

DIAMOND CREEK WOMEN'S FOOTBALL CLUB



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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Presidents Report

Scott Chisholm

In preparation for this year's Presidents Report I took time to reflect on what was another very successful year for our club both on and off the field.

We had seven junior teams and one senior team represent the club; including our first U10 team. With the U18 team runners up and U12 and U14 Blue teams winning their respective Premierships, it was another successful season on field for DCWFC. Congratulations to Chris Priest, Michael Ricardo and their teams on their Premiership wins.

Thank you to all other coaches Laura Frazer, David Craig, Bryan Coghlan, Greg Dyer, Elle Dow and Mitch Lower for their efforts this season.

As always, we know that our junior teams cannot operate without parental support and this year's parent group is the most organised and dedicated I've seen in my six seasons here at DCWFC. Thanks, to all of you who have managed a team, waved a flag, run the boundary, cooked a snag or served hot chips, escorted an umpire, attended to cuts and bruises or run the coaches messages out.

Reduced to just one senior women's team this year due to the VFLW expansion and players looking to further their careers at that level, we began pre-season with just 5 regular players! However due to the tireless efforts of Chris O'Connor and Simone Secombe, we had a full complement by March to begin season 2018.

Mitch Lower, with the assistance of John Mustafa guided the Senior women's NFNL Division 1 team through 2018 and after a slow start, came away playing finals. The development of players who had in many cases not played our great game before was fantastic.

Thanks, to all who volunteered throughout the 2018 season; assistant coaches, team managers, trainers, water runners, runners. Thank you for your efforts, your support and your dedication to the club.

It is the passion, the heart and the spirit of our members, both past and present, our coaches and team officials and our players that place great responsibility on those charged with the running of the club to meet the expectations set by former committees and to ensure the clubs short and long-term success.

To see the clubrooms packed to the rafters with junior players and parents on Junior Presentation Day was fantastic. Our Under 18 and Senior Presentation's were held at Watsonia RSL and were great nights. John Raleigh was awarded the Darren Logan Trophy for Best Club Person for 2018.

At this year's AGM long-time club member, player, committee member and former President Laura Attard will be installed as the club's first ever Life Member, congratulations Gee, well deserved!

Our Sponsors are also an invaluable and important part of the DCWFC community and I would like to acknowledge all of the generous player, team & club sponsors; in particular our major sponsors, Chemist Warehouse, Diamond Valley Mitre 10 and Bendigo Bank.

Sponsorship funds raised bridge the gap between our registration fees and the true cost of running our great football club and without them we would be forced to lift our fees or reduce our services and activities. As always, I encourage all members to support our sponsors as they have supported us.

Special mention to the Executive Committee:

Secretary Simone Secombe kept all of us in line with her incredible eye for detail, her passion for the club and her ability to keep committee meetings on track.

Vice President (seniors) Chris O'Connor who oversaw all things Senior Football wise.

Vice President (juniors) Nicole Ricardo who oversaw all things Junior Football wise.

Treasurer Steve Margetts serving his second term in this role has initiated further auditing and accounting processes that will see the club in good stead into the future.

To all other committee members; Anna Durante, Amanda Margetts, John Raleigh, Michael Ricardo, Trina Martin, Drew Widgery, Karen and Peter Tait, Ruth and David Bailey and Linda Cridland my thanks and congratulations to you on managing season 2018. Thanks also to other volunteers who took on roles; Darren Logan, Margie Hickey and Claire Papaleo.

It has been an honour to serve this great footy club in the capacities that I have as runner, coach, committee member, Vice President (Juniors) and as President.

I wish the 2019 committee well and the club even greater success in the coming years.

GO CREEKERS

Scott Chisholm - DCWFC President

Senior Vice Presidents Report

Chris O'Connor

2018 was a very challenging season after we lost our VFL Licence. As a consequence of this, DCWFC also lost its status as a destination club and of our 2017 playing list of 93 players, 80 did not return. At the AGM it looked like we had no President, no Secretary and no Senior Vice President, however Scott Chisholm, Simone Secombe and I decided to retain our 2017 roles for the 2018 season, primarily as a move to save the senior team.

Simply without Scott and Sim doing this, there would have not been a senior team for 2018. I will always remember the sight of Sim measuring players for merchandise, as Archie slept in the car.

Our first training session had four players and the most players we had before Christmas at a training session was 8. However, we called undecided Creekers from the 2017 season and Mitch and Johnno also worked their network. Come the end of February we were getting mid 20's at training and we knew we would have the ability to field a team for 2018.

Mitch and Johnno established a positive attitude at training and also set an expectation to the playing group that the standard at training and game day would be as a Division 1 team. This was important, as regardless of the inexperience of the playing group, there was an expectation of the DCWFC standard and what the playing group had to live up to.

As the season progressed, the team and individuals continued to improve. This was a direct reflection of the hard work from Mitch, Johnno, Chris Falcke and Assistant Coaches Luke, Matt and Nick. Additionally with the return of players like Farch, Frase, rotating VFL players (notably Grech and Laura Attard) and some TAC girls, the team's improvement was excellent and it cumulated in us winning the first final against Darebin. This was unimaginable when our cumulative losing margin for the first three games was over 300 points.

2018 was a great culture change for the Club and from this we saw the emergence of leaders. Karly Cobern's rise as a dominant NFNL Division 1 player was remarkable; however it mirrored the rise of her as a leader. She should be proud of her achievements as a Captain and player this season. Linda also demonstrated her leadership qualities on and off the field. Her commitment to her teammates and her level at training and game day set a standard that others followed.

Frase and Farch were critical in setting the cultural tone when they returned. They showed you can enjoy yourself but at the same time bring professionalism to training and game day. Also Paps and Margie set a high standard at training and game day, as they embraced the opportunity to be leaders. Their additional role as Events Managers was fantastic.

At the start of the season, we said to the playing group that there will be times when we will juggle for numbers and whilst we capped the playing group at 33, we expected to have a higher injury list than we did. This meant that a number of players did not play as much as we and they would have liked. We apologise for this and thank them for their understanding.

There are many people I would like to thank specifically:

- Mitch and Johnno - You managed a very difficult year, but you maintained an expectation from the playing group that led to improved performances at an individual and team level. To watch you modify and adapt your training program to meet the development of the players was impressive, but to see how you managed the overall football program was a testament to the countless hours you devoted to this team;
- Chris Falcke – Yet again you made a difference to many players through your one on one work on running and kicking technique. You hardly missed a training/game and your wise counsel to Mitch and Johnno was invaluable;
- Luke and Matt – You started as RMIT Interns, but through your knowledge and desire to take on responsibility, quickly became Assistant Coaches, which gave the Coaching squad great depth;
- Nick and Mikey – You were both very important to the S&C program and stats for the coaching and playing group. Your professional approach was appreciated by the players and your input supported the coaches;
- Bree – I know you were desperate to play, but injuries forced you to miss 2018. A team manager is a critical role and it was a good day, when you volunteered. Your management and positive attitude is a testament to yourself and you made our lives significantly easier;
- The Committee – You supported initiatives like paying for dinners during the season, subsidising the senior presentation night for players and coaches, Alex Veitch being Director of Coaching and Jade Haycraft Manager of Interns. All these things assisted in bonding the senior team.

Chris O'Connor - Senior Vice President

Junior Vice Presidents Report

Nicole Ricardo

Preseason started in November 2017 and ran for 3 weeks at Eltham College once a week. This was organised by Ruth Bailey. We had very warm weather and torrential rain and great attendance from excising and new players.

2018 saw Preseason continue at Diamond Hills Reserve Greensborough with all Junior training on Tuesday & Thursday as these days had been allocated by the Nillumbik Council. We had great numbers attending training each night from day one. It was always busy at Diamond Hills registering new players weekly and taking uniforms orders and selling merchandise.

Friday 4th February our U12's had a ½ time experience at Ikon Park during the AFLW Carlton V Collingwood match. The girls had a wonderful night playing and parents had a great time assisting on the oval. If this is ever offered again definitely take up the offer.

