-sex marriage plebiscite and better terms and conditions for AFLW players. Darcy now serves on the AFL Players Association's Human Rights Steering Committee.

Despite their success, Darcy has remained deeply connected to the Falcons. They donated their design skills to create Falcons merchandise, with profits supporting the club. During COVID, Darcy worked with fellow AFLW Falcons Jess Dal Pos and Aasta O'Connor on the Falcons Footy Fundamentals online skills series and *Strong Girls Work in Progress* initiative.

Darcy's involvement in Falcons' inclusion and diversity programs has been invaluable. They led Footy Funability sessions at Croxton Special School and coached skills clinics at local high schools. Darcy also played a key role in refurbishing the club's upstairs AH Capp Room in 2022.

Darcy's passion for the Falcons extends to mentoring the next generation of players. As Assistant Coach of the Under 10s in 2022 and Under 12s in 2023, Darcy inspired and mentored our youngest Falcons.

Darcy Vescio's influence and love for the Falcons extend far beyond football. They are, without a doubt, a Falcon for life.

## INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

Our Inclusion and Diversity activities continued through 2024 with the generous support of major club sponsor, Sequana, and grants from AIA, Sport and Recreation Victoria and the Nelson Alexander Foundation.



Collingwood English Language School, Craigieburn campus

The Falcons continued support and prioritise inclusion and diversity programs across all our sports. This year, we held programs for asylum seeker children at the Collingwood English Language School as well as continuing Footy Funability sessions for at Croxton Special School.

A range of high school sessions were held with a focus on connecting (or reconnecting) young people with physical activity through footy. This is particularly important for girls at an age where many begin to withdraw from organised sport and the social and health benefits it brings. Jess Dal Pos also participated in an inspiring Father's Day event for students at Santa Maria College in Northcote, encouraging girls to participate in sport to develop as leaders, not just players.

The regular **Falcons Academy** school holiday program was held in June-July and was open to girls, gender diverse, and all abilities children.

Our footy community program coaches included Falcon favorites and 2024 Life Member, Jess Dal Pos, and Lulu Beatty (both Carlton AFLW). They joined Collingwood AFLW player (and former Falcons VFLW player) Nell Morris-Dalton to hold community programs across the year.

A number of our VFLW and senior teams' players also assisted over the year, which was great to see.

This year's **Pride Dinner** was a partnership with Good Samaritan Inn, who provides refuge and support to women, children and gender diverse people escaping family violence. Our panel theme was Leading the way: Welcoming trans and non-binary people to traditional women's spaces. A topic we are committed and passionate about. The panel was facilitated by Jac Tomlins and speakers included Darebin VFLW co-captain and Pride Cup presenter, Caitlin Bunker, with Erin Slattery from Good Samaritan Inn. The dinner coincided with our Pride Rounds, played across our senior NFNL, Over 35s and VFLW competitions, celebrating, and advocating for, queer people's inclusion in competitive sporting leagues.

A highlight of the year was the visit by **Colombian sports players on their Gender Empowerment tour** of Australia as part of the 'Experiences that change lives' partnership between the Colombian Government and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

We hosted two clinics for the player at AH Capp with Nell Morris-Dalton. Nell took them through a range of footy skills, supported by Lilah Summers Dixon and Cass Willcocks from our senior teams. Tackling was the skill that most intrigued them as it so different to the other sports they played. They took to it with vigour and loads of laughs!



Colombian girls 'Gender Empowerment tour' visitors with Falcs family and coaches, Nell Morris-Dalton and Lilah Summers-Dixon

Reminding us that inclusion is true at all ages, footy's over 35s team continued to offer a training only option for those who just want to stay fit and have a kick, while soccer offered numerous opportunities for 'older' participants – launching their inaugural Over 30s side in 2024, hosted a six week introductory program in January for women and gender diverse participants, plus the highly successful Soccer Mums program run a number of times over 2024.

We celebrated NAIDOC week with the support and coordination of our indigenous players and families. A highlight was the Acknowledgment to country and dance by under 10 players Sienna Crowhurst and, Bonnie McGinness.

Div 2 footy coach Brooke Nam introduced players to traditional games with Marn grooks created for the event by Brooke and her daughters Shawana and Mia Brown, with materials supplied by Georgie and Rita Williams. Georgie also presented our Club with a white kangaroo skin emblazoned with the Falcon logo, received by President Jane Ryan with honour.



NAIDOC celebrations at AH Capp, featuring Bonnie, Sienna and our Indigenous Falcs families

We look forward to continuing our Inclusion and Diversity programs in 2025, including extending our partnership with Good Samaritan Inn, Collingwood English Language School and Croxton Special School.

If you are connected to a community group and would like to participate, please get in touch at [contact@falcons.org.au](mailto:contact@falcons.org.au).

## JUNIOR FOOTBALL REPORT

**JULIE BOFFA**  
**HEAD OF FOOTBALL**

Footy at the Falcs thrived in 2024, in no small part due to the infectious enthusiasm and all-round caliber of our coaches who inspired players and families alike to be their best selves, have fun, help out and play some great footy. Coupled with the many helpful hands providing the innumerable support roles that go towards fielding footy teams and building vibrant community.

And as for our players, you are everything and why we do it. We are honoured to have each and everyone of you at the Falcs.

NAIDOC week was an absolute season highlight with events that brought together junior and senior Falcons, led by our Falcons Indigenous players and their families and coordinated by senior player Rikki Ryan. It was incredibly special to have two of our under 10 players, Bonnie McGinness and Sienna Crowhurst perform a traditional dance and Acknowledgment of Country. We were also privileged to have Georgie and Rita Williams, Brooke Nam and daughters, Shawana and Mia Brown, share the history of Marngrooks and introduce the Falcons to traditional games. Further thanks to Georgie and Rita for presenting our Club with a very special white kangaroo skin, emblazoned with our Falcons logo, such an honour!

This year our Under 16 participated in NAIDOC round matches for the first time joining senior teams for the first time in wearing our Becky Bell designed Indigenous strips. Acknowledgement of Country took place at all home games, and Sharon- Nan- Hughes best on ground awards were presented to the seniors and over 35s team. Sharon is Rikki's Nan and a proud Falcon from some of earliest years in the 90s.

This year also marked our third annual Pride Round at AH Capp. This round is a special celebration of our Falcons cultural history and our ongoing support and advocacy for the inclusion of trans and gender diverse players in sport. This year we played Diamond Creek Women's and for the first time, Greensborough. The arcs were painted rainbow, the club house decorated, and our queer community celebrated. the round coincided with IDAHOBIT and stamping out gender or sexuality based discrimination and harassment. Our Under 16s team participated in a Pride round education session, delivered by Pride Cup, with presenter (and Falcons VFLW Co-Captain), Caitlin Bunker.

