Sandhurst Football Netball Club 2025 Annual Report

President

2025 President's report

I again have great pleasure in presentation my report and thank all the contributors and attendees to our 2025 Annual General Meeting.

2025 has been another successful year for our club with plenty of success during the year on the field in all levels of our club. Not all of the grand final results went our way but there is no denying that our overall success during the season should be something we are all proud to be involved in. There has been plenty for our members and supporters to celebrate during the year.

The work to keep our club functioning starts pretty much immediately after the finish of each season and I thank our hard working committee, coaches, players and club volunteers for the amazing work you all do each season.

Thanks to all our coaches through the junior and senior teams in both the football and netball and the support crew that assist our coaches so well each week.

There are many people to thank tonight and I start that with our general committee who continue to give a lot of their time to our club to ensure we are viable and function to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for all of our teams. In particular, I thank Len Nally for his long involvement at our club through his time commencing 11 years ago in our then junior teams through to his role as our club secretary for the last 4 years. Anyone around our club would've seen the work and positive changes Len has made during his time. I wish Len & Shannan all the best as they follow Tanner and Miller to Colbinabbin next season.

Thanks Len, Peter, Bill, Cath, Dave, Rose, Kellie, Keith, Matt and Carlin for your work in your committee and portfolios roles.

Congratulations to our teams who were successful with winning grand finals this year. The combined success of the club saw us take out the David McCann Memorial club champion award again this season, an award that recognises overall club succuss.

To the over 100 volunteers that contribute each week, THANK YOU ALL. Where would we be without your support.

Thanks again to our Golden Dragon coterie committee, Ion Hann, Shane Meade, Peter Perez, Kevin Walsh, Peter Watson and Robert Walsh. The GD group continue to fund many of the clubs mental health programs, led by Matt Smith and Tom Culvert, included Headspace, Tackle your Feelings, SALT program and Tomorrow Man.

To Geoff, Ollie, Liam, Hoody, Toni, Cooper, Matt and Kris thank you for your care to our footballers and netballers during the year with training assistance.

Thanks to key coordinators of the training meals, the BBQ and the bar stocking – to Shags, Angela, Keith, Mark Dawson and the Thursday night support crew for the training diners in the den. Thanks to Nanny Barb for your supply of the food in the den at half time in the seniors, always a great spread enjoyed by club members.

The 2025 social committee did a great job with our events during the season.

We have a great many sponsors with our major partners, Grilled, Hotondo homes and the Rising Sun hotel. Our club cannot survive without the support of our sponsors and I implore all club members and support our sponsors as much as possible. Thanks to Samantha Scanlon and Peter Watson for coordinating our sponsors.

Thank you to Chris Ryan and your team for running the junior arm of our football committee.

To continue to have a vibrant successful club, I encourage any of our valued members and supporters to consider becoming a member of our club through committee or volunteer involvement. We have so many wonderful helpers but it is also a challenge to find new volunteers each year. Our current committee has many long term members who love doing what they do but would welcome the next generation of committee members to express an interest in becoming involved. Please speak to any of our committee if you, or someone you know, would like to become involved at committee level. We have various portfolios that also include sub levels where you can take on just 1 role for our club. It all helps.

Go Dragons

Mark O’Farrell

President

Football

Senior Men's (BFNL)