This year we didn't have a sponsor for the back of the playing jumpers, Red shorts (new) and training tops front and back. I advertised looking for sponsors on FB and received offers straight away from our families that had their own businesses. Thank you to these 4 businesses, your Sponsorship is greatly appreciated.

CLOTHING/UNIFORM ITEM	COMPANY NAME	AMOUNT \$
Red Shorts	Strive Myotherapy	\$1,000 per year X 2
Training Top Front	Carpets Galore Floor World	\$1,500
Training Top Back	Liquid Waste Removal	\$2,500
Playing Top Back	JOB Job On Budget	\$5,000 per year X 2

My 1st Executive meeting was in February where I was advised of the partnership being developed with RMIT. This was an item that was discussed a lot over the next few months.

Our 1st Committee Meeting was the following month in March just before the season was to start. My only advice to the next committee would be to have regular meetings after the AGM when the new committee is announced and be more proactive in the off season.

Thursday 22nd March, we had the Mouth Guard Man fit mouth guards for around 70 players at Diamond Hills Reserve. The mouth guards were then delivered 2 weeks later. This is the 3rd year running we have used the Mouth Guard Man and their service is great. In return they gave the club 2 X \$60 mouth guard vouchers we used at the Junior Fundraiser. This was booked the previous year to ensure we had a booking for 2018.

Before Round 1 started we had 8 players selected to play in the NFNL U15 Rep Teams; Blayde Ak-Kiau, Zoe Bailey, Imogen Hammond, Leah Jones, Luka Kennedy, Ivy Ozimek (injured), Jess Ricardo, Poppy Strickland, Georgia Tait. We had 10 players try out and 8 received a place. 7 Players eventually played with one out with a long term injury. We also had Tiarne Shell U16 Blue playing Northern Knights & Kayley Reid U16 Blue playing with Calder Cannons.

Throughout the season we also had 19 girls play their 50th Game for DCWFC.

We returned to Plenty Park Tuesday 10th April to train the week Round 1 commenced. With the Senior Team not training at Plenty Park we decided all teams would continue training on Tuesday & Thursday nights. Original plans were to run training Wed/Fri & Tuesday/Thursday this was when we were not aware of RMIT plans.

- U10 5-6pm Thursday's
- U12-U14 5-6pm Tuesday & Thursday's
- U16-U18 6-7.30pm Tuesday & Thursday.

Local Fine Foods in Diamond Creek continued to supply all 7 teams with oranges each week which we thanked on our FB pages. The oranges were collected by Bev McCartney each Thursday.

ROUND 1 Sunday 15th April - 7 Junior Teams and our new Electronic Score Board was up and running.

TEAM	PLAYERS	COACH	ASSISTANT COACH	TEAM MANAGER
U10	13	Elle Short	Brianna Matthews	Paula Tzirkas
U12	21	Chris Priest	John Raleigh	Natalie Cowley
U14R	21	Greg Dyer	Stephen Rowland	Karen Macpherson
U14B	21	Michael Ricardo	Nick Braddock	Leah Kennedy
U16R	21	Bryan Coghlan	Brad Smith	Whitney Heyhoe
U16B	19	David Craig	Jamal Zayat	Vanessa Shell
U18	25	Laura Fraser	Carly Leshia	Anthony Bradstreet

We ran our 1st ever U10 team, which was a great success. The team's coach was Elle Dow and assistant coach Brianna Matthews. Both women did a wonderful job and were loved by the players and parents. John Raleigh was the instigator of getting this team up and going and I thank you John for all his hard work. Paula Tzirkas put her hand up to be the Team Manager and did a fantastic job too.

It was great to see our U18 Team back with a full side coached by Laura Fraser. Laura's dedication and enthusiasm with the girls was brilliant. The girls had a great year coming runners up in the grand final.

I would like to thank all the Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers and all the volunteers that helped out week after week in their daughter's team, your hard work was really appreciated.

Sunday 6th May we opened the bar and welcomed all our Juniors teams to comeback for a drink and afternoon tea. Our Senior team was playing Keilor and we ended up with a lot of families coming back for a drink and to cheers the girls on.

The first 4 weeks were grading rounds and by 21st May the fixture for the whole season was out. DCWFC Juniors has a team in each age level for the 1st time with 141 players.

Thursday 24th May we held a taping night for medics and parents to come along to. Lauren Campbell from Optimal Health in Eltham ran the session to around 20 people that attended. This was a good night and we all learnt a lot about how to correctly tape ankles, fingers etc and discussed concussion.

White Line Images once again came out to the club 3rd May & 17th May to take all Junior Individual & Team photos. This I booked the previous year as they book up very quickly and to ensure we got the dates we wanted. All photos were delivered 4 weeks later for collection.

Dianna Haines and 2 of her team mates from the Box Hill Hawks came out and trained with U12-U18 which all the players enjoyed. Would love to see a lot more old faces back this year to help once in a while at training if possible.

We also had sessions for all teams with tackling coach Malcolm Bangs that Chris O'Connor and Michael Ricardo organised. These are always good nights that the girls enjoy and learn new skills.

Thursday 20th June David Bailey organised an RSA night run by Good Sports. David had 20 people attend and everyone graduated to receive their RSA certificate. The cost was \$40pp and this included dinner. David this year took on being the Bar Manager and getting our licences up to date. We purchased new wine glasses for the bar and a lock was placed on the fridge. Thanks David for running the bar and all your hard work this year.

Ruth Bailey, Elle Short and I attended a workshop organised by local MP's Danielle Green and Vicki Ward. We sat with other women from all different sporting clubs in our community and talked about how we could do women's sports better. It was a great day meeting and talking with other sporting club representatives and learning what is needed and resources available. We are fortunate what we have compared to other clubs in our area. Overall a very good day.

We introduced a weekly raffle for the remaining 4 home and away matches. The raffles worked well with football hampers and fruit and veggie boxes from Local Fine Foods in diamond creek. The raffle made around a \$150 profit each week. This we should continue to do in future seasons.

Monday 13th August NFNL Presentation Night. We had 7 players invited to the night that had made the top 10. Well done to all these girls.

NAME	TEAM	B & F AWARD
U14 RED	Talisha Rowland	5 th
U14 RED	Brooke Webster	Equal 3 rd
U14 BLUE	Luka Kennedy	6 th
U14 BLUE	Zoe Bailey	3 rd
U16 BLUE	Portia Ricardo	Equal 6 th
U16 BLUE	Laila Zayat	Equal 6 th
U18	Sonya Davey	Equal 6 th

As the season progressed we had U12, U14 Red, U14 Blue, U16 Blue & U18 all make the top 4. U12 & U14 Blue made it straight through to the Grand Final. U14 Red, U16 Blue and U18 all had a second chance. U14 Red & U16 Blue unfortunately lost and didn't make the grand final and U18 continued on to the Grand Final. We ended up with 2 Grand Final winners. U12 & U14 Blue won their Grand Finals in horrendous weather conditions and U18 were runners up on the day. Well done to all 7 teams for 2018.

We held 2 Pizza Nights during the season for all players. One towards the end of the season and the other after Grand Final Day.

We welcomed all families back to the clubrooms after the Grand Final Day where we had decorated the day before and set up. We had a lot of families from all teams come back for pizza and a drink, great turn out considering the weather.

Saturday 25th August was the U18 Presentation Night coordinated by Mandy Margetts. All 15 players attended plus partners and parents. The night was a great success held at the Watsonia RSL. This is the 1st time we have had a separate U18 night and we can now replicate this next year. All players graduating to Seniors were given a personalised boxed champagne glass, Well done Mandy and team.

Sunday 26th August was U10-U16 Presentation Day. Each team had a 30 minute window to present their team and awards. We had a BBQ that ran throughout the day, the bar was open, and we hired a jumping pillow and obstacle course which the kids enjoyed all day. The weather was warm and sunny and the day was enjoyed by all.

John Raleigh our U12 Assistant Coach was awarded the Darren Logan award of Club Person of the Year. John is a very valuable member of the DCWFC Committee. The award was very well deserved for the hard work you do with Grants, Policies and anything someone asks you are able to help or find the answer for them. Thanks again John for your help throughout the year.