We saw a growing closeness between our junior and senior footy programs through initiatives like these, something we hope to build further on in 2025.



## TEAMS

Our **Auskick** program was enjoyed immensely by all participants. We run a small, close-knit program, focusing on the 5 to 8 years age group. Older kids have the opportunity to join our U10 team, if comfortable to do so. This year we were privileged to have some of our senior players step-up to run the program, led by head coach Lilah Summers-Dixon, and supported by Darcy Pingatore and Hannah Rutherford. Our Auskickers insistence on a post session lap of the oval always brought a smile to those watching, coupled with amazement that they had the energy left after the levels of exuberant activity they'd just enjoyed!

**Under 10s** got off to a shaky start as we hadn't had the numbers to field a side in 2023. On the Wednesday before round 1 we only had five players. Word got out, we had the minimum nine players for the season opener and a whopping 21 by season end!

Massive thanks to coach Scott Nicholson, for the warmth and skills he imparted to players and Marelene who took on game day Team Manager duties and recruited so many families to build a welcoming mini Falcs community. An early not to be forgotten highlight and team bonding experience was the disappearing Happy Meal dinners (IYKYK).

**Under12s** this year were just amazing! They started the season in Division 3 but, after successes on field through the grading rounds, were elevated to Division 1/2. Dave Bradley as head coach, and Forch Darrigo as assistant, had the right mix of skill development, fun and community spirit to keep the team inspired and progressing their footy skills all year. Players rose to the challenge of playing in the higher division, pushing top teams with their competitive skills, and had some hard-fought wins.

The U12s adopted new club sponsor, The Keys, as their off field social hub. They started with bowls and dinner post Round 1, repeated later in the season, and then held their season finale and award presentations there. Special thanks to co-team managers, Emma O'Loghlen and Chris Parkinson, and Jess List for getting the ball rolling, and again, to coaches Dave and Forch for their leadership and inspiration.

**Under 14s**, how special was your year! Led by head coach, the indomitable Andy Maher (thanks too for The Front Bar call outs and sponsorship!), and his leading lieutenant Ella Wright. With support from dad Brett, the U14s churned out high energy, skill rich, fun packed training sessions all year. This energy translated into on field success, finishing the Home and Away season in second place. The U14s continued their form throughout the finals, eventually runners-up, to Montmorency Black in the Grand Final. Huge congratulations to all involved, with a special call out to Team Manager Mel Alexander, who ran the team back of house like a well-oiled machine. Thanks Mel!

**Under 16s** were very fortunate to have former Falcon and current Western Bulldogs VFLW player Tannah Hurst as their coach, after coaching Under 14s for the previous two seasons. Skills continued to develop under Tannah's tutelage and supported by assistant coaches, Ben Atkinson and Michael Pivetta. Thanks to Nicole Carwyn for her tireless support as Team Manager – and special mention to the hilarious end of season Awards night dress-ups, 16s, you excelled yourselves!

The challenge now is to hold and build on our numbers to be able to field an U18s team in 2025, the first solely in our own name since COVID19. We'll get there Falcs, with so much momentum and strength in numbers in the younger age groups, we're hopeful 2025 will be our year.

## SENIORS FOOTBALL REPORT

**JULIE BOFFA  
HEAD OF  
FOOTBALL**



Our senior teams demonstrated pure Falcons heart and spirit this year. They reflected the caliber and commitment of the coaching group, players, team managers, volunteers and supporters. Special commendation goes to the Senior Teams Committee, coordinated by Maddie Webster, with special mention to lead organisers of the very successful fundraising and events (Maddie, Kate Moorhen and Imi Kendall) and merchandise (Claire Papaleo, Maddie, Ruby Cray) and uniforms (Claire Hardi and Claire Papaleo). Huge thanks to Cameron Williams for driving comms and Claire Hardi for lending wide support and coordinating all back of house admin.

The lasting contribution of our 2024 senior teams will be the purchase of two sets of our inaugural NFNL Pride Jerseys (designed by Maddie Webster). The jersey has our Indigenous Jersey on one side and Pride jersey on the other. These jerseys were funded through team fundraising (merch, Pong and Song event, Trivia Night and Bunnings BBQ), alongside a Telstra Footy grant. This has meant we now have Indigenous strips for three of our teams.

Our Pride Round and NAIDOC Week Rounds were hugely successful this year. The leadership of the senior teams was integral to establishing both rounds as club institutions. Some really unfortunate incidents at a few of our senior games this year, steel our resolve to continue to advocate for the inclusion and whole hearted welcome of queer players in sport and at our club, and remind us that community celebrations of this kind are far more than symbolic, but necessary and important ways of extending this welcome more widely.

**Division One** was led by Head Coach Maddie Webster who in her three years at the helm has driven high standards in training and match day, supported by senior assistant coach Cameron Williams (second year) and Nick Frangolis. Maddie is sadly stepping down to have more time for her non-Falcon commitments, while Cameron, who also had a role with our VFLW team in 2024, will assume full time responsibilities there.



Both Maddie and Cameron are committed to staying involved with our NFNL program and will definitely be around to help us transition to our next leadership. Huge thanks for their contribution goes to both. We also thank Ro Williams for taking on Team Manager duties for Div 1, but more, hope the injury that kept Ro off the field in 2024 resolves to see Ro back on field for 2025. Special mention and much thanks is further owed to Scott Moorhen for generously giving his time as match day photographer, as well as supporting daughter Kate in organising our end of season senior teams Presentation Night. Much thanks to all and other volunteers and supporters too many to mention.

**Division Two** this year was led by the inspiring, footy journey-woman Brooke Nam. While Brooke's U14 daughter Mia is a Falcon regular, Brooke herself has played just about everywhere but the Falcs at both seniors and AFL Masters level! Joined by retiring Falcon player Stacey Aldridge, Brooke and Stace encouraged and educated first year or old hand players alike, and provided a calm and steadying influence. Clare Massey returned as Team Manager yet again, and provides great continuity and support in this role. Thanks Brooke, Stace and Clare.



Mei Griffin Div 2 B&F



Imi Kendall Div 1 B&F

## FOOTBALL REPORT SPORTS TRAINERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Much thanks and gratitude is due to our 2024 Sports Trainers sports trainers, the first stop support people in case of on field injuries.