It has been an outstanding home and away season for our senior playing group. We have played approximately 36-38 players across the season, including first gamers in Tom Campbell, Seb Collins, Hugh Schmetzer, Will Brohm, Louis Banfield, Finlay Lockhart, Jake Austin, Henry Edwards, Jack English and Jaxon Howard. We saw a few of our players reach their 50 game milestone as well throughout the year. The season kicked off well with some big wins against key opposition, then to finish with a win/loss record of 14 and 2 was outstanding for the playing group. We have seen the emergence of our talented juniors, including huge development from our own Matthew Wilkinson, Jack Keating, Oliver Morris, Henry Edwards and Wil Pinniger just to name a few. Along with this we witnessed an amazing season from our Co-Coach Lachlan Tardrew, winning Best and Fairest, Players player along with a runner up in the Michelson Medal who was supported by his midfield group including Lachlan Hood, Cooper Smith, Matt Wilkinson, Hugh Schmetzer and others. Our backline was the best in the competition conceding the least amount of score against for the third year in a row, led by Lachie Wright and Darcy Mills, we can't ignore the big jobs these boys had against the best forwards in the competition and never giving away more than two goals. Our forward line gelled well together and was the highest scoring offence in 2025, sharing the workload and having a great mix every week of goal kickers, making it hard for opposition match ups. With a stand out season from Fergus Greene, Cobi Maxted, & Tom Campbell.

Our players represented us extremely well in the Interleague game vs VAFA, with 4 Sandhurst players in the best including Lachlan Tardrew who took home the Filo Medal, congratulations to Fergus Greene, Cobi Maxted, Lachlan Hood, Cooper Smith, Lachie Wright, Matt Wilkinson and Lachlan Tardrew for being selected in the final squad.

We looked forward to the 2025 finals series as a chance at being the first team to go back to back, but unfortunately it was not to be losing to Eaglehawk by 10 points. We had 8 players who were inclusions from our 2024 Grand Final team. We are very proud of the season and what we have been able to achieve as a club. As leaders, we always talk about "we and us" rather than the Seniors, Reserves and U18's as individual teams, so it was great to see "us" all make it deep into September action for a second year in a row. What a great position the club is in to keep continuing to develop our local players and building our club on and off the field into next season and beyond. Finally, we would like to thank Lachlan Tardrew for his service as the Senior Coach over the last 12 months. He is a wonderful man who gave a lot back to the Football Club and did not ask

for a lot in return. He was an amazing role model for our players and he deserved to go out on a winning note as a Senior Premiership Coach, but unfortunately it was not to be!! Good Luck in Perth and your opportunity at WAFL level Lachlan.

Bryce Curnow (Lachlan Tardrew) Senior Coaches

Senior Women's (CVFL)

No annual report submitted.

Reserves (BFNL)

Season 2025 was successful and rewarding with a lot of positives coming from the year.

With my first season coaching the reserves and with the guidance of Bryce and Lachie who I greatly appreciated the support all year, the team responded strongly to the clear gameplan provided, which became the catalyst for finals success even though we fell short at the last hurdle. The way the group turned up week in week out even though we were short on numbers, they kept performing week in week out which just shows the strong culture of the group,

These traits have helped build our success across all grades this season.

With the reserves finishing 3rd on the ladder after the home and away season we were in a good place for finals success, we were able to win the Qualifying Final against South Bendigo. The side booked their spot in the Grand Final the next week, defeating Golden Square with a few key players missing and gaining the week off helped their recovery for the grand final.

Grand Final day was played in windy conditions, our boys started off well and got out to a early lead but with goals hard to come by we ended up falling short by 3 points to Golden Square with our best players for the day Louis Banfield, Tanner Nally and Charlie Robinson.

Thank you to all those who helped over course of season, including Brendan Walsh and Craig Banfield with Team Manager duties, the coaching group of Bryce, Lachie,

Fergus,Dave Gallagher and Conor Sexton who helped out on game days. All those who supported with running and water boy roles over course of year, Geoff Flack, Ollie, Liam and the team of trainers who supported the team, and the committee who have done a fantastic job putting the club in its current position. Being able to coach such an exciting group of boys made it such a rewarding and fulfilling experience, and so exciting to see the boys perform so well as a team. And the future is bright with this group and with the boys coming up from the thirds.

Lachlan Prest

Reserves Coach.