John has been working hard since January this year on trying to get a permit for Goal Nets at the Plenty Park end of the oval. This has been a tireless task applying for endless permits and emails to and from with the Nillumbik Council. This has just been finally given the tick of approval and round 1 next year no running down the hill to retrieve football.

I would like to thank Anna Durante for her tireless effort being the Junior Registration Coordinator for the past 3 years. Anna has done a wonderful thorough job this year and I will be lost without her assistance. Fantastic work Anna as always.

Mandy Margetts thank you for all your time and effort in fitting out the whole club with great merchandise. We are known now for our Red & Blue at all home & away matches and often have other clubs asking what suppliers we use. Well done Mandy.

Well it's been a very busy Season 2018 with the huge increase in players and teams. I know a lot of us are still working (Simone getting the AGM ready and tying up loose ends) to ensure we get it right for season 2019 and completing 2018. Personally, I have found this season really enjoyable meeting new families and getting more people involved in helping out the day to day running of the club even if it's just a small task. It's also been exhausting with the amount of work and time our roles take. I look forward to more parents getting involved next season to hopefully lighten the load.

We are lucky to have such hard working committee members. For those that are stepping down after many years of commitment on the committee I thank you all for your time and hard work. Enjoy sitting back and watching next year.

Nicole Ricardo - Junior Vice President

Secretary Report

Simone Secombe

I feel that the operation of the DCWFC was highly effective and 2018 was a very successful year both on and off the field. However, additional roles or support volunteers (assistants) within some positions need to be established to lessen the heavy loads on some volunteers and their current roles, including but not limited to the role of Secretary.

Committee meetings need to be focused and streamlined to ensure efficiency of our energy and time. Committee meetings need to continue to be set out at the beginning of the season to allow adequate lead time. An understanding of position responsibilities and main point of higher contact will also assist with issues being addressed by the appropriate person.

As long serving club members move on, we must seek to involve our newer members in the work required to keep the Club functioning. This can be achieved through succession planning. I believe three years in a large role is an adequate timeframe before that volunteer is likely to step away from the role and therefore finding a replacement to transition in the third year is critical.

The creation of an Under 10 team and a strong Under 18 team in season 2018 has helped to ensure the club has a strong junior status in the Northern Region of Melbourne. This larger base within our lower age groups will ensure that sufficient players will move through to our senior level. Next step Masters and Auskick.

I thank all the committee members, coaches, players and club members for their work over the 2018 season. I'm looking forward to what the future holds for DCWFC in the 2019 season both on and off the field.

Simone Secombe - Secretary

Treasurers Report

Steve Margetts

Report not provided for external viewing.

BRANDI & CO

15 October 2018

To whom it may concern,

RE: DIAMOND CREEK WOMEN'S FOOTBALL CLUB

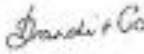
We have conducted a basic review of the financial reports for financial year ended 30 September 2018. The treasurer's report describes detailed events of the income and expenses for the financial year and key differences to the prior financial year.

We would like to note the following:

1. The reports correspond with the main working bank account for DCWFC, as recommended in the prior year the use of accounting software Xero has made it clearer to recognize every transaction that has gone through the account.
2. The reports do not take into consideration any cash transactions that did not run through the bank account. Based on conversations with the treasurer, Steve has advised only minor transactions such as small carleen purchases may not have gone through the account. These can be considered immaterial in value to the overall report.
3. As advised by Steve, any remaining bar stock at year end was sold to the cricket club.

We have not undertaken any audit or investigation in relation to the above information or assumptions. Accordingly, we are unable to express any opinion as to the accuracy of the information and neither the firm nor any member or employee of our firm undertakes any responsibility or accepts liability in any way whatsoever.

Yours faithfully,


Brandi & Co



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CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
2018-2019

Liability Limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

Canteen Report

Drew Widgery

The Club utilised Sports Support (an online ordering system for Sporting Clubs) for our dry goods that were ordered weekly or when required. The dry goods order was done every Wednesday evening online and delivered the following day around 4:30pm to the club. We also utilised when we could, our sponsors Businesses i.e. The Diamond Creek Fruit Shop & Bells Best Cuts Meats Diamond Creek.

The canteen utilised the BBQ again in 2018, enabling us to offer homemade hamburgers, fresh bacon and egg rolls, and snags during junior home games. Proving a BBQ longer into the day sometimes proved difficult as volunteers were hard to come by.

Chips and gravy was offered on Thursday night's after training for the juniors at a reduced price which was a big hit.

With a lot of help we provided good, reasonably priced food from our canteen enabling the club to make a small profit.

In 2018, the committee approved to pay two staff to run the canteen at each home game, with a parent volunteer to assist. This proved to be a successful decision and should continue to future years at the club. We also introduced a new Point Of Sale system (program on ipad) to accurately record the transactions in the canteen and stock sold each home game.

Big thanks to all volunteers who helped in the canteen throughout the season, your support was greatly appreciated.

Drew Widgery – Canteen Manager

Bar Report

David Bailey

As of season 2018 I have become the Liquor Nominee for the Club's Liquor License.

This season we have spent \$2,967 on the bar stock, which included the purchasing of new Wine Glasses (\$141.60). We sold \$5,303 stock and the profit was \$2,336. We ran one fundraising event for the Juniors raising \$2,200 between the Bar and Auction items and one fundraising event for the Seniors raising \$1,253.

During 2018, we achieved the following:

- Ran a Responsible Service of Alcohol course for 18 creekers. We now have approx. 32 members capable of serving behind the Bar; this was a cost neutral event (special mention to the people who provided food on the night)
- Upgraded our set of bar procedures, awareness and signage
- Applied to extend our Red-Line Plan area to cover the whole club building and the entire timber deck area (previously covered only the outside area under the verandah). As of the AGM we are still awaiting confirmation from the VCGLR
- Applied and were successfully granted an upgrading of our "Good Sports" membership status from Level 2 to Level 3
- A Blind was installed between the Function Room & the Canteen
- Repairs were made to the Defibrillator machine to bring it up to regulation
- Lodged a grant application through the Department of Health & Human Services for a new Defib machine (expect notification by Feb 2019)
- Plumbing repairs were made to the Disabled, Male and Away room toilet facilities
- Upgraded our Security Lighting around the outside of the building

A big thankyou to all the people that have assisted behind with the bar during the year and to all the people who help behind the scenes week in week out to make this club the growing success it has become.

David Bailey – Bar Manager

Registrations Report - Seniors

Simone Secombe

The 2018 season saw a total of 30 fully paid up senior players, 4 for training only purpose and 15 VFL players.

The fee structure for 2018 was as follows:

- Senior players \$300;
- New players (RMIT students) \$200 as part of our community partnership with RMIT;
- VFL players \$50, as well as \$10 per game played (not including finals)

A total of \$9,660 was made through senior registrations.

The 'No pay, no play' rule was upheld by coaches and was very effective at getting fees paid by the deadline. Any players who didn't finalise payments would be unable to get a clearance from DCWFC unless all payments were finalised. However, thank you to all players as we had no outstanding fee payments!

Any money that was handled by me was logged in a cash receipt spreadsheet which was shared with and checked by the Treasurer. Any registrations paid via bank transfer were easy to track given that I have access to the club bank account.

Recommendations:

1. To hold a registration day at the club to outline fee payments and to collect contact details. As registration forms are no longer lodged by the club (players register themselves) contact details are not collected as they used to be.
2. Communication of new players was still a little hard to follow. A protocol as to how a new player is communicated needs to be established.
3. Continue using Google sheets to complete registration logs as I was able to fill in details on my phone at any time.

Simone Secombe – Senior Registrations Co-ordinator

Registrations Report - Juniors

Anna Durante

The season saw the number of junior players increase from 99 in 2017 to 141 in 2018, an increase of 42 fully paid up junior players and the introduction of our first U10 team.

