



2017

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



BARDON LATROBE FOOTBALL CLUB

INTRODUCTION

The 2016 Annual General Meeting saw an overhaul of the management committee. Several long standing members of the Bardon Latrobe Football Club (BLFC) including life members and previous presidents left taking significant organisational memory.

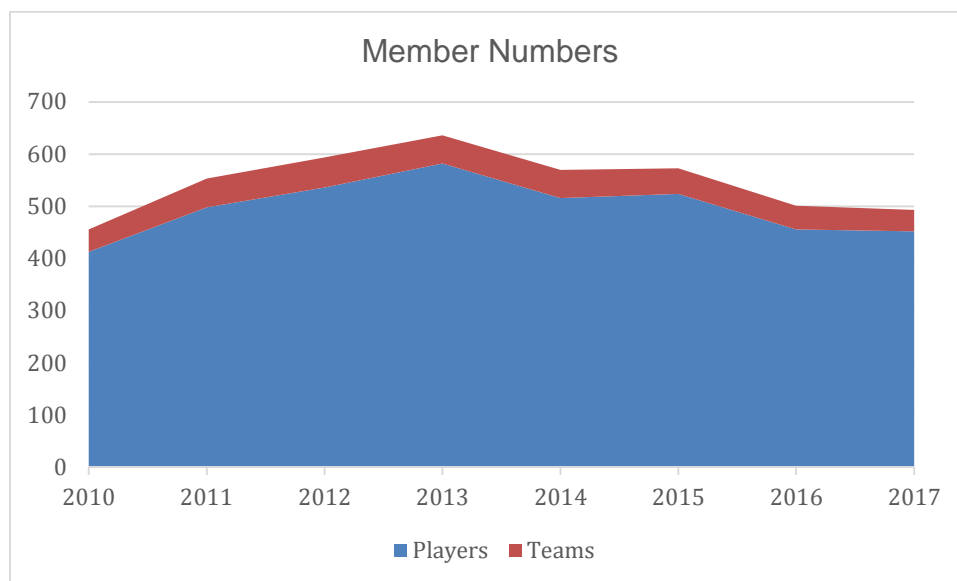
The new committee members approached the challenge of managing the football club with relish. The challenges of running a football club whilst looking to develop a strategic approach for future development are significant. However, I have confidence we are on the path to success.

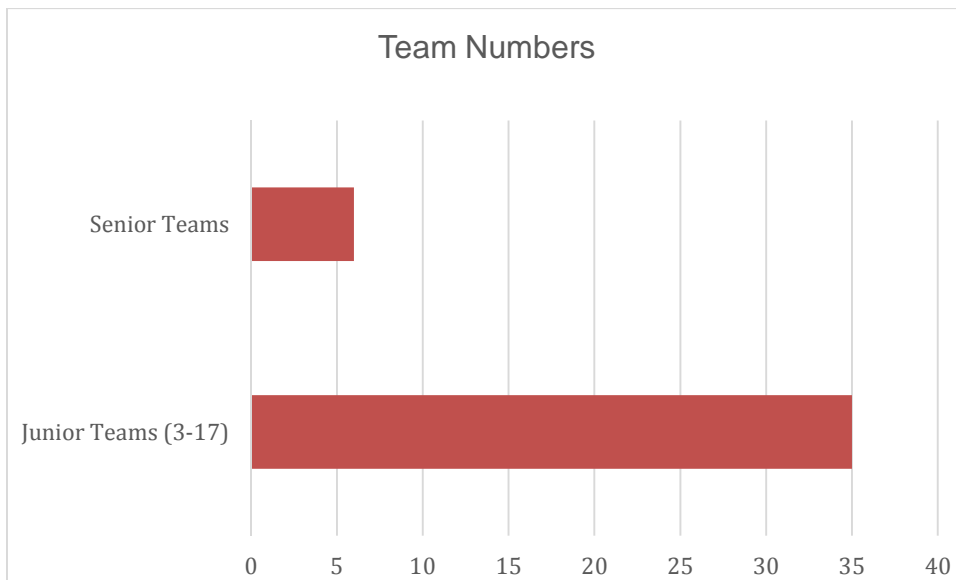
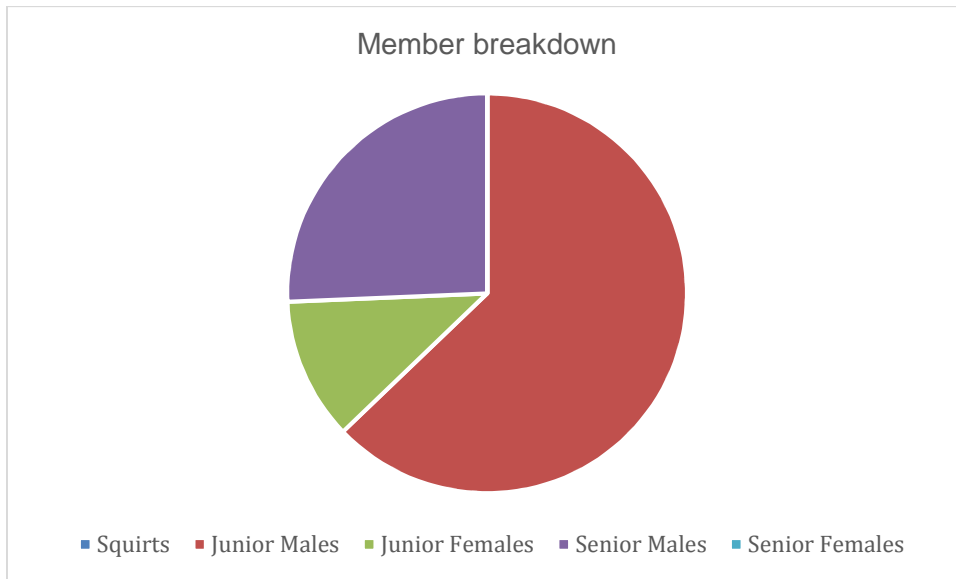
MEMBER NUMBERS

There were 452 registered players in 41 teams for 2017.