U18 Girls (CVFL)

Following a strong 2024 season where players gained valuable experience, the 2025 pre-season began with excellent momentum. A talented group of players graduated from a successful U15s team, complemented by several new recruits who brought energy and enthusiasm. After a long, hot summer focused on building fitness, developing skills, and strengthening team connection, the group was well-positioned to be a genuine contender while continuing to provide opportunities for players to develop and enjoy their football.

Eilish Grieve and Ryah Mackie were deservedly elected Captain and Vice-Captain by their peers — a reflection of their leadership, commitment, and support throughout the pre-season.

The opening round provided a stark contrast to the scorching 40-degree training sessions at Tom Flood, with torrential rain greeting the team against a strong Golden Square side. Despite a tough contest against last year's Grand Finalists, there were plenty of encouraging signs for the season ahead.

A comprehensive win over Kangaroo Flat gave the girls the chance to belt out the club song for the first time, before being tested on the long road trip to Woorinen and battling to a hard-fought draw with White Hills. Mid-season brought challenges, with interleague commitments, byes, and forfeits disrupting consistency. This was reflected in an even run of three wins, three losses, and a draw at the halfway mark.

One of the standout positives during this period was the team's strong connection and adaptability. Players willingly embraced new roles and even volunteered to assist short-numbered opposition sides, ensuring that matches could go ahead — a great demonstration of sportsmanship and club spirit.

Following a narrow loss to Golden Square under lights at Ewing Park, the team's hard work and growing confidence began to shine through. Spectators were starting to take

notice of the group's talent, and over the next six weeks the girls produced an outstanding run of form — remaining undefeated and claiming a memorable win at home against the top-of-the-table and previously unbeaten Woorinen.

The team finished the home-and-away season in third place, full of confidence and momentum heading into finals. A dominant 99-point semi-final victory over White Hills sent a strong message to the competition, followed by a composed six-goal win against Golden Square in the preliminary final to secure a place in the Grand Final against Woorinen.

In front of a huge Friday night crowd at the QEO, the Dragon Queens were courageous and determined in a thrilling Grand Final. In a contest that showcased the very best of girls' football in the region, Woorinen managed to edge ahead in the final minute to claim a one-point victory. Although the result was heartbreaking, the team's performance was outstanding and a true reflection of their growth, resilience, and teamwork throughout the season.

Several players were also given opportunities during the year to represent the Sandhurst Women's team and the Bendigo Pioneers, further developing their football and strengthening the connection between the U18 Girls and the Women's program. This progression highlights the success of the club's pathway and the exciting future ahead for girls' and women's football at Sandhurst.

Thank you to all the parents and volunteers for their help and support throughout the season and to Carlin Mackie for being a great Team Manager and Aaron Grieve as runner.

CVFL recognition

- Mia Maxted – Equal leading goal kicker (29 goals)
- Leni Brown – Runner Up best and fairest
- Team of the Year – Ryah Mackie, Tully Place, Leni Brown, Mia Maxted, Chloe Tweed

Sandhurst awards

- Best & Fairest – Mia Maxted
- Runner Up – Leni Brown
- Most Consistent – Alannah Prowse
- Most Courageous – Ava Franklin

- Coaches Award – Poppy Wainwright

Thank you to all the parents and volunteers for their help and support throughout the season and to Carlin Mackie for being a great Team Manager and Aaron Grieve as runner.

Adam Place U18 Girls Coach & Kevin Spiteri Assistant Coach

U18 (BFNL)

Entering season 2025 off the back of a premiership with 15 returning players and plenty of talent coming up from the 16s we were excited for the year ahead.

Having 13 pioneers listed players ment player unavailability was inevitable throughout the year. With the help of 9 u16s players we were able to play out 17-1 season resulting in a 28 point grand final win over golden square. The only loss being by 6 points in round 5.

Thank you to the SFNC for the opportunity and support this year, to Brendan Walsh for having everything organised and ready for training and game day, Dave Gallagher for his help with all the permits working as late as pre game warm up to make sure they have gone through, to Millsy and Mick Kealy for there help, support and advice throughout the year.