Age Group	2017	2018
U10	N/A	13
U12	22 (1 team)	21 (full)
U14	45 (2 teams)	42 (full x 2 teams)
U16	22 (1 team)	40 (2 teams)
U18	10 (merged with Eltham)	25 (full)

Junior players were charged registration fees of \$210 or \$190 for any additional siblings. All 2018 players are fully paid up. There were no reduced fees for players who experienced mid-season injury. While the U12 team was full, we did have one additional girl that still wanted to train with the team in the hope of securing a spot next year.

A total of **\$32,200** was made through junior membership. Of this, \$440 was reimbursed prior to the season commencing: \$220 for one player who acquired a season ending injury and \$220 for another that had a change of mind.

The 2018 registration day was held on the 26th November 2017 for all junior players. It was a very successful day where we took 73 payments. The rest were made throughout the pre-season.

Players had the option to pay their fees either via bank transfer, cash or by EFTPOS. All monies paid for registration (whether bank transfer, cash or EFTPOS) were recorded in a duplicate receipt book – the original given to the customer, the second retained for our records. 4 receipt books were needed for junior membership in 2018, these were labelled Book A, B, C & D (Book A was largely used for Merchandise purchases but some registrations went through this book on rego day).

All receipts were logged in a spreadsheet detailing receipt number, player, payment method and amount. This was regularly provided to the treasurer to assist in reconciling.

Recommendations:

1. Communicate to all families that a players spot will only be secured upon full payment of membership fees
2. Hold a registration day at the club to provide an opportunity for existing 2018 players to secure their spots for 2019. To encourage early payment of fees, a \$10 saving will be offered to any memberships paid in full on this day.

Anna Durante – Junior Registrations Co-ordinator

Merchandise Report

Mandy Margetts

We started off the 2018 season early and on the front foot as far as merchandise went – well at least we thought. We placed an early order in August 2017 for our on field playing uniform so we had it ready to sell at registration day in October. Unfortunately, due to a number of reasons, Game Day Apparel and the NFNL were unable to deliver most of our uniform until just a few weeks before the season started in April. This created a lot of extra work and stress just before the season started.

This year (2018-2019) the NFNL have allowed a early order for socks which will hopefully be ready for our registration day in November. We are unable to order shorts or jumpers until November.

At the 2018 registration day Bev and I were run off our feet sizing jumpers and shorts and selling Merchandise. My recommendation would be to have at least 3 people helping at the registration day in future years.

Like 2017, we operated a pop up merchandise shop at the Diamond Hills ground while we had our pre-season training. This was very successful. We also introduced our only new merchandise item for the year, beige coloured skins. We took orders for personalised named sublimated training tops. Once again these were very popular with 82 orders placed.

The head coaches were given one piece of merchandise (up to \$90) as per DCWFC coaching policy. We received great feedback, on several occasions throughout the season, from other clubs about how well our coaches and supporters looked fitted out in our merchandise.

There were a lot of extra orders for on field uniforms through the NFNL 2018 season. With the introduction of an U10 team and jumpers sold at the end of 2017 we needed to order 25 new jumpers.

This season we also saw the introduction of our red away shorts. We ordered 200 red shorts and 80 blue shorts. There are still many shorts available for the start of the 2019 season and for sale on registration day. We are well stocked and have merchandise ready to sell on registration day. There is currently \$8,700 of off-field merchandise in the cupboards.

Once again the Hoodies were the most popular item sold with 106 being ordered in 2018.

This year we once again offered a special order of premiership tops for the grand final winning teams. This year we offered short sleeve t-shirts to keep the costs down for the parents – 31 were sold. The premiership teams were also given the option of purchasing their playing jumpers for \$50.

The revenue generated for 2018 was \$35,406, with expenditure at \$22,034.

I would especially like to thank Nicole Ricardo and Ruth Bailey who both supported me in my role this year.

Recommendations for merchandise in 2019 are a Puffer vest, Puffer jacket, Blanket and Umbrellas.

Mandy Margetts –Merchandise Coordinator

Merchandise Report - Seniors

Simone Secombe

Senior Stocktake:

- NFL blue/red shorts - 34 (but many given from juniors as sizes too big but they are too small for seniors);
- VWFL blue/red shorts – 5;
- VFL blue/red shorts – 20;
- CGR training singlets – 6;
- CGR polos – 16;
- CGR track pants – 10.

Senior Player Uniform and Merchandise takings: **\$3,715**. The VFL and VWFL uniform was offered to players for \$10 as they were only able to be worn for season 2018. The CGR merchandise was also offered at half price due to no longer fielding a senior VFL team.

Ordering:

Ordering of merchandise was completed using the DCWFC seniors and reserves facebook page. I would post a photo of the merchandise to be ordered and players would comment a size and quantity to order. Players were expected to try sizes on at training before ordering.

Uniform and merchandise purchasing:

Players had the option to pay for merchandise and uniform via bank transfer, cheque, cash or eftpos.

Any money that was handled by me was logged in a cash receipt spreadsheet which was shared with and checked by the Treasurer. Any merchandise and uniform paid via bank transfer were easy to track given that I have access to the club bank account.

Recommendations:

1. It is again suggested that Team managers be responsible for the collecting and washing of any borrowed uniform (only at the beginning of the year while uniform orders are being filled).
2. Again no registration day for 2018 for seniors was made. However it is suggested that one be organised for next year to size up all players for uniform orders.
3. Continue with the 'No pay, No play' rule. If uniform has been ordered and is ready for purchase, players will not be able to play until this uniform has been purchased. Uniforms should only be lent out while waiting for uniforms.
4. Sell the VWFL, VFL and CGR stock in pre-season at a discounted rate as the uniform cannot be worn on game day. The NFL shorts can be worn for one more season but also to be offered at a discounted rate.

Thank you to Mandy Margetts for your overall co-ordination of merchandise for juniors and seniors.

Simone Secombe - Senior Merchandise Co-ordinator

Events Report

Events Committee

Trina Martin & I organised a Junior Parents Night Out/Fundraiser Event with the assistance of Bev McCartney, Ruth & David Bailey, Karyn Tait & Raquel Weston.

The night was held at our Plenty Park Clubrooms with 80 people attending. We also had a marque tent on the decking with 2 gas heaters. This gave us ample room for everyone to enjoy the night. We were also fortunate with the weather too. Jason & Raquel Weston lent us their marque tent and Karyn & Peter Tait the heaters.

We hired a local band Lilly in the Middle and ran Raffles, Games & Silent Auctions throughout the night.

The cover charge for the night was \$35 per person which included band and finger food. Overall the night was a great success raising \$6,500 profit.

We received great donations from our junior families and local businesses in Eltham & Diamond Creek. We thanked everyone via our facebook pages and thank you letters were emailed out. We hired wait staff to hand out Finger Food & to serve at the Bar which worked out very well & most of the food was purchased from the Party Pantry in Bundoora.

I would like to thank everyone who helped organise the night & make it a success.

Unfortunately Events/Fundraising Role was not filled this season. This meant additional work for the junior committee members already undertaking large roles. This role must be filled at the next AGM.

Looking forward to another great event in 2019.

Trina Martin and Nicole Ricardo – Junior Fundraising and Functions Committee

Senior Events Committee – No report provided at time of print

Sponsorship Report

Peter Tait

Sponsorship was very successful in season 2018, with major sponsors; Chemist Warehouse, Mitre 10 and Bendigo Bank continuing their support of our great club. We welcomed many new smaller businesses with opportunities for ground signage throughout the season; FPS Real Estate, Wilson Accounting, Hi Way Drive School, Elarc Landscaping and CMIB Insurance contributing between \$500 to \$1000 each. Hi Way Drive School also donated 14 driving lesson vouchers for player awards throughout the season.

Sponsorship for our playing uniform and training tops was organised early in the year through advertising in our facebook pages. We received offers from families that owned their own businesses:

- Red Shorts - Strive Myotherapy - \$1,000 per year (2 yrs)
- Training Top Front - Carpets Galore Floor World - \$1,500
- Training Top Back - Liquid Waste Removal - \$2,500
- Playing Top Back - JOB Joinery On Budget - \$5,000 per year (2 yrs)

All sponsorship is greatly appreciated by the club and its members. We hope to continue the above support, as well as build on new sponsorship opportunities in season 1019 and beyond.