Daniel Boardman – Under 10 and Under 14

Gerard and Kristy Fennessy – Under 10 and Under 12

Donna Cassidy, supported by Jane Greenacre – Under 16

Brit Griffin – Division 2

Bashandi Ravendren & Aysu Tanyolacar – Div 1

These roles were made more difficult this year with the late introduction of new AFL concussion protocols that led to considerable confusion in interpretation of expectations especially early on. We especially acknowledge and thank Dr Gerard Fennessy who supported us with our internal policies, and successfully advocated with the AFL to amend their advice after discerning contradictions in their procedures. These procedures are challenging, but we welcome the extra focus on player safety and hope this increasingly flows through to on field sanctions for dangerous tackles and attention to tackling and bumping skills.

Moving to off field, we can't forget the canteen! Many parents and players (senior & junior) helped out through the year and it was great fun to get to know you all. Particular thanks are owed to canteen stalwarts, Patricia Lumsden and Josie Caruso for all your support, and the Darcy kids, Olivia, Matthew and Adrian, for holding fort at senior games.

And lastly, much thanks and gratitude are owed to senior team player, Claire Hardi, our Footy Volunteer of the Year, who took on the role of footy registrar for 2024. Among other contributions, Claire steered our seamless transition from GameDay to PlayHQ, organised all back of house admin including coaches and team managers folders, team kits and medical bags and much more. Personally, I would have drowned without Claire, can't thank you enough Hardi!



Div 1 coaches, Maddie Webster, Cameron Williams and Nick Frangolis with Head of Footy, Julie Boffa and Claire Hardi, Footy Volunteer of the year and Players' Player, Claire Hardi

# FOOTBALL REPORT

## 2024 SEASON AWARD WINNERS

### Darebin 1

Best and Fairest Imogen Kendall  
Most Improved Talia Atkinson  
Coaches award Mia Lawson  
Player's Player Claire Hardi

### Darebin 2

Best and Fairest Mei Griffen  
Most improved player Aisling O'Mahoney  
Coaches award Morgan Cassar  
Player's Player Mei Griffen and Darcy Pingatore

### Under 16s

1st Best and Fairest Vieda Simons-Moemai  
2nd Best and Fairest Molly Atkinson and Emily Pivetta  
Coach's Award Zoe Colosimo  
Most Improved Mia McMenaman

### Under 14s

1st Best & Fairest Abigail Pratt  
2nd Best & Fairest Millie Maher  
3rd Best & Fairest Emily Shirvill  
Coach's Award Abbey Wright  
Players' Player Millie Maher

### Under 12s

1st Best and Fairest Stella Bradley  
2nd Best and Fairest Rosalena Fakalata  
3rd Best and Fairest Scarlett D'arrigo  
Most improved Amelia Spasovski  
Most determined Victoria Ware  
Best First year player Audrey Taylor  
Falcons Spirit Award Isabelle Fennessy

Darebin Falcons Senior & Junior Footy Volunteer Award Claire Hardi  
NFNL U16(2) Runner Up Best and Fairest Vieda Simons-Moemai  
NFNL U14(2) 3rd Best and Fairest/ U15 Representative team Millie Maher  
NFNL Division 1 Team of the Year Claire Hardi, Imogen Kendall, Nikita Magriplis  
NFNL Division 2 Team of the Year Alisha Priestley

### Milestones celebrated in 2024

#### 50 Games

U12 Stella Bradley  
U14 Isabelle Masci  
U16 Luella Napolitano  
Senior players Jordan Smyth, Zara Stavros (2023), Cass Willcocks (2023)

#### 100 games

Senior players: Rikki Ryan, April Thompson

#### 150 games

Senior players: Mei Griffin, Karly McNiece



U12 B&F Stella Bradley



U14 Players' Player Millie Maher and U16 B&F Vieda Simons-Moemai

## AFL MASTERS

### FIONA MUNN OVER 35 AFL COORDINATOR



After the Premiership high of 2023, it was a slow return to 2024 for the Over 35s with retirements, rehabilitation of injuries, new injuries, holidays and life in general.

While we comfortably had the most number of players registered of all the teams in the Women's Competition, the average number of our players available each round was one of the lowest (an average most likely skewed by the ever popular matches at AH Capp), as was the number of our players who played eight or nine games for the season. We did scrape together a team each round and won enough games to make the semi-finals however, we did not progress beyond that point.

With our on-field performance compromised at times by the number of players available, we did find joy and pride in other achievements such as:

- Welcoming new players to the Over 35s Falcons, most of whom are also new to football, including: Clare Massey (also Falcons NFNL Division 2 Team Manager), Jemma Martin (also Falcons NFNL Division 2 player) Kate Mulqueen, Amy O'Callaghan, Rachel Semmens, Sarah Ryan and Kristy Yeats
- Enjoying the return of Falcons fan favourites such as: Roi Boutsikakis, Mary-Anne Georgey, Sam Hayman, Bec Hickmott, Chloe Horner, Sarah Logan, Alanna Quigley and Ochre Shaw
- Benefiting from expert and generous coaching inputs from Nicky Callinan, Jess Dal Pos, Shiv Hogan, Sally Lynch and Darcy Pingitore

We are also indebted to a range of friends who have pulled on a (mostly borrowed) uniform to ensure we could field a team each round, including: Emily Campbell, Mel Davey, Jess List (also Falcons Board Member), Jules Parsons, Meaghan Ryan and Steph Simpson.

The season celebrations included:

- 50 AFL games milestone for Alanna Quigley (after nearly 20 years and four children)
- Falcons Pride Fortnight
- the Arnell Cup with the Northside Lions and Brenda 'Junior' Arnell
- NAIDOC Week with representatives from all Falcons teams
- 100 AFL games milestone for Alana Wearne (also President of our sibling club, the Mount Alexander Falcons)
- 50 AFL games milestone for the ever-dependable Catherine Cocks (the first of those who started footy in 2018 to reach this milestone).

We were pleased to make some progress on diversity and inclusion in the Women's Competition in 2024 however, various incidents reminded us that there is still a lot of work required to ensure the competition provides 'footy for fun – a safe place for everyone'.

I am hanging up my coordinator's spreadsheets and want to thank some key people and groups for their invaluable support over the last three years. To Brigid Ryan and Julie Boffa for the hundreds of hours of time you have put in to making our O35s team such a success; to the experienced Falcons for their leadership and wise counsel; and finally to the Woodlands post-training pub crew (which includes the Footy Playing Rowers – Bob, Brig and Lamby) for the good humour, entertaining conversation and being the best sounding board a coordinator could wish for.

GO FALCS!