Thank you again, Go Dragons.

Mal Borchard

Junior Football

Junior Football – 2025 season report

What a great year our SFNC Junior Football had for season 2025.

Our club was able to field two teams in each of the age groups; under 14 boys, under 15 girls and under 16 boys.
We had four teams participated in the 2025 BJFL final series, with three teams making it through to the Grand Final.
We were in the unique position of our two u15 girls teams being both put in the Girls Senior Division, with both teams winning their way through and playing off in the Grand

Final against each other. Unfortunately, we had to have a winner, with our A team being successful in double extra time on a great game of football.
Also well done to our under 16 Boys seniors on their premiership success.

Off field, we had a very committed and hard-working group of 12 people on our committee. Thank you to all our committee members for their contributions and dedication in assisting with organising and running our junior football program.

Our 2025 committee included; Chris Ryan (Junior Football Manager), Rick O'Callaghan (Assistant Junior Football Manager), Kristie Miller (Junior Football Co-ordinator), Peter Brasier (Registrar), Nathan Willits & Nigel Fraser (Equipment Co-ordinators), Janelle Willits & Kate Byrne (Canteen Managers)
Our general committee included; Mick O'Shea, Jason McDonald, David Stevenson and Andrew Frawley

I would like to thank our coaches for their significant contributions in developing and educating our players both as footballers and their growth as individuals throughout the season.

Coaches:
Richard Potter – Under 14 Boys Reserves
Nathan Willits – Under 14 Boys Seniors
Alex Chapman – Under 15 Girls Seniors B
Matt Gretgrix – Under 15 Girls Seniors A
Shannon Rees & Andrew Frawley– Under 16 Boys Reserves
Mick O'Shea – Under 16 Seniors

Along with the on-field success, we are also very proud to be acknowledged for the behaviours demonstrated both on and off the field by players, coaches, volunteers and supporters, with recognition by winning the BJFL most disciplined club awards for the following age groups;
Under 14 Boys Reserves
Under 15 Girls Seniors A
Under 16 Boys Seniors

A huge thank you to our volunteers across all teams for their generous time and support. To our canteen managers, Janelle Willits and Kate Byrne (and your families), for a second consecutive year we thank you for the tireless work throughout the season to ensure the Ewing Park canteen was run with such success.

Congratulations to our many players that were selected to represent the various rep teams throughout the season.

Finally, thank you to the Mark O'Farrell, Len Nally and the senior committee for their support and commitment to our junior football program. We had the benefit of running a number of different programs throughout the season which were supported by members of the senior body. Thank you to Matt Smith for assistance and support running the "Ahead of the Game" session ran by Liminal Wellbeing in May. Thank you to Cam Ladd for running the Sandhurst Dragon Academy throughout May & June, thank you to Bryce Curnow and the Senior Footballers for assisting with the Sandhurst Junior Development Academy ran for Under 12 players in August.

The junior program continues to offer great opportunities for both girls and boys and wish everyone involved in the junior football program all the best for a successful season in 2026.

Chris Ryan
Junior Football Manager

Auskick

The 2025 Auskick season ran for 8 fun-filled sessions throughout Term 2, with 89 enthusiastic participants registering online. It was fantastic to see a great mix of both male and female Auskickers enjoying the program each week on the beautiful QEO. This year, we were lucky to have support from our senior footballers, who volunteered their time every second week. It was great to see players from different teams out on the field, sharing their skills and bringing plenty of energy and fun to the sessions. A special mention goes to U18 female footballer Ryah Mackie, who generously gave her own time to help lead group activities. Her leadership and enthusiasm were outstanding and a real highlight of the program. A big thank you also to Greg Stead for his ongoing volunteering and support throughout the season, your help was truly appreciated. Our Presentation Night was held at the end of Week 8, and it was wonderful to see so many smiling faces as our young participants received their medals and certificates. Thank you to Dave Gallagher for organising the medals, and to Bakers Delight and Meats on Mitchell for kindly providing the bread and sausages for the night. A final thank you to the Sandhurst Football Netball Club committee for the opportunity to lead the Auskick Program again in 2025. It's been another fantastic season.