Peter Tait – Sponsorship Coordinator

Committee Positions

ROLE	PERSON
President	Scott Chisholm
Senior Vice President	Chris O'Connor
Junior Vice President	Nicole Ricardo
Treasurer	Stephen Margetts
Secretary	Simone Secombe
Bar Manager	David Bailey
Canteen Manager	Drew Widgery
Coaches Coordinator	Michael Ricardo
Development Manager	Elle Dow
Events Coordinator	Margie Hickey
Events Coordinator	Claire Papaleo
Grants Coordinator	John Raleigh
Grounds/Property Mgr	Darren Logan
Media & Communications	David Bailey
Memberships Juniors	Anna Durante
Memberships Seniors	Simone Secombe
Merchandise Coordinator - Juniors	Mandy Margetts
Merchandise Coordinator - Seniors	Simone Secombe
Policy and Procedures Officer	John Raleigh
Child Safety Officer	Linda Cridland
Sponsorship Coordinator	Peter Tait
General Committee	Trina Martin
General Committee	Ruth Bailey
General Committee	Karyn Tait

Coaches Reports

Under 10

Pre-season kicked off at Diamond Hills with an average of around 4-5 players, which saw us team up with Chris Priest, John Raleigh and the U12 girls. It was a great opportunity for the U12 girls to take on a leadership opportunity with the younger girls who were new to pulling the boots on. The U12 girls assisted with basic skills, game knowledge and were able to mentor the girls, which was something that was paramount throughout the year.

Having this relationship with the older girls has seen those eligible to move up have a much smoother transition into 'full field footy'.

Only weeks out from the season commencing we hadn't quite been able to recruit enough numbers. John Raleigh saw this as an opportunity! John's tireless advertising efforts and time at local shopping centres recruiting, proved fruitful and we commenced Round One with a solid foundation of players.

Our first game of the season was a showdown in an old fashioned rivalry with Darebin Falcons in which both teams dubbed a mini replay of the 2017 VFLW Grand Final. The match was certainly favourable to DCWFC in this instance (unofficially of course!). It was certainly a heartfelt moment for Bri and myself to see the girls putting all their pre-season efforts into their first game of the season and maintaining our team goal for the year; to "Have Fun".

Throughout the year the girls continued to develop and improve and came up with their own secret game day strategy in 'Fireworks' and "Donuts". It was indicative of the girls understanding of the game and the introduction of structures.

The year saw the team continue to grow in numbers; but more importantly was the development of friendships. Many of the girls didn't know each other and within moments of meeting life-long friendships were developed. On and off the field the girls were supportive, helpful and many a cartwheel and giggle along the way.

Of course none of this would be without the support of the parents and helpers. In particular Nic Ricardo who is without a doubt one of the most hardworking & passionate visionaries and Vice President, who alongside Michael had faith in my ability to be part of bringing these individual girls together and making them a team of footballers.

Special thanks to my Team Manager Paula Tzirkas and Assistant Coach Brianna Matthews-Gunn. These two incredible women were instrumental in the success of the season and both worked tirelessly behind the scenes and on game day. To all the parents for bringing your girls to DCWFC, your assistance at training and for putting your hand up to take on a game day role. Chris Priest & John Raleigh, your support of not only the girls but also in me in my first full year of coaching is something I will always be grateful for.

Presentation Day was a great day to reflect on the year with each of the girls receiving an award with four girls receiving additional coaching awards.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Committee and the club in general for all you do in creating such a positive and attainable pathway for the girls into AFLW.

The Award winners are listed below:

Most Determined Maddison Meagher

Most improved Stella Seers

Most Courageous Chelsea

Leading Goalkicker Ellaria Tsirkas

Coach: Elle Dow

Assistant Coach: Brianna Matthews-Gunn

Team Manager: Paula Tzirkas

Medic: Andrew Sutherland

Under 10 Coach – Elle Dow

Under 12

Pre-Season training began at Eltham College where we had a terrific turn out in the heat. In February 2018 we started training at Diamond Hills and by this time we had enough to fill a team. We had 21 players ready to take on Round 1.

The team was made up of 14 girls who played in the U12 team in 2017 and 7 new girls who joined the team in 2018. This was a great blend with some of the new girls well skilled already. All 21 girls were keen to listen and develop their skills.

Our first game was against Montmorency where the girls came away with a comfortable 87 point win. This set the tone for the season with the girls going through losing only a single game, by one point. Round 2 was our first home game, against Eltham, where the team unfurled the 2017 Premiership Flag with last year's coach Greg Dyer.

There were 12 U12 teams in total, which were split into two divisions of 6 teams. We played in the stronger division, with Research, Whittlesea and Eltham making up the top 4 with DCWFC ending on top, equal on points with Research.

We had 5 girls play their 50th games during the year, which is a terrific achievement. Throughout the year all girls had the opportunity to play in the back line, forward line, as well as the midfield. Nineteen of the girls kicked a goal throughout the season.

The girls went into the finals with a lot of confidence. The first Semi Final was played against Research with the girls recording a comfortable win, giving them a week's rest and advancing straight into the Grand Final. We were up against Research again in the Grand Final, in very difficult weather conditions (for the first time ever girls were asking to come off the ground due to the cold). The girls braved out a great win overcoming Research 29 to 6.

I wish the 12 girls moving up to the U14's all the best for next year. We have a great group of U10 girls who will move up, and I look forward to seeing the group progress further in 2019.

I was very fortunate to inherit a great core group of players, some of whom were in their fourth year of playing. Additionally, we had an influx of new girls who were very keen and picked the basic skills up well. I'd like to thank all parents who helped during the year, making game day run smoothly week to week. In particular, a massive thank you to Nat Cowley as team manager, who reluctantly stepped up at the last minute and did a fantastic job. Assistant coach John Raleigh was also an invaluable support throughout the year, as well as Wayne Mason, Tiz Russo and Dean Tustin whose assistance both at training and on game days was very much appreciated. Greg Dyer, Michael and Nicole Ricardo were also great support throughout the year and their guidance was always appreciated.

Presentation Day was a great day to reflect on the year we had and award some of the girls.

The Award winners are listed below:

Best & Fairest	Emma Russo
2nd Best & Fairest	Brianna Cowley
3rd Best & Fairest	Olivia Gorman
Most Determined	Aimee Bailey
Rising Star	Holly Mason
Best First Year Player	Ava Seers
Coaches Award	Erin Quinton

Coach:	Chris Priest
Assistant Coach:	John Raleigh
Team Manager:	Natalie Cowley
Runner:	Wayne Mason
Medic:	Tiz Russo / Ruth Bailey

Under 12 Coach – Chris Priest

Under 14 Red

Pre-Season training started in Eltham for a few sessions to allow the girls to get to know each other. We had strong numbers from the start and the team filled up early in 2018 when we moved to Diamond Hills. We moved to our Home Ground at Plenty Park in early April just before the season started.

We had 12 new players in the U14 Red, 2 players crossed from other teams and 5 that came up from the U12's with another 2 who played U14 last season. This gave us a great mix of new talent and experienced players. This also had its challenges as the girls took a while to find their feet as a team. Once they did jell together as a team it clearly showed on and off the field!

The first 4 games of the season were grading games. After winning the first games (Against the 2 teams that ended up played off in the GF, Wallan & Green Searchers) we strategically played the next 2 games and had narrow losses to Laurimar and Northcote. These 2 losses put the U14 Red into the lower U14 division. Other teams in this division were; Wallan, Green Searchers, Bundoora, Darebin, Eltham Red, Monty White and South Morang.

We then had a fantastic streak and won 8 of the next 9 games. Our only loss was to Wallan by 4 points as this game was called off at half time due to weather conditions. Throughout these games the girls continued to grow and work together as a team. The game plan became second nature to most of the girls as they had a better understanding of the game and the way to play together. This showed as we had a number of wins by over 10 goals. Unfortunately the season didn't end on the note we would have liked.