**Coaching panel:** Julia Boyle, Shevaun Hogan, Rachel Hoult, Darcy Pingitore, Brigid and Jane Ryan, Ochre Shaw.

**Team managers:** Fiona Munn, Carla Sgro.

**Trainers:** Sally Lynch, Emma Thompson, Emma Wearmouth.

**Volunteers:** Tope Adepoiyibi, Julie Boffa, Irene and Nikki Clare, Emma Keogh, Jackie Lynch, Danny and Liam Ryan.



**Best and Fairest:** Carley Allen



**Volunteer Award:** Danny Ryan



**Coaches' Award:** Bel Smith



**AFL Masters National 'Footy for Fun' Medal:** Mary-Anne Georgey



**Most Improved Award:** Kate Mulqueen

## VFLW REPORT

### SHEVAUN HOGAN COACHING DIRECTOR VFLW



The 2024 season marked a year of progress and adjustment for the Darebin Falcons VFLW program, with a focus on team development and performance improvement. Coming into the season with 20 new players and an entirely new coaching and support staff, the program saw meaningful growth and a refreshed approach to competition.

As recognized by the AFL, Darebin ***“made huge strides this year in its quest to re-emerge as one of the powerhouse sides of the rebel VFLW.”*** These achievements represent a strong base to build upon as we look ahead to 2025.

#### Key Appointments – Coaching and Operations

This season saw the appointment of a new coaching and operations team, each member bringing distinct skills and experience to the program:

- Head Coach: Lache Walker brought a strong background in women’s football, providing direction and oversight for our game strategies
- Assistant Coaches
  - Sammy David, Forward Coach
  - Cameron Williams, Midfield Coach,
  - Tom McGuigan, Backline Coach
  - Rachel Hibbert, Development Coach and Player Welfare

All of these Assistant coaches have come up through the ranks of Darebin as either coaches at NFNL level or as players in the VFLW program. It was fantastic to have this pathway realised in such a successful way.

All of the coaches contributed and collaborated to build a supportive and development-focused environment.

Bec Battersby joined as our head of Strength and Conditioning. Bec ensured our players were physically prepared and contributed significantly to overall team readiness.

And finally, Kyle Povah who joined as Operations Manager made a huge impact to the essential operations of the program. Also lending his expertise in list management, talent identification and marketing. Kyle was ably supported by Falcon stalwart, Nikki Claire, as Property Steward for the second consecutive year.

## Team Leadership

Our leadership group, led by Co-Captains Steph Simpson and Caitlin Bunker, embodied our Falcon's values, passion and drive. This was crucial to successfully integrating our established and new players into a cohesive squad.

Alongside our Vice Captains Alyssa Mifsud, Riley Christgoergl and emerging leader Sam Pritchard, were key in providing support and maintaining morale within the squad throughout the season.

## Season Highlights

The 2024 season initially presented a challenge as players and coaches worked to learn and develop the new game plan. However, their perseverance paid off in the second half of the season, winning 5 out of our last 7 games. Our key milestone was the victory over Carlton breaking our 28-game losing streak. The feeling of winning that day was indescribable, and the joy of finally singing the Falc's victory song was a highlight for everyone. We kept up our strong performances, defeating top-of-the-ladder teams like Hawthorn, Bulldogs, Casey, and Carlton once again. Though we narrowly missed the finals, we've laid a solid foundation for 2025.

## VFLW League Achievements

Several players received VFLW league-wide recognition for their efforts. We are proud to report the following individual accolades:

- Ange Gogos: Coaches MVP award, VFLW Team of the Year
- Monique Dematteo: League's Leading Goal Kicker, VFLW Team of the Year
- Shannon Egan: Achieved the highest Ruck Hitouts in the league





### **Darebin Falcons Club Award Winners**

Congratulations to each of our 2024 award winners, who demonstrated determination, commitment and exemplified the spirit of the Falcons on the field.

- Best and Fairest: Ange Gogos
- Runner-Up: Caitlin Bunker
- Leading Goal Kicker: Monique Dematteo
- Rising Star: Ella Southgate
- Coach's Award: Grace Wake
- Players' Player: Caitlin Bunker

### **Looking to 2025**

Reflecting on this season, I feel confident about where the Falcons are headed in 2025. With a maturing program, a unified team culture, and a clear commitment to player development, we're well-positioned for a promising year. We've also secured an excellent training location for 2025 at RMIT, which has been a strong supporter of our team. We're excited to make full use of their wonderful facilities and look forward to seeing you there.

And finally, to everyone who supported our team this year—our sponsors, volunteers, fans, and those who generously donated to the program—thank you. We couldn't do this without you, and we look forward to making you proud again in 2025.

Go Falcs!

## **SOCCER REPORT**

### **JASMINE HIRST VICE PRESIDENT AND HEAD OF SOCCER**

This year was a year of relocation, consolidation and progression for our Falcons soccer program. We saw more players, junior referees, coaches and volunteers than ever before, and we provided more opportunities to develop, grow, thrive and excel through our specialist skills programs.

#### **Player Numbers**

In 2024, we registered a total of 493 winter season players, including 449 active junior and 44 senior participants in PlayFootball, and 79 players in our re-branded MiniTillies Program (formerly MiniRoos Kick Off). We also introduced, for the first time, an over 30s team (15 participants) who took part in the inaugural Women's Legacy League. Including the over 30s, our club now boasts 34 winter outdoor teams ranging from Under 8s through to Senior Women's.

#### **Coaches and Volunteers**

Supporting these players are 59 team coaches and assistant coaches, 43 team managers and co-team managers, 30 Emerging Referees and, 12 junior player coaches assisted by 9 parent coaches for the MiniTillies Kick Off Program.

Training programs were provided with the club running a MiniRoos Certificate course for 15 coaches in April.

This year, 28 coaches and assistant coaches returned after coaching teams in 2023.

We were a Gold member of the Football Victoria CCC program and took part in sessions with FV's Coach Coordinator Program Manager, Rob Taylor and had 3 coaches attend the inaugural CCC Conference.



### Summer Programs 2023/2024

Over the Summer, we had 12 Falcons sponsored Futsal Teams taking part in competitions at Futsal Oz in Brunswick in the U12-U16 age groups. Of these teams, two teams continued playing Futsal into the winter season.

There were 7 Registered Teams in Go Sevens at Darebin International Sports Centre.

Capitalising on the momentum of the Women's World Cup, In November-December 2023 we held 4 weeks of Open Training Sessions U13-U18 players to welcome new players, and offer a pathway into our winter teams for 2024.



This was also a great opportunity for current players to re-engage and keep their skills up over the holidays. The sessions were a great success with around 60 players attending, many who were completely new to soccer. At an age where lots of girls drop out of sport, these sessions were able to provide an entry point and a continuation of the pathway into social teams or winter teams in 2024.

In January 2023 we took part in the Council's Get Active in Darebin initiative, and ran a 6 week introduction to soccer program for Women and Gender Diverse People. We had 22 participants and it was a great way to get more people involved in soccer and the club.