Go Dragons!

Marty Leyden

Netball

A Reserve

This was a new season with some new faces welcomed into the team and co coaches Tam Gilchrist and Rose Gallagher.

Our pre season showed the commitment early within the group and the new challenge of finding that team connection with new players.

We had to take a lot of learnings from the 2024 season not finishing how we wanted and a few unknown challenges we had along the way meant we picked a bigger squad this season and it really paid off. It's also a testament to our junior program and pathway that we welcomed 3 17/U players into this group and showed the talent and progress we make as a club.

Our season was full of mixed results as we worked to find the right balance and structures, making sure all players were given plenty of opportunities throughout the year.

The A res competition was again a tight contest so was tough to make sure we secured the top 3 double chance position. A draw early against Gisborne was the little victory that ensured we maintained 3rd.

The girls development really took off towards the end of the home and away season and by finals it had come together. We were playing great netball, team structures were on point and the girls efforts and intensity won their way through to play in the Grand Final.

Unfortunately, we didn't walk away with the result we hoped for but it was an outstanding season with so much to be proud of, a young team that will keep building.

Great year for this team.

Tam Gilchrist & Rose Gallagher

A Grade

We went into this season with a lot of emotion and expectations after the disappoint of the previous year. Our group was focused and driven to make our mark early and know we wanted to be contenders on Grand Final Day.

This group had a lot of unknown factors that contributed to the previous season but we used all of those factors and took them as learning opportunities to ensure we were ready for any new challenges.

The group welcomed 2 new players stepping up from A res, showing reward for effort to be elevated into the A grade.

It was a great start to the season getting a few early wins, showing the talent and versatility within the group. This was carried on throughout the season and the girls constantly performed to the highest level as they expect from themselves as amazing competitors. We finished 2nd on the ladder with only 2 losses for the season and doing the work to make sure we played off in the Grand Final. Unfortunately, we were unable to get the win but we had a great season and found a lot to celebrate at the end of the year. This is the sign of a great culture and feeling that we encourage to flood down through the grades and players.

It was great to have a few players make their A Grade debut for the club and shows the depth of talent coming through.

We had multiple players within the VNL Program and 1 in the SSN Reserves competition that shows the level of talent we are privileged to have not only as players but mentors to others.

It was a great season with lots of positive feedback from the group and the want to continually build our club and strive for excellence.

Tam Gilchrist

B Grade Netball

B Grades season was one of many interruptions with player availability creating holes that were needing to be filled every week.

Our focus turned to development of players within certain roles as we had a lack of volume and depth within the B squad ranks as a whole that required players learning new positions entirely to have a team take the court each week.

Our season was disjointed and chaotic but the girls who finished the season in the B grade ranks did exceptionally well to bring it all together to make finals.

Jarileey Scholtes

B-Reserve

What a season it's been for our B Res netball team! From the very first centre pass, it was clear this group of talented, determined, and passionate divas were on a mission. Week after week, they brought intensity, teamwork, and a healthy dose of flair to the court—proving that grit and grace can absolutely go hand in hand.

The girls stormed through the season, showing off not only incredible skill but also a deep sense of camaraderie that made every game a joy to watch. Their energy was infectious, their communication seamless, and their commitment unwavering. Whether it was a nail-biting finish or a commanding win, the B Res squad gave their all, right up until the very last whistle of the grand final.

While the result didn't quite go our way in the big dance, there's no denying how proud we are of what these women achieved. They didn't just play well—they played brilliantly. The final score might say "runners-up," but anyone who saw them play knows they carried themselves like true champions all season long.