About halfway through the season injuries started to take its toll on the team. We never had all 21 girls play the same game together. Here is the list of injuries that effected our season from about Round 6 until the end of the Season - Neck, Hamstring, Elbow, Ankle, Dislocated Jaw, Concussion x 2, Broken Leg or Growth Plate, Broken Finger, Fractured Humorous, Hand, Foot & Mouth. We finished 2nd on the ladder despite these injuries. This gave us a great shot at the finals.

Even though we finished 2nd on the ladder, the girls were down on confidence due to the loss of so many girls through injury leading into the finals. Talisha and Brooke were the main concern. I informed the girls that it was a privilege to play finals and not a right and in these games we were to have FUN! The girls came out fighting in both games and were in them until the final siren. Unfortunately we lost the Semi Final to Wallan by 16 points and then the Preliminary to Green Searchers by 6 points. Green Searchers went on to win the Grand Final by 7 points. If we had a full team I am sure we would have played in the Grand Final and you never know once you make it!

Throughout the year all girls had the opportunity to play in the back line, forward line, as well as the midfield. 3 girls played mainly in the ruck; Sarah, Georgie & Dakota. 20 of the 21 girls kicked goals throughout the season. We really saw some great improvement in all girls throughout the season. This was highlighted in areas such as Kicking – Tara & Sascha, Marking – Jaz & Macleod, Second Efforts – Ellie & Rebbecca and all the girls loved to tackle!

A HUGE thank you to our 2 captains; Talisha and Macleod. Talisha lead on the field with her skills which gave the rest of the girl's great confidence. Macleod brought this team together and in the end made it a FAMILY!

I wish Dakota and Macleod all the best next year as they are moving up to the U16's. Hopefully all the other girls re-sign for 2019 as this will give them a fantastic base and group that has already jelled together well.

My second year of coaching was very different to my first in that I had a better understanding of the requirements to coach a group of young girls. I found this year more rewarding even though we didn't have the success that we had last year. Special THANKS goes to Steve Rowland, Darrin Morice, Karen MacPherson & Nicole Tesch, to the Gook Family who ran boundary every week and Deb Elward who was our Umpire Escort. Also Kay Rowland who stepped in several times to help as Team Manager. Michael and Nicole Ricardo were great support throughout the year once again and always had time to help and support the girls and myself. Thank you both.

Presentation Day was only the 3rd time all year we had all 21 girls together as a team. The other times were on the Photo night and at the Semi Final where all the injured girls came to watch. It was great to have them all together to reflect on the season that was.

Lastly I would like to thank the Committee and the club in general for such an unforgettable season.

The Award winners are listed below:

Best & Fairest Brooke Webster

2nd Best & Fairest Talisha Rowland

3rd Best & Fairest Ahley Elward

Best Finals Player Madison Howes

Most Determined Rebbecca Janitis

Rising Star Tara Dyer

Best First Year Player Sarah Moore

Coaches Award Macleod Gook

Coach: Greg Dyer

Assistant Coach: Steve Rowland

Team Manager: Karen MacPherson

Runner: Darrin Morice

Boundary Runner: Gook Family

Medic: Nicole Tesch

Under 14 Red Coach – Greg Dyer

Under 14 Blue

Pre-season started with good numbers at our 3 pre-Christmas sessions made up of mostly returning players. By the time pre-season kicked off at Diamond Hills both U14s teams were close to full. U14 blue was made up of:

- 12 past players;
- 6 players transferring from other clubs;
- 3 new to football.

Team bonding and skill building was a strong focus at pre-season and the girls fast became a tight nit group. Training was very well attended throughout the season with an average of 14 players at each session.

I was against having captains but the girls wouldn't have it so they voted and two captains were elected. They all showed great leadership and did a fantastic job strengthening the team bond and making sure everyone was involved. The team's Captains were Zoe Bailey & Ivy Ozimek and Vice Captains; Luka Kennedy & Jessica Ricardo.

The home and away season started off with 4 grading games which we won all 4 games securing our place in Blue Division. The girls went on to win all 10 home and away games finishing top of the ladder; 5 games in front of second place in an outstanding season.

In the first semi-final we defeated Monty 8.9.57 to 4.4.28. After the week off we met Monty in the Grand Final at 10am Coventry Oval Diamond Creek. The conditions were wet, windy and cold; play was stopped twice due to lightening. In the tough conditions the girls started slow but after half time we took control of the game and came away with the win with the final score 1.5.11 to 1.0.6.

It was a very low scoring game due to the poor conditions and playing on the largest ground in our competition. With the play not leaving our forward 50 for the second half of the game and the full Monty team inside our forward 50 for the last ¼ we were able to maintain control of the game.

We were very fortunate to have a very low injury rate throughout the season with only one major injury. Ivy Ozimek dislocated her thumb in round 3 and saw her out for 6 weeks. She still attended all games and training which was great to see.

5 girls played the 50 games throughout the season; Zoe Bailey, Jessica Ricardo, Alice Morrison, Charli Sparks and Caitlyn Schwabe.

Overall it was a great season with a committed and keen group of girls that trained and played well as a group. It was a pleasure to coach such a positive group.

We were fortunate to have great parent support with Leah Kennedy doing an awesome job as Team Manager, Nick Braddock did a fantastic job as Assistant Coach both at training and on game day, Ben Strickland offered great support as Runner, Ruth and David Bailey were the ever-reliable Medics, Chris Schwabe and Micky Collins ran Boundary and Tammy Nihill ran water every game.

The Award winners are listed below:

Best & Fairest	Luka Kennedy
2nd Best & Fairest	Zoe Bailey
3rd Best & Fairest	Tiana Richmond
Best Finals Player	Caitlyn Schwabe
Rising Star	Kiana Sheehan
Most Consistent	Jessica Ricardo
Coaches Award	Emily Rowles

Coach:	Michael Ricardo
Assistant Coach:	Nick Braddock
Team Manager:	Leah Kennedy
Runner:	Ben Strickland
Medic:	Bailey Family
Boundary Runner:	Chris Schwabe and Micky Collins
Under 14 Blue Coach – Michael Ricardo	

Under 16 Red

Participation rates in women's football have seen a significant increase in recent years and DCWFC and our U16 girls was no exception. This year our U16 Red team consisted of:

- 7 girls participating in their 1st year of footy;
- 8 girls participating in their 2nd year of footy;
- 6 girls who have played for more than 2 years.

Pre-season training this year kicked off pre-Christmas in warm conditions at the sports grounds of Eltham College. Numbers to these training evenings were encouraging and all were thankful for the supplied chilled water due to the heat.

Training after Christmas break resumed once again at the Diamond Hills reserve where all girls from both the U16 red and blue teams and the U18 team underwent a cross country time trial over 2 kms. All times were recorded and compared to a 2nd time trial approximately 2 weeks later hoping to see an improvement in results. We can confirm that most of the girls did record improved times showing that our pre-season training and conditioning was on course.

Pre-season also focussed on the fundamentals of footy: i.e. kicking, marking and handballing. This was extremely beneficial to the many girls who were undergoing their 1st season of football.

As the home and away season commenced, our inexperienced team suffered a few large losses, but were also able to put this behind them and go on to score a few victories. As the season continued, we developed into quite a competitive unit as the girls trained hard, developed further skills and gained more match experience.

The development of each girl's skillset was so encouraging; I personally believe every girl that played in our side this year has a future in football for many years.

I would like to thank the committee and our coaching coordinator Michael Ricardo for the opportunity to coach the U16 Red girls this year. In my varied sporting pursuits over the years, I must say this year was one of the most rewarding experiences that I have undertaken.

I would like to thank all the parents for assisting us this year and specifically for those who took on a full-time volunteer role; Michael Hibbert (Runner), Gary Williams (Umpire Escort), Joedi Scanga (Canteen), Steve Margetts and Paul Borelli (Goal Umpire), Kirsty Lamb and Mick Heyhoe (Boundary Umpire). I would also like to thank David Craig and his 'Band of Merry men' Jamal, Peter and Con for also helping with our girls this year.