As usual, our annual Community Day in February, was a great success, with over 100 girls and gender-diverse players taking part in the soccer program. As a key event on our calendar, Community Day helps us build strong connections within the club as well as attract new players, and it continues to attract high levels of participation, especially in the younger age groups. Prior to Community Day we already had 228 on our EOI list for 2024, 112 accepted places offered and registered.

## Facility Locations

With our home ground at Robinson Reserve undergoing a major renovation, Darebin Council provided a relocation for us to C.T. Barling Reserve (2 full pitches) as well as our usual use of G H Mott Reserve (1 full pitch + training area) and A H Capp for Training on Monday nights.

Despite our initial concerns about moving away from our local area in Preston and into Reservoir, the two pitches provided a fantastic community environment with a great atmosphere, efficient use of volunteers and canteen sales, despite the pitches being at the minimum junior size. There was a slight drop off in training attendance from some players who lived further away but all in all it was a great success. Two pitches together in the same location is something we would love to work towards in the future.

We enjoyed a full season of training at G H Mott Reserve with the new lights and the additional space created for evening training allowed for an extra 3 teams and a number of social programs.

## Soccer Mums

With additional space and an enthusiastic coordinator, Tash Groves, we were able to run Soccer Mums programs throughout the year. This is a beginner program for Women and Gender Diverse People which although has many Falcon's mums involved, it also attracts other beginners who are not mums. In the promotion of the program we have made it clear that you don't need to be a mum to attend.

Soccer Mums participant registrations: Term 1 = 18, Term 2 = 21. Term 3 = 21, Term 4 = 38.

## Extra activities

20 MiniRoos players participated in the Little Legends Lap for the Matildas v Uzbekistan AFC Olympic Qualifiers match on 28 Feb at Marvel Stadium. Resounding win by the Matildas 10-0.



## Community Premier League

In February Football Victoria opened expressions of interest for the Community Premier League (CPL) for new teams.

We were accepted as one of 12 clubs participating in the CPL for 2024. This involved some quick adjustment to the plans for our teams with the U12 Red Team (playing up an age group in U13), U15 Purple Team and U17 Purple Team.

### Preseason

Pre-season 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.

With high demand for practice games prior to the season, we held Gala Days with Avondale Heights on March 3 and Essendon Royals on March 17 with several games across a number of age groups between teams from both clubs.

### Pre-season Tournaments

We had five teams attend the Boys and Girls FC event in Bendigo in March. Our U17 Purple and U15 Purple teams finished the event as Champions.



## The Winter Season

The winter season began for all teams on Sunday 21 April.

Teams included 2 x U8 Joeys, 3 x U9 Joeys and 1 U9 Wallabies, 3 x U10 Joeys and 1 x U10 Wallabies, 2 x U11 Joeys and 1 U11 Wallabies, 2 x U12 Joeys, 4 x U13 ( 1 x CPL, 1 x C Grade, 2 x D Grade), 4 x U14 (1 x B Grade, 1 x C Grade, 2 x D Grade), 3 x U15 (1 x CPL, 1 x C Grade, 1 x D Grade), 1 x U16 B Grade and 1 x U16 C Grade, 1 x U18 B Grade and 1 U18C Grade, and 2 x Women's teams (1 x SL3 and 1 x SL4).



Our U17 CPL team and U12C Blue Team finished as runners up in their leagues, earning them pennants. We also had a number of other teams finish in the top 4 however due to the move by FV to minimise finals this season, they did not make finals.

## Seniors

Our Women's Senior Teams had a great season of renewal and consolidation with several new players coming on board in both teams. The State League 3 Team, coached by Joe Baruzzo, finished in a solid mid table position with plenty of positives to work on for 2025. We were very pleased to welcome back Jill Murphy to the club who took on the State League 4 coaching role and brought a great, encouraging spirit to the team.

## MiniTillies Program

Our MiniTillies Program, rebranded from MiniRoos, launched on Sunday, 29th April with 79 players aged between 4 and 9 years old. In addition to several new parent coaches, we were thrilled to have 12 junior players assist with coaching the program. These junior coaches did an outstanding job, providing excellent guidance and serving as positive role models for our youngest participants. To support our coaches, we offered a MiniRoos Certificate Course on 20 April, organized through Football Victoria.

A highlight of the MiniTillies program each year is the special involvement of parents and caregivers during our Mother's Day and Father's Day sessions, where mums, dads, and other significant figures join in the fun with the players.

## MiniRoos School Holiday Clinics

Partnering with Football Australia, we hosted MiniRoos Holiday Clinics on the following dates:

19 Jan - 66 registrations

12 Apr - 28 registrations

3 Oct - 20 registrations

### **Eagle Hire Goal Keeper Academy**

Our Eagle Hire Goal Keeper Academy took a step up in 2024. Throughout term 2 and 3 we ran targeted goal keeper training sessions in 2 parts.

Our U12-Senior goal keepers attended weekly sessions with Melbourne Victory goal keeper - Melissa Maizels. Our MiniRoos had the opportunity to attend a weekly session with NPL goal keeper Izzy Rutherford. Both these sessions were well attended and received. With goal keeping such an important part of football and an element traditionally neglected for girls, we are looking forward to ensuring we develop keepers within the Darebin Falcons.



### **Elite Female Football July School Holiday Program**

During the July school holidays, we hosted our annual clinic in partnership with Elite Female Football, attracting 100 registered players. Caitlin Friend and her talented team led the Falcons players through a series of challenging drills and activities, delivering an exceptional school holiday experience for all participants.

### **Emerging Referees**

The Emerging Referees program continued to grow in popularity in 2024. This year, 25 participants aged 13 and older, joined the program to become club referees. Training sessions were held, with guidance from FV referee Svenja Zahn. Throughout the season, the Emerging Referees officiated home games for our MiniRoos teams (U8-U11), and several also stepped up to referee Under 12 and Under 13 matches at Robinson Reserve when Football Victoria referee's were not available.

Nest Legal was our Referee program sponsor, providing valuable funds to support the program.



### **Elite Skills Sessions**

With more demand than ever for extension activities for talented and committed players, we piloted an Elite Skills Program with 5 sessions of targeted skills work with Melbourne Victory Captain, Kayla Morrison. This was a paid program with funds going directly to Kayla. This served the dual purpose of helping an elite sports woman to supplement her income, as female A-league players are only contracted for a short period of time during the season, and also meeting the demand of our members.

We ran a block of sessions in Term 2 and one in Term 3. Each block had 20 participants (10 per 1 hour session) and were sold out within 48 hours of release. The sessions were so popular, we will look to run these in future.