With many special shout-outs we have to mention our reliable, talented and always ready OG's Tilly, Bri, Kels, Soph and Taz. Leading the team beautifully, these girls were here to help and demonstrate what our team was about, whether injured or playing. Our new girls have an exciting future at the dragons. Laila, Brooke, Issy, Tahli and Abbey are superstars in the making on and off the court.

A special shoutout must go to Bri, who had an absolutely phenomenal year. Her consistency, leadership, and sheer talent didn't go unnoticed—taking home not only our team Best and Fairest, but also the league's Best and Fairest title. A well-deserved honour for a player who truly embodies what it means to lead from the front. We will miss her on the court.

To every player in the B Res team: your passion, teamwork, and spirit have set the standard high. You've inspired the club and reminded us all why we love this sport. You may have missed out on the premiership, but you've definitely won our hearts—and let's be honest, you'll always be our divas on and off the court. 💅

U17

We welcomed our 2025 new players into the 17U group – Eva Grant, Maycee Rinaldi, Ese Phillips, Mia Cox, training partner = Sarah Crowley. 2 of our junior players Sienna Raco and Elle Gilchrist also had the opportunity to be involved in a few games throughout the season covering injuries. The new players complementing our existing top age players Jaida Raco (Captain), Lila Kelly (Vice Captain), Tshari Brown, Meg Pearce, Diana Napoleon Milla Sherriff & Tahli Gilchrist.

With most of our group top age, we were able to continue to develop our skills learnt from previous season/s. Our main goal as always in this age group is to continue to work on the basic foundational skills and court strategy. We expect the girls to grow both individually but as a group working for the team. As from previous years we had a lovely group of young ladies who were inclusive. I'm sure the highlight was Augustus on Thursday's before Den dinner for the girls!

We had one loss for the season, which again was our old foe Golden Square. We luckily were able to get the win over Square to go straight through to the Grand Final, with Strath and Square battling it out to meet us at the big dance. Either team was going to be a great battle.

Our battle on the day was against Strath. Strath played and executed a great game plan against us and we struggled against them for most of the game. Strath held on to the lead with a blow out of 8 goals at some point in the third quarter. During the third quarter Carol suggested that our last roll of the dice was to put Diana (player of the match) into goals and put Ese back in GK. We gained the momentum swing. Strath were unable to manage the pressure we were applying both on the court and score board. The girls did a great job at not giving up, sticking to process and managing the crowds and pressure. We were able to win the game on the siren with a penalty pass or shot. So exciting. Diana Napoleon being awarded the Player of the Match! (coming off an ankle injury 2 weeks prior)

Congratulations to our baby Mia Cox for her extraordinary year. National selection in her 2 sports Netball and basketball. Unfortunately Mia suffered a stress fracture in her foot which kept her out of the game for the last 6 weeks including finals. We look forward to your return next year being injury free! Most of our girls playing SSV netball and succeeding. We are very lucky with the talent we have in our group. Congratulations to all.

Once again I would like to thank Carol Cathcart for her knowledge and expertise that she brings to our club. Her netball brain is phenomenal and the players are so lucky to have you guide them and provide them with the skills to ensure they are ready to take on the senior group. Again Carol has agreed to one more season 😊

Thank you to the 17U playing group 2025! What an incredible end to a great season. Building friendships and connections is what playing team sport is all about. Glad you all loved it.

As we bid farewell from the 17U team – Jaida Raco, Lila Kelly, Meg Pearce, Tshari Brown, Tahli Gilchrist, Diana Napoleon & Milla Sherriff we wish you all the very best as you now enter the senior competition. We will miss you all!

Good luck young ladies for the 2026 season.

Carol Cathcart & Rose Gallagher

17U Coaches

Junior Netball Development Program Report

2025 was a fantastic year for our Junior netball Program. Our club was again well represented, with 6 teams participating in the CVNA competition. All 6 teams played off in the finals series, 4 of which played off in the Grand final.