Most importantly I would like to thank my wife Bev for all her help and support this year, as well as the thousands of photos she has taken and posted.

As you all know, none of this would work without the dedication of our team manager and without fear of contradiction, our U16 Red team had the best year with Whitney Heyhoe, because not only did we get Whitney but we were also blessed to have her Mother and father David and Leslie, her husband Mick and her brother Andrew helping us by filling roles during the year. I would also like to thank Paul Bullard for also stepping into this role when Whitney was unavailable.

Our medic this year was Sue Shears. She spent hours pre-game taping and managing all sorts of conditions for our team. I would personally like to thank Sue on behalf of myself and Bev for being so calm and professional when Emily Coghlan was flattened on the outer wing in front of the coaches' box, which turned out to be a broken wrist. Sue was calm and professional as always and made the call for an ambulance which was by far the best option for the situation. Sue was assisted this year by her daughter Steph and Jaime Rotin when she was unavailable.

There have been some very famous comedy acts over the years; Laurel and Hardy, Abbott and Costello, Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis. And the comedy act posing as your U16 Red coaches was myself and the fantastic addition to DCWFC Brad Smith. Brad has been invaluable this year with his support and direction. His enthusiasm has been so infectious, and he makes a pretty good coffee too.

Two girls reached milestone games this year playing DCWFC. Congratulations to Grace Bullard and Chloe Lamb on achieving 50 games during the 2018 season.

The Award winners are listed below:

Best & Fairest Emily Shears

2nd Best & Fairest Emily Coghlan

3rd Best & Fairest Grace Bullard

Best 1st Year Player Isabella Dallariva

Most Determined Phoebe Hibbert

Most Improved Milly Manson

Coaches Award Isabelle Kelly

Coach: Bryan Coghlan

Assistant Coach: Brad Smith

Team Manager: Whitney Watson

Runner: Michael Hibbert

Medic: Sue Shears

Boundary Runner: Kirsty Lamb and Mick Heyhoe

Under 16 Red Coach – Bryan Coghlan

Under 16 Blue

Captain: Portia Ricardo (Elected by the Team)

Vice Captains: Ellie Gooley, Laila Zayat, Tiarne Shell (Elected by the Team)

Round 1 Win Vs South Morang by 59 points.

Bryah plays her first game of football. Chantelle, Kayley, Leah, Taylah, Tiarne, Toni and Zoe all play their first games for the DCWFC. We had our full list of 19 players available but our unfortunate Team Manager, Vanessa is in hospital and Trina takes the reigns.

Round 2 Win Vs Darebin by 156 points.

Tiarne is unavailable as she played with Knights yesterday and Kayley & Chantelle are off playing with the Cannons underage squad. Laila & Toni played today after playing for the Knights underage squad yesterday. Emily C joined us from the U16 Red as they had a bye so that made it 17 players. The Team Manager was still in hospital, so Raquel took the reign's today. 25 goals were kicked by 14 different players.

Round 3 Win Vs Montmorency by 28 points.

Vanessa makes her debut as Team Manager. We only have 16 players. Good team effort today but lacked some defensive pressure at times. Accurate goal kicking with 8 goals & 1 point.

Round 4 Win Vs West Preston by 50 points.

We only had 17 players, but they only had 11. One of their players gets injured early in the third quarter so our Captain Portia, plays out the rest of the game for the opposition. Lead by example Portia. Even though we won by a big margin the game was disappointing as the girls did not follow our team processes and structures.

Round 5 Win Vs Yarrambat by 33 points.

18 players today. Yarrambat did everything to try and congest the game. Although it was difficult with this congestion as it made the game scrappy, we broke out in patches. A good game.

Round 6 Win Vs Research by 6 points.

Congrats to Imogen on her 50th game. This was the battle of the two undefeated teams. We had 17 and they only had 15 players. It was one of the best games of footy that I have ever coached. Excitement right until the end.

Round 7 Loss Vs West Preston by 43 points.

17 players today with 2 going down and off to hospital. Not our best brand of footy in the first half but lots better in the second half albeit too late.

Round 8 Win Vs Kilmore by 37 points.

Only 17 players today including Chloe M from the U16 Red straight after their game. A solid hit out with many positives. An awesome game rebounding from Half Back, but we fell down coming into our forward line and achieving a result for effort.

Round 9 Bye

Round 10 Loss Vs Montmorency by 17 points.

Unfortunately, with only 17 players and playing on the big and very heavy Barling Reserve, we could not keep up with their 24 players. The score flattered Monty as they kicked two junk goals in the last few minutes. Our girls battled extremely hard all day, but we just ran out of legs.

Round 11 Loss Vs South Morang by 8 points.

Two goals down at ¼ time & scores level halfway through the last quarter. Good tough game. Had 17 regulars and 4 from U16 Red, Phoebe, Bella, Chloe M and Chloe L. It has been a bit disappointing lately that we have not been able to get good numbers to training and the games, for whatever reason. Oh well we will soldier on.

Round 12 Win Vs Yarrambat by 57 points.

Congrats to Kayley on her 50th game. 18 players plus Zoe B, Jess, Tiana & Luka from the U14 Blue joined us straight after their game. They played a part and all went well. Today's game was extremely pleasing as they played as well as they had trained during the week. Composure, structures and plans were all implemented and worked.

Round 13 Win Vs Research by 17 points.

A good result today. Had to work hard due to the opposition, conditions and ground. This is why I talk so much about the thinking aspect of our game. A little lax in our manning up and pressure at times. When we work so hard for the ball, remember we don't want to give it up easily. Composure and hit a target. All in all, a good effort across the field today with everyone playing their roles.

Round 14 Loss Vs West Preston by 25 points.

17 players plus joined by Phoebe, Chloe's L, M, S. It is hurting me writing this game summation. I hope you are all contemplating the game so that this does not happen again. One quarter of football (or less) can really hurt you. We need to be alert to the ups & downs, ebbs & flows of a game. When our opposition are getting on top we need to be aware of this and lock the game down until we can get it back on our terms. The positive is that in 2 games (8 quarters) against West Preston we have only lost 3 quarters of football. We just need to put our best quarters together from the start. Hold your heads up high and lets STEP UP & TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL. We can work harder and become better & stronger.

Final 1 Loss Vs Montmorency by 20 points.

When I left the ground today one word came to mind Opportunity. A missed opportunity today. We did take some of our opportunities when we had them. We probably didn't create enough opportunities for ourselves. We let the opposition have easy opportunities. That said our injury ratio didn't help matters. We worked hard throughout the year and we have the second chance, so we have to use it. No regrets We all need to assess our performance and see where we are going to pick it up next week against West Preston. Let's look forward to our next challenge.

Final 2 Loss Vs West Preston by 34 points.

Congrats to Ellie on her 50th Game. Season over, falling one short of the Grand Final but not a lost season.

An extremely pleasing year as my first full year coaching at DCWFC. The Girls, parents and Club were all fantastic & welcoming. Having two teams in the U16's we were only able to muster 19 players; consisting of one new to footy and 7 from other Clubs. Sarah Hunter who played in 2017 was unable to continue her football career this year due to back surgery. We found her a role as team photographer and Face Book co-ordinator, whilst her dad Geoff was one of our two Medics. Julie Mahony was the other medic with her daughter crossing over from Laurimar with Tiarne Shell. Tiarne's mum Vanessa, decided to take on the Team Managers role.

My assistants Jamal, Peter, Con, Brad & Grace all did a power of work and added their experience. Grace played at Mill Park last year but at the end of the 2017 season decided she would move to Diamond Creek. Unfortunately, she suffered a major ankle injury which required surgery and meant she would not play in 2018. But she still turned up to training & games and took on whatever role the team and I needed her to do. Andy & Peter carried out the Boundary & Goal umpiring duties respectively every week. Thanks to everyone for their contributions including all the families for carrying out their respective duties as they were rostered.

Coaching is definitely not all about winning games, at times we are a father, shoulder to lean on, social worker, arbitrator, big brother and a friend. Not just to the girls but to the parents and families too.

If I honestly look back and review all the girls individually and as a team, I believe they have all developed in some way so therefore the year was a success and all girls should return in 2019.