### **New Look Senior Uniforms**

A player lead committee chose the designs for new uniforms for our State League 3 and 4 Teams. These were subsidised through the generous sponsorship of The Keys Leisure Centre and Eagle Hire. The uniforms were well received by all the players and look great.

### **Post Season Events**

The Falcons State League 3 Team and a few friends, came together post season to compete as Argentina in the Women's Cup of Nations at the Home of the Matildas. In a fantastic effort they didn't drop a game to come out as Champions of the Wattle League.

A number of teams also participated in post-season tournaments - the Nike Cup and the Doreen Cup which as always, provided a great experience for the players.

### **AIA Vitality Grant - Coach Education**

With a grant received from AIA Vitality, we were able to cover fees for the C Diploma for two of our female coaches, Mereki Nieman and Tash Groves. Both attended the four day workshops to received their C Diplomas.



## 2024 SOCCER TEAM COACHES

Team	Coach	Team	Coach
MiniTillies	Abbey Leeder	Under 11 Blue	Greg Rafferty
MiniTillies	Alex Cornthwaite	Under 11 Purple	Ramon Ralifo
MiniTillies	Alex Marsh	Under 11 Red	Gaetano Galati
MiniTillies	Anika Filips	U12 Blue	Marcus Cobbeldick
MiniTillies	Annika Reich Barber	U12 Blue	Chris Hotham
MiniTillies	Brad Paton	U12 Purple	Gareth Elvidge
MiniTillies	Caitlin Schmelitschek	U13 Red CPL	Nick Aberle
MiniTillies	Claire Pace	U13 Red CPL	Natasha Groves
MiniTillies	Daniel Victory	Under 13 Blue	Tak Troung
MiniTillies	Fiona Black	Under 13 Blue	Ross Green
MiniTillies	Gaia Bellan	Under 13 Red	Kelly McLoughlin
MiniTillies	Hamish Graham	Under 13 White	Piero Fruci
MiniTillies	Izzy Connell	Under 14 Blue	David Thomas
MiniTillies	Jacinta Calyvopoulos	Under 14 Purple	Vince Fruci
MiniTillies	Jordana Blank	Under 14 Red	Chris Fulton
MiniTillies	Kieran McMillan	Under 14 Red	Tom McKendrick
MiniTillies		Under 14 White	Nick Barboussas
MiniTillies	Mark Richards	Under 15 Green	Matt Hancock
MiniTillies	Nik Filips	Under 15 Navy	Lyn Bettio
MiniTillies	Troy Crellin	Under 15 Navy	Byron Koetser
Under 8 Blue	Matthew Dive	Under 15 Navy	Trent McCarthy
Under 8 Red	Hazel King	Under 15 Navy	Shoni Maguire
Under 8 Red	Nicky Smith	Under 15 Purple CPL	Paul Connolly
Under 9 Blue	Federico Nusynkier	Under 15 Purple CPL	Ray Marsh
Under 9 Blue	Sebastian Seeligson	Under 16 Red	Simon Davis
Under 9 Purple	Christian Doudle	Under 16 Red	Tim Thomas
Under 9 Purple	David Menzies	Under 16 White	Julian Delahunt
Under 9 Red	Liz Bower	Under 16 White	Simon Perotta
Under 9 Red	Gillon Duguid	Under 17 Purple CPL	Davide Codini
Under 9 White	Andrew Buldt	Under 17 Purple CPL	Mereki Nieman
Under 10 Blue	George	Under 18 Red	Dave Curwood
Under 10 Purple	Eilan Healy	Under 18 White	Meaghan Block
Under 10 Red	Peter Vassili	Under 18 White	Joel Ritchie
Under 10 White	Tim Gartland	Women's State League 3	Joe Baruzzo
Under 10 White	David Hannay	Women's State League 4	Jill Murphy

## 2024 SOCCER TEAM MANAGERS

Team	Team Manager	Team	Team Manager
Under 8 Red	Adrian Vandendergh	Under 13 Red	Cameron Schmelitschek
Under 8 Blue	Claudia Tonelli	Under 13 White	Carmel Ganino
Under 9 Red	Becky Nallapeneni	Under 14 Blue	Leasha Lillywhite
Under 9 Blue	Jennifer Gearing	Under 14 Blue	Louise Stewart
Under 9 Purple	Jamie Reid	Under 14 Purple	Janine Hall
Under 9 White	Melanie Jooster	Under 14 Purple	Tracey Cabrie
Under 10 Blue	Guy Ross	Under 14 Red	Angela Pamic
Under 10 Red	Andrea Kneen	Under 14 White	Rachael Bohan
Under 10 Purple	Angela Marsh	Under 15 Green	Moseni Mulemba
Under 10 White	Stefanie Foley	Under 15 Purple CPL	Sonya Schurmann
Under 10 White	Niamh Devlin	Under 15 Navy	Estelle Beauvallet
Under 11 Blue	Jackie Hanson	Under 15 Navy	Susie Godfrey
Under 11 Purple	Nicola Henriksson	Under 15 Navy	Kathryn James
Under 11 Red	Dani Pes	Under 16 Red	Ana Del Barrio Gomez
Under 12 Blue	Steph Haddad	Under 16 Red	Trenton Gilbert
Under 12 Purple	Joe Dodd	Under 16 White	Simon Perrotta
Under 13 Red CPL	Sarah Ryan	Under 18 Red	Mark Scruby
Under 13 Blue	Matt Petoe	Under 17 Purple CPL	Jack Coleman
Under 13 Blue	Trish Lloyd	Under 18 White	Vinu Patel

### Presentation Days & Nights

We held 7 separate Presentation Sessions for the Junior Teams (U9-U18) and MiniRoos Kick Off over the Sundays of 8th, 15th and 22nd September. Each presentation session included up to 6 teams. All players received a participation medal and the Under 12's and older were presented with individual awards for players that have been most admired by their teammates, worked hard and improved their skills over the season, and always played fairly and brought their best for the team.

Presentation of awards for the women's teams was held at an evening event with AFL and soccer on 6th October.