In what was an historic night for our Junior program, the Section 1a and Section 2a grand finals were both Sandhurst v Sandhurst. Our 2 Year 7 teams also did our Club proud in their first year with Sandhurst, both progressing into higher sections during grading and excelling at the challenge.

Whilst we all love to participate in finals, our program's priority is the development of all players. We have witnessed the growth in so many and there have been some outstanding netball achievements for a number of players including:

1 player representing VIC u/15 Netball team – Congratulations Mila Childs

18 girls representing CVNA at squad level in the U/15 & U/13 teams

5 players talent identified for Netball Victoria's pathway program, with 1 additional already involved

2 players receiving court time in our u/17 BFNL team

1 player achieving her C Grade umpiring badge – congratulations Airlie Brown

Many players receiving the opportunity to fill in for higher graded CVNA teams

With the vast majority of players still eligible for our junior program next year, the future is looking bright for our Club.

One of the strengths of our Junior program, is the calibre of our coaching, and we had a well balanced mix of youth and experience for our 2025 coaching panel. We welcomed some new coaches this year – Jess Baird, Matilda Lockyear, Tess Keating and Sophie Giles adding to the experience of Tamara Gilchrist, Belinda Pinner, Issy Kuhle and Reese Gilchrist. A huge thank you to our coaches for your dedication to the development of our young players. We also appreciate the efforts of our team managers and primary carers throughout the season, as well as all of the parents and carers. It does take an army of helpers to run a successful program and we have incredible support from you all. We also thank our weekly awards sponsor Grill'd, and appreciate your ongoing support.

We wish all the players departing our CVNA junior program all the very best with their future netball wherever that takes you.

Lastly, I would like to thank Cath Robertson, as head of Junior Netball operations. Cath has passionately built an incredible junior program over many years, driving a culture on which our reputation thrives. Cath was deservingly awarded a life Membership of the

Sandhurst Football Netball Club this year. Congratulation Cath, everyone appreciates the many hats you wear within our Club, and we are lucky to call you ours.

As a club, we are excited for 2026, and what it may bring.

Kellie White and Cath Robertson

Wellbeing

As we close out the 2025 season, it's a moment to reflect with pride on what has been an extraordinary year for the Sandhurst Football Netball Club. From the first bounce to the final siren, our club has demonstrated excellence, resilience, and a deep commitment to community and culture.

On the field, our teams delivered outstanding performances, with seven out of eight reaching the grand final—a remarkable achievement that speaks volumes about the talent, dedication, and teamwork across all levels. Being awarded Club of the Year was a fitting recognition of these efforts and a celebration of the collective spirit that drives us forward.

Off the field, the club continued to invest in the wellbeing and development of our players and members. We proudly ran several impactful programs including SALT's Empowering Girls, AFL's Ahead of the Game, Tomorrow Woman, and Tomorrow Man. These initiatives have helped shape a culture of care, respect, and personal growth that is now deeply woven into the fabric of our club.

Although Headspace was unfortunately unable to participate this year, we look forward to welcoming them back in 2026 to continue their valuable contribution to mental health and wellbeing.

Our junior teams not only impressed with their skills but were also widely acknowledged for their outstanding behaviour and sportsmanship. This is a terrific reflection of the positive and inclusive environment we've worked hard to build, and a credit to everyone involved—from players and families to coaches and volunteers.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our coaches and team leaders for their unwavering support and leadership. Their guidance has been instrumental in shaping both performance and character across the club. We also extend our deepest gratitude to the Golden Dragons, whose continued support and generous financial contributions have enabled us to deliver high-quality programs and maintain the strong foundations of our club.

Special thanks must also go to our incredible medical team and trainers, who each week care for our teams with a highly professional and compassionate approach. Your efforts do not go unnoticed and are deeply appreciated by everyone at the club.

The culture we've created is something truly special—positive, caring, and enduring. It continues to grow stronger each year, and it's thanks to the collective efforts of everyone who wears the maroon and blue with pride.

Go Dragons!

Matt Smith