This compares to;

Year	Players	Teams
2010	413	43
2011	498	55
2012	536	58
2013	582	54
2014	516	54
2015	524	49
2016	456	45





COACHING

Many parents and players stepped up this year to coach teams in BLFC's first year without a club-paid coaching staff. Many parents spoke highly of the work done by older players who stepped up to help with the younger teams, and parents took advantage of coaching courses organised by the committee.

This was a great community effort to make this work. Preliminary results from our end of season survey show that 95% of respondents rated their coach as above average or better for football knowledge, 93% above average or better for ability to teach and 94% for organisational skills and leadership.

SQUIRTS

With the restructure of the committee this year the Squirts program did not go ahead as we hurried to ready the club for standard operations. I hope that this is something that we could re-instate for 2018 to provide a football opportunity for younger family members.

MINIROOS

The advent of the age level coordinators this year seemed to make the communication between the committee and each of the age levels much smoother than previous years. Much credit must go to the Vice President (Juniors) Eamonn McCaffrey and each of the age level coordinators for the huge workload that they took on and excelled in this year.

JUNIORS

All teams enjoyed their season with two teams making the finals.

Our Under 12 team took out the Division 7 Premiership with a goal difference of 79, but were undone by Virginia in the semi-final 4-2.

Our Under 13 team finished a very healthy fourth on the ladder in Division 6 North, going down 1-nil in the semi-final with a valiant effort against Brighton.

SENIORS

A very strong performance from our Capital 3 side saw them challenging the promoted teams of St. George and the semi-pro teams from Caboolture during the season. They only missed the top four in the last couple of games with slips earlier in the season proving costly at the end of the year. Mark Strickland has been a great 'acquisition' for the club as senior coach and promises to deliver good results and promotion in coming years.

Our largest cohort of seniors in recent years with six teams delivered finals football for three of our teams. Our City 5 team fell to a penalty against Newmarket in the semi-final and if chances could have been taken this might have been a landslide to BLFC. The Capital 3 Reserves beat the much-fancied Caboolture side in the semi-final only to fall to them 2-1 in the grand final in what was a very close game.

The inaugural year of the over 35s couldn't have been better with the side taking out the Division 4 Premiership and grand final in the narrowest of margins over Pine Hills in both races. It was only a matter of goal difference that won the league and penalties in the final going 6-5 to BLFC.

Congratulations to Ant Powell who was recognised as our Senior Player of the Year and to Ryan Taylor, Vice-President (Seniors) who was awarded our Clubman of the Year for his work coordinating senior football.

FINANCIAL STATUS

The hard work put in by all of the committee this year, along with some strategic changes in how the money is spent, has resulted in a surplus of around \$50,000 that can be directed back into the club's facilities.

In particular the wonderful work of the following people has driven this;

- Samuel Irvine Casey (Treasurer) who has brought in financial systems and strategies that have greatly improved our ability to review our position and make quick decisions related to club funds
- Seweryn Bialasiewicz who has revitalised our grant application process, having already been successful in buying a new mower, and with many more applications in the pipeline for 2017/18
- Graeme Filippi who took on the role of canteen convenor (and far too many other roles to list here) improving the income of the canteen and organising volunteers to help out.

AGE LEVEL COORDINATORS

A special thank you to each of the volunteers who took on this role, some of them in their first year at the club, as this strategy has improved many facets of the organisation within the younger teams. In my opinion, it's very important that the club continues to support this initiative.

MATCH OFFICIALS

Thanks as always go to all of our ground officials, referees, ref's assistants, and ground officials who do a wonderful job each year in representing our club. A special thanks to Steven Jones who coordinated the referees under the guidance of Chris Appleton.

GEORGES RIVER

BLFC hosted games with our sister club from Georges River in Sydney. We have been struggling for numbers of travelling players for the Sydney trip over recent years, although preparations have been started for the tour in 2018. This is a wonderful tradition that the committee should continue to work on revitalising.

Congratulations to Eamonn McCaffrey and Phil Cowlshaw for the successful hosting of the event this year.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

As always, my appreciation goes to my fellow committee members and others who have contributed to the management and operation of the club this year.

CONCLUSION

2017 was a productive year for the club and I sense a renewed ambition to develop the club both on and off the field. We still have issues to address. Only 12% of our members are female. Our members are most dissatisfied with our facilities 78% rating them as below average or worse.

Grants, fundraising and sponsorship our best avenues to improve facilities and whilst we will always remain a community club providing facilities for the community we will strive to improve them.

Finally, we ever reliant on the efforts of a few dedicated volunteers. Indeed, I have decided this season is my last as president. I remain committed to assisting in the development of the club and I urge all members to come forward and volunteer where possible.

Rob Wheeler

President