# SOCCKER REPORT

## 2024 AWARD WINNERS

Team Name	Best & Fairest	Most Improved	Coach's Award	Player's Player
Under12 Blue	Joint winners: Danica Dziedzic & Eva Fogarty	Isabel Cobbledick	Danica Dziedzic	Eva Fogarty
Under12 Purple	Jessica Brouwer	Annie Buxton	Bonnie Owen- Smith	Eliza Dodd
Under 13 Blue	Joint winners: Missy La Fontaine & Maddy Thomson	Evie Crouch	Maya Truong	Henny Mcardle Green
Under 13 Red	Sabine Thompson	Priscilla Lusher	Stella Karvelas	Clementine Coffey
Under 13 Red CPL	Janna Soubra	Scarlett Roche	Victoria Vassili	Vivienne Ryan
Under 13 White	Louisa Johnson-Lee	Valentina Eboli	Aliana Fruci	Sally Catchlove
Under 15 Navy	Neave Snelders	Hana Radwan	Lily Goddard	Olive Michailidis
Under14 Blue	Josephine Aberle	Lola Wilding	Pearl Martino	Josephine Aberle
Under 4 Purple	Hannah Tumbri	Tamika Ralifo	Xanthe Wright-Hall	Alice Fikai
Under 14 Red	Esther Fulton	Imogen Frankel	Greta Alves	Claudia Wood
Under 14 White	Eloise Schofield	Samantha Barboussas	Quinn Shanahan	Isabel Logan
Under 15 Green	Tepa Mulemba- Bastian	Isabella Connell	Abbey Leeder	Joint Winners: Alice Johnson-Lee & Neve Hancock
Under 15 Purple CPL	Ada Connolly	Anika Krishnapillai	Daniella Lanza	Ada Connolly
Under 16 Red	Juliette Wilson	Esme Alves	Hazel King	Rosita Curmi
Under 16 White	Joint winners: Eva Peric & Zoe Tran	Constance Papahronis	Madelyne Delahunt	Eva Peric
Under 17 Purple CPL	Indigo Rodger	Philippa Turnour	June Dibble	Lucia Negrelli
Under 18 Red	Talia Paris	Bridget Green	Hannah Brown	Olivia Gembarovski
Under 18 White	Elena Barboussas	Francesca Lababidi	Elinor Hastings	Maggie Reidy
Women's State League 3	Emily Boyle	Hessie Clark- Walsh	Frankie Carroll.	Emily Boyle
Women's State League 4	Nicola Maranesi	Lauren Fallace	Annie Tran	Ange Mackie

### **Waiting List**

With such a large waiting list last year, we closed our EOI list in February and re-opened it on October 3rd for 2025. By the end of November 2024, we had 117 EOIs for new players. We hope that the opening and closing of the list will make the registration process easier as people will have more recently expressed their interest.



### **Gratitude goes to....**

A huge thank you to all the Darebin Falcons coaches, team managers, volunteers, and especially Maria Caruso, Jayne Crowley, Lisa Dowsing, Tash Groves and Zoe Ellis. Running a successful soccer program truly requires a team effort, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated and hardworking community here at Darebin Falcons. From top to bottom, everyone plays a vital role in ensuring that we provide an outstanding experience for all our players.

We also want to express our gratitude to the players, who show up each week with enthusiasm, a willingness to learn, and a passion for the game. And of course, a special thank you to their parents—without your ongoing support, none of this would be possible.

## JUNIOR CRICKET REPORT

**DREW GEORGE  
CRICKET COORDINATOR**



The Falcons Cricket program has seen growth at both Senior level and the younger age groups in the last 12 months, with highlights including:

- The Under 14s combined side with Strathmore winning the Premiership. The cricket program continues to punch above its weight with multiple players/coaches having won three consecutive premierships.
- Four players were selected to play representative cricket - Xanthe Wright-Hall, Abi Pratt, Freddie Paine and Alex Marsh.
- The Cricket Blast program was reintroduced in 23/24 across eight weeks for kids under 10 years old with eight new participants introduced to cricket at the club. The program will run again in the 24/25 season.
- In a major development for the sustainability of the cricket program we have re-entered a senior team in competition in 24/25, captained by Bec Hickmott. This is a return to senior competition after not having a Women's team over the last few seasons. This will provide an opportunity not only for women to participate in cricket but provide a pathway for our junior players.
- We had three teams enter the junior competition in 24/25 - Under 10s combined with the Preston Druids, Under 14s with Strathmore, and our Under 16s standalone team.
- We had three players recognised at the North West Metropolitan Cricket Association Awards, including : Lily Schurmann - Under 16 for fielding, Xanthe Wright-Hall - Under 14 for batting and Abigail Pratt - Under 14 for batting and runner up in the batting award.
- Despite some teething issues we transferred or player registration and scoring to the new Play HQ platform.

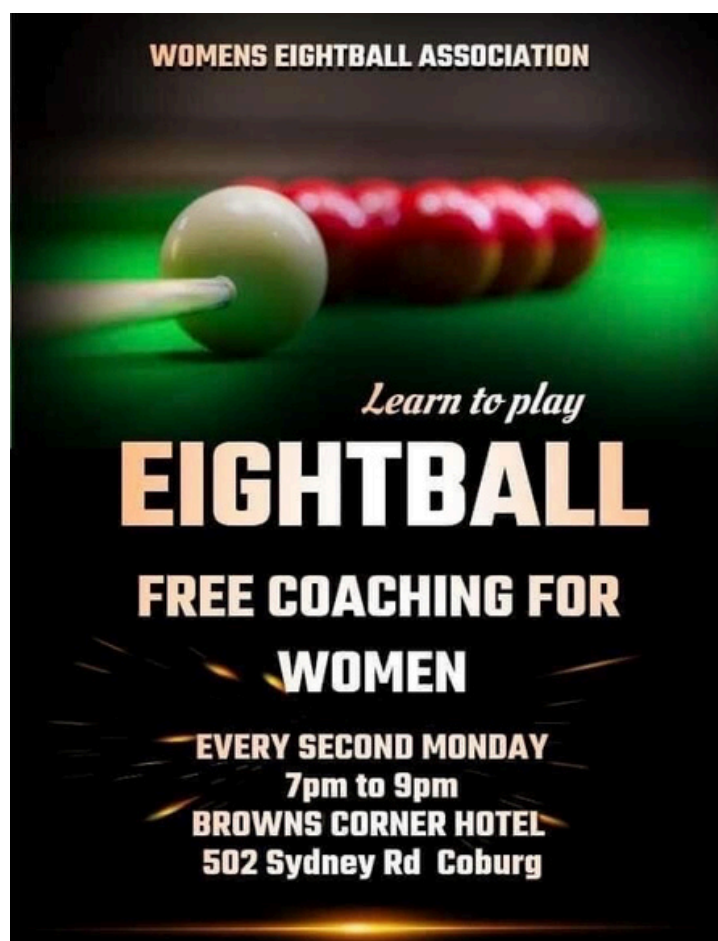
Work continues to grow participation in and the visibility of the cricket program. Thanks for all those who have helped out including Emma Sampson, Chris Wright, Chris Schurmann, Damien Pratt, Jayne Crawley and Michelle Spinks.

## EIGHT BALL REPORT

Darebin Falcons 8-Ball community continues as a social participation opportunity with sessions on Monday nights.

It is a safe space for women to learn how to play, while having a laugh and making new friends.

