

DONVALE

FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB

NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Games



R15 at Basin
18th of July



R16 at Home
25th of July



R17 at UFG
1st of August



R18 at Home
8th of August

President - John Giles



Hi All,

I hope you enjoy our first Newsletter in this format for 2026, thanks to all those for providing input and we will provide the next edition in the week leading into finals.

As this newsletter comes out the football community was deeply saddened by the passing of 27-year-old Nathan Fitzgerald from Epping Football Club, we express our deepest sympathies following the tragic incident.

With this year being a hard year for many within our club in relation to Cancer, closely affecting many of us, we have assigned Round 16 (25th July) to a Cancer Awareness Day, please support this day to show to our own that they are not alone in their fights to overcome their battles.

To all our sponsors, committee, members, volunteers, coaches & players, thank you for your contribution to make us a well run club again for this season. The on field and court of Senior Teams both Football & Netball have all been travelling well and I hope all our work comes to fruition at the end of the year.

With our Saturday Football, we along with many clubs in Division 3, have found the fixture very disjointed with back to back home & away games in between bye's, this all reflects in game day crowds and does hurt our bottom line. The 19.5's play the majority games not at the same venue but most time against clubs we have just played in Seniors the week prior, we always maintain a good away crowd and I thank you all for your support. We will be addressing this with the league before fixturing of 2027 season.

One key focus of our club moving forward is the lack of juniors in Manningham both at Schools & Club level, we have created a subcommittee to develop a 5 year strategy of what options the club has moving forward. We are fortunate enough that we have Auskick, which we have moved to Our Lady of the Pines, which is led by Daniel Michaelangeli, which is a start with us anticipating to field a junior team in our U8 program for 2027. Donvale is an U8 hub ground for the EFNL with about 100 junior players playing at our ground each Sunday morning from 9 to 11am.

I hope to see as many members and supporters to our last games four games, we play both 2nd & 3rd away within the 4 games so please ensure you come down to all games to encourage us on our way to finals.

Thanks again and continue to Bleed Green.

Coach's Report



Daniel Michaelangli

Senior Coach

The first half of the season has been pleasing as we currently speak, we sit atop of the ladder with our only loss coming to Upper Ferntree Gully.

The senior team has seen the emergence of plenty of young talent Luke Marriner, Josh Djordevic, Kade Grix have found regular senior spots.

Pat Toscano, Parker Dixon, James Powney, James Fisher and Lleyton Triffet have all earnt senior debuts.

With finals just around the corner we continue to look for growth as we look towards what will be a very exciting end to the of year. - Daniel

Development Coach

As I write we currently sit fourth on the ladder with an ambition to win our remaining matches and secure a double chance. If you had told me in round 1 that I would have dipped into the pool of retired legends, I'd have told you, you had rocks in your head. Aside from the injury toll it's been great to have them involved. It's also been great that a number of the development team players have had the opportunity to play senior football - and have held their own. Looking forward to a number of key players returning after the bye - bring on the finals. It has also been great recently to have some of the U19 players come and try out senior footy - we look forward to having them on board in the future. - Stephen



Stephen Nankervis

Coach's Report



Mark Djordjevic

U19's Coach

The season has been a challenging one, with four wins on the board so far. Injuries and player unavailability have made it difficult to field a consistent side each week, which has impacted our ability to build momentum.

Despite this, the boys have continued to work hard, support one another, and maintain a positive attitude. The improvement across the group has been pleasing, and with six teams in our division, we're still well placed to play finals.

The continued development of this team has been exciting to watch, and we're confident that several players will be pushing for senior opportunities in the near future. We're looking forward to finishing the season strongly. - Mark

Netball Coach

The season started well with many of the players getting to know how each other plays and settling into their new teams.

Having all 5 teams in the top 7 divisions was exciting but was always going to be a challenge.

It looks like we may have two possible three teams playing finals which would be a solid outcome for the club.

Those who train are certainly getting the rewards with their improved intensity and structures. Recent training at Box Hill Indoor has certainly been a much higher intensity of training and rewards will continue to come on the court.

We continue to work on the right culture and the right people in the netball program and I believe we have some fantastic people throughout our Netball offering. - Mark



Mark Lane

Leadership



James Rausa
Senior Captain



Mihaele Zalac
Vice Captain



Billy McCormack
Vice Captain



Kaide Fittolani
Development Captain

Seniors

Halfway through the season, we're proud of where we stand. Sitting on top of the ladder, the Senior team has had a strong start and continues to play some quality football. While recent wins haven't always come by big margins, the group's resilience, unity, and determination to find a way to secure the four points have been outstanding.

The players continue to work hard on the training track, knowing there's still plenty of improvement ahead. We believe our best football is yet to come, and with some important games approaching, there's a real excitement about what this group can achieve. Our goal of going one step further than the past two seasons continues to drive us every day, and we remain committed to leaving no stone unturned in pursuit of success. - James, Mihaele, Billy

Development

The Development side has shown plenty of positive signs this season. While results have been mixed, the group isn't far from taking the next step. The focus now is on building consistency and finishing the season strongly to give ourselves the best chance to compete against the top sides come finals.

A big thank you to Cotties and Wiz for stepping in when needed. Their willingness to help the team is a great example of the club-first culture we pride ourselves on.
- Kaide

Events Update

Golf Day 2026



Donvale held its Annual Golf Day at Heritage Golf & Country Club on 25 May, and it was another fantastic success. A huge thank you to all of our sponsors, players and supporters who joined us on the day, as well as everyone who generously donated prizes. Your ongoing support helps make this event such an enjoyable and successful occasion each year.

A special thank you to Georgia Giles and James Pell for organising another outstanding event.

We look forward to seeing everyone back on the course next year!

1996 Premiership Reunion

On May 30th players and officials from Donvale's 1996 Division 1 premiership winning season gathered at the club to recount stories and share what the win meant to them. What was seen as a David vs Goliath battle saw Donvale defeat the undefeated Vermont in front of over 8000 spectators 12.12 84 to 6.5 41. Vermont had previously won 3 flags in a row and 7 out of 8 until that day. A huge effort from all at Donvale that season!



Events Update

Ladies Day

Our Ladies Day was a fantastic celebration filled with great company, vibrant entertainment, and a lively atmosphere. Guests enjoyed a delicious paella lunch, along with a standout oyster and prawn bar provided by Trend Seafood. We extend our sincere thanks to all of our sponsors and those who generously donated raffle prizes for their support in making the day such a success. Thank you to everyone who attended and Alisha Djordevic for organising it all - we look forward to the next one!



Trivia Night

Our Trivia Night was very well supported by the Donvale Football Netball Club community and enjoyed by everyone who attended. The evening was filled with lively competition, plenty of laughter, and some truly inspirational dance moves from a few enthusiastic participants. It was a fantastic night that brought our community together and was a great success for our club.







UNITED FOR A CURE



Together we can make a difference

SATURDAY, JULY 25



**JOIN IN AT DONVALE
FOOTBALL NETBALL
CLUB**

A day of fundraising for young people impacted by cancer and people impacted by cancer in and out of the club

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE
RAFFLE
HIGH TEA
PRIZES
DRINKS (AT BAR
PRICE)**



Sausage Sizzle from 12pm

High Tea Event from 2pm (MORE TO COME)

Live auction after seniors game

**\$25
ENTRY**





**\$285K IN
PRIZES TO
BE WON**



AFLW Star, Ash Centre

Now that's Good for Footy.



OH WHAT A FEELING



Donvale Football Netball Club



**Vote for us in the
Woolworths Netball Grants
People's Choice Award**
Help us win \$20K for our club

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