The Award winners are listed below:

Best & Fairest	Laila Zayat
2nd Best & Fairest	Leah Jones
3rd Best & Fairest	Portia Ricardo
Rising Star	Imogen Hammond
Most Determined	Darci Gale
Most Consistent	Bryah Lanza
Coaches Award	Ellie Gooley
Best Finals Player	Kayley Reid

Coach: David Craig

Assistant Coach: Jamal Zayat, Peter Gooley, Con Lazenkas & Grace Wake

Team Manager: Vanessa Shell

Runner: Brad Gale

Boundary Umpire: Andy Giddy

Medic: Julie Mahony & Geoff Hunter

Under 16 Blue Coach - David Craig

Under 18

Pre-season started in early December at Eltham College. We had three sessions in December which was a great opportunity for our new girls to the team/club to get to know some of the old girls who for some had been at the club for many years. It was great to see some of the girls from the successful Under 15 premierships side come back to play their last season of football at the club they started at, as well as the girls return from the merged Under 18 side in 2017.

In February, pre-season recommenced at Diamond Hills Reserve and our numbers grew each week. Pre-season training focused on fitness and skills, with an emphasis on our game plan and teaching the girls different components of the game plan as pre-season progressed. During our last week of training before the holidays, the girls voted on our leadership group for 2018. Bonnie Cantrill, Hayley Ayton, Sonya Davey and Ebony Ozimek made up the leadership group with Jess Fitzgerald voted our vice-captain and Leah Margetts voted the captain for season 2018. Anthony Bradstreet came on board as our team manager, with Carly Leshia our assistant coach. On our last session before the holidays, we were lucky to have an opportunity to play in a practice match against the seniors at RMIT. The girls went down by only 3 goals which was a great result considering it was the first time they played together as a group. Unlike the year before, where there was barely enough numbers to field a team, we had 25 girls locked in for season 2018.

Our first game was against Eltham in round 1 in wet conditions. The girls stamped themselves in the competition, coming out winners by 60 points. We faced 2017 premiers, Montmorency in Round 2 and despite being ahead by four goals at quarter time; we went down by forty points. The result didn't deter the girls who worked hard all year before we knew we would face them again in the last round of the season. We established a training routine that included video review on a Tuesday, where the team would watch snippets of the game from the week before and analyse different parts of the game to prepare us for the following week. Every training, the girls ran their own warm-up which was the same as our pre game warm-up. The warm-up also included basic skills, which by the end of the season was run completely by the team themselves with the coaches able to look on.

Throughout the season, we were lucky enough to have training sessions run by VFLW girls, tackling coach, Malcolm Bangs and also various sessions with the U16 group which allowed the team to practice various parts of the game plan and also boost numbers for both sides. We were able to retain strong numbers at training, rarely getting below 20 girls in attendance.

In the last game of the season, we faced old foes Montmorency where we unfortunately went down by 60 points, carrying a few injuries and missing a few key players. The result was not enough to move us out of the top two and finishing with 8 wins throughout the year, we finished 2nd to send us into the semi-final against Montmorency again the week after.

The girls came out a different team the following week and we were able to shut Montmorency's run down significantly. In a brave performance, we went down by just two goals, holding Montmorency to their lowest score and smallest winning margin all year. Unfortunately, with this brave performance came major injuries to two of our key players who would miss the rest of the season.

The following week we came up against Darebin, the club's arch nemesis. The week before the game, the girls were educated as they had been all year about the club's history with Darebin and in particular the history surrounding the U18 team at Diamond Creek; a team that had never beaten Darebin in any final in the history of the club. At the start of the preliminary final, you could feel the girls were playing for more than just the team; they were playing for the club, the jumper and for the girls of the past who were not able to taste success against our oldest rivals. In a brave performance, the girls won by four goals to send us into the Grand Final and record our first ever win as an U18 team against Darebin in any final.

In our last week of training for 2018, we had the oval to ourselves which allowed us to practice whole field drills and prepare for a grand final performance. On the Thursday night, the parents made the team dinner and constructed the banner. After training on the Thursday, we were able to eat dinner as a team and reflect on the year that was.

The day of the grand final wasn't ideal weather conditions which unfortunately got the better of us. We couldn't use the wind as best as we should have and couldn't manage a goal in the first half compared to Montmorency's five goals. However, we came out and kicked a goal in the third and held Montmorency goalless in the second half. The girls never gave up all game, even in the last minutes when we knew the result wasn't ours. It certainly didn't feel like a loss, but a celebration of what was an amazing season and finished Runners-Up.

I would like to thank my amazing team manager, Anthony Bradstreet for all of his help and support throughout the year. Also big thanks to our medic, Mel Murray who was amazing and always had the girls' best interests at heart. Dave Craig who was the U16 Blue coach and ended up coming on board as an assistant coach and our runner for the second half of the season; it was great to have you involved and I am so grateful for all the help you provided. Carly Lesh, our assistant coach was an injection of enthusiasm every session she was able to attend and even though we couldn't use her as much as we had planned, I certainly appreciated all the time she put into the team when she could be there.

To the parents of all the girls, I couldn't have done it without all of your support. Barb Davey who filmed all of our games, and the parents involved in organizing what was a sensational presentation night at the end of the year, thank you all so much.

Finally, a massive thank you to the club and in particular to Michael and Nicole Ricardo. The amount of effort these two people put into the junior club is extraordinary and a lot of the success all of our junior teams have had over the years can be led back to the hard work that these two volunteers put into the club. I can't thank you both enough for all of your support this year, you have made my first year coaching one of our junior teams truly a remarkable one.

The Award winners are listed below:

Best & Fairest Lauren Durante

2nd Best & Fairest Sonya Davey

3rd Best & Fairest Ebony Ozimek

Rising Star Alisha Carlone

Most Determined Leah Margetts

Most Consistent Hayley Ayton

Coaches Award Haylee Cramp

Best Finals Player Emily Barrett

Coach: Laura Frazer

Assistant Coach: Carly Leshia

Team Manager: Anthony Bradstreet

Runner: David Craig

Medic: Mel Murray

Under 18 Coach – Laura Frazer

Division 1

The experience of coaching the best female football club in Australia was truly an honour. The season that has passed was quite remarkable as the highs and lows were truly extreme, the start of pre-season yielded a total of 7 players max per session. Along with an extra 3 supporting interns we nearly had more coaching staff than players which was cause for concern. Slowly but surely the numbers built up and led into our first practice game where glimpses were shown but overall still a long way to go. The first 4 rounds were the hardest time at the club as self-doubt and morale around the team was questioned due to a losing margin on average of 76 points.

Things then started to gel, as players got to know each other and understand the way they work on and off the field. Morale picked up and the ability to string wins together created positivity. Training started to improve and then confidence grew as girls were able to execute better with their skill and decision making. The highlight of the year was beating the reigning premiers and the ability to play fast exciting brand of football which stacks up against the best in the competition. This led to a period which we lost back to back games by 2 points whilst dominating majority of the game.

The season ended up being placed in a final in which we were successful in winning due to planning and great preparation. The girls were physical around the contest and they trusted one another to perform key parts of the game plan to win. We then proceeded to a semi-final against VU Western Spurs which we were outplayed and beaten but was just rewards to the way we had played all year, we were there but just not good enough on the day.

Major thank you's to the committee, vice president and president for continually putting their trust in the coaching group which led us to grow and be able to develop the girls. The interns, team manager and other volunteers were a key part in which helped us perform not only on field but off field which made coaching thoroughly enjoyable. This created a fantastic culture which was driven by the fantastic players who I thank for evolving me into the better person I am today due to their hunger to learn and compete.

The Award winners are listed below:

Best & Fairest	Karly Cobern
2nd Best & Fairest	Linda Thorp
3rd Best & Fairest	Emma Fraser
Best 1st Year Player	Alicia Maskell
Rising Star	Neve O'Connor
Players Player	Karly Cobern
Coaches Award	Carla Visona
Leading Goal Kicker	Linda Thorp

Division 1 Coach – Mitch Lower