To join in, contact Sal Rees at [contact@falcons.org.au](mailto:contact@falcons.org.au)



# COMMUNITY FUN DAY 2024



Our Annual Community Fun Day is an event for new and old members to gather at the beginning of the school year to register, or come and try a new sport. Coaches, emerging leaders, community volunteers and even some of our biggest sporting stars including Darcy Vescio and Katie Brennan turned up to talk with new families and give them a taste of the Club this year.



**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 2024.”

Yours sincerely,

**NAGLE ACCOUNTING PTY LTD**



**ELISE O'DEA  
Chartered Accountant 533816**

Dated 21 November 2024



# Balance Sheet

## Darebin Womens Sports Club As at 31 October 2024

	31 OCT 2024	31 OCT 2023
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Bank</b>		
Bendigo Everyday Account	72,544.58	9,899.51
Bendigo Petty Cash Account	4,454.94	762.90
NAB Darebin Womens Account	13,233.50	324.76
NAB Term Deposit	100,000.00	200,000.00
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>190,233.02</b>	<b>210,987.17</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Accounts Receivable	5,000.00	8,280.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>8,280.00</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Office Equipment	3,109.08	3,109.08
Office Equipment Less Accumulated Depn	(520.96)	(233.39)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>2,588.12</b>	<b>2,875.69</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>197,821.14</b>	<b>222,142.86</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	4,980.57	364.50
GST	(2,688.80)	300.66
Historical Adjustment	(2,028.01)	(2,028.01)
Rounding	-	0.91
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>263.76</b>	<b>(1,361.94)</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>263.76</b>	<b>(1,361.94)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>197,557.38</b>	<b>223,504.80</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Current Year Earnings	(25,947.42)	(130,051.09)
Retained Earnings	223,504.80	353,555.89
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>197,557.38</b>	<b>223,504.80</b>

# Profit and Loss

## Darebin Womens Sports Club For the year ended 31 October 2024 Cash Basis

2024

### Trading Income

#### Soccer

Rev Fees - Soccer	82,980
Rev Fees - Soccer PassThrough	5,378
Revenue - Soccer Uniforms	20,922
Revenue - Soccer Player Courses/Events	13,430
Revenue - Canteen Soccer	25,893
<b>Total Soccer</b>	<b>148,603</b>

#### Cricket

Rev Fees - Cricket	3,063
<b>Total Cricket</b>	<b>3,063</b>

#### Community Footy

Rev Fees - AFL Footy Junior	15,995
Rev Fees - AFL Footy Senior	14,881
Rev Fees - AFL Footy Masters	7,739
Revenue - AFL Footy Uniforms	8,775
Revenue - Footy Player Courses/Events	560
Revenue - Canteen Footy AFL (Capp)	21,396
<b>Total Community Footy</b>	<b>69,347</b>

#### Fundraising, Grants and Partnerships

Fundraising & Donations	55,624
Grants & Partnerships	31,789
Sponsorship - General	23,955
<b>Total Fundraising, Grants and Partnerships</b>	<b>111,367</b>

#### Other income

Interest Income	8,374
Revenue - Club Events	15,298
Revenue - Membership	1,270
Revenue - Merchandise	15,597
Other Revenue	57
<b>Total Other income</b>	<b>40,596</b>

#### Facilities

Other Revenue - Club Fee (internal)	23,257
<b>Total Facilities</b>	<b>23,257</b>

#### VFLW

Sponsorship - VFLW	21,946
<b>Total VFLW</b>	<b>21,946</b>

<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>418,179</b>
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## Operating Expenses

### Community Footy

Community AFL - Coaches Courses	282
Community AFL - Equipment	4,108
Community AFL - Honorarium	8,925
Community AFL - Junior Club Fee (internal)	2,370
Community AFL - Masters Fees	4,732
Community AFL - NFNL Costs - Other	3,658
Community AFL - NFNL Fees - Senior	10,364
Community AFL - NFNL Fees - Junior	3,823
Community AFL - Other	1,931
Community AFL - Senior Club Fee (internal)	1,410
Community AFL - Master Club Fee (internal)	1,110
Community AFL - Trainers & Physio	3,503
Community AFL - Trophies and Gifts	1,716
Uniforms - Community AFL	8,716
Fee Refund - AFL Footy	1,148
Footy - Player Courses/Events	1,220
Canteen Stock - Community AFL	9,695
<b>Total Community Footy</b>	<b>68,711</b>

### Cricket

Cricket - Club Fee (internal)	720
Cricket - Trophies and Gifts	467
Cricket - Equipment - Junior	295
Cricket - Registration Fees	250
Cricket - Equipment and other costs - Senior	295
<b>Total Cricket</b>	<b>2,028</b>

### Facilities

Facility Management	1,550
Facility Management - Cleaning & Bins	6,263
Facility Management - Electricity and Gas	8,252
Facility Management - Line Marking	7,975
Facility Management - Rent	3,980
<b>Total Facilities</b>	<b>28,020</b>

### General Expenses

General Expenses - Community Programs	6,887
General Expenses - Altruism Fund	1,500
General Expenses - Finance	5,000
General Expenses - Strategic Partnerships	111
General Expenses - Event Costs	8,876
General Expenses - Insurance and Licences	295
General Expenses - Board Costs	337
General Expenses - Presentation Night	6,078
General Expenses - Comms & Marketing	7,940

2024

Merchandise Stock	7,493
Cost of Fundraising & Donations (inc stock)	12,596
Bank and Payment Platform Fees	2,114
<b>Total General Expenses</b>	<b>59,227</b>

**Soccer**

Soccer - FFV Fees PassThrough	5,378
Soccer - Club Fee (internal)	17,647
Soccer - Coaching Courses	8,835
Soccer - Equipment	18,512
Soccer - FFV Fees	4,529
Soccer - Honorariums	11,200
Soccer - Referees	10,609
Soccer - Player Courses/Events	10,295
Soccer - Trophies & Gifts	6,728
Soccer - Other	2,403
Canteen stock - Soccer	5,685
Uniforms - Soccer	23,222
Fee Refund - Soccer	3,028
<b>Total Soccer</b>	<b>128,071</b>

**VFLW**

VFLW Program - Equipment	3,024
VFLW Program - Facilities	35,181
VFLW Program - Staff	53,019
VFLW Program - Nutrition	1,821
VFLW Program - Other	3,498
VFLW Program - Player Merchandise	102
VFLW Program - Player Payments	20,260
VFLW Program - Player Uniforms	10,402
VFLW Program - Sports trainers / doctors	13,291
VFLW Program - Technology	10,006
<b>Total VFLW</b>	<b>150,604</b>

<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>436,661</b>
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<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>(18,482)</b>
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