

2020

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



BARDON LATROBE FC

1916



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BARDON LATROBE  
FOOTBALL CLUB



# INTRODUCTION

This year has probably been the most unusual and challenging in the club's 104 year history. The season started in February under the cloud of the Coronavirus pandemic and was abruptly stopped in March with no certainty that it would go ahead at all.

After hours of Zoom meetings and planning sessions we eventually enjoyed a near full season and in some ways 2020 has been our most successful ever.

From an operational aspect the club has introduced new administration software in 2020 (Majestri) which we hope is improving organisation and communication within all tiers of the club. We will continue to roll this out in 2021.

Due to continued strong governance and accountability the club has again delivered a good financial performance in this challenging year allowing us to remain on track to implement our ambitious **2018- 21 strategic plan.**

The club continues to be very fortunate to have a very capable, stable and cohesive volunteer management committee whom have again worked tirelessly in 2020 for the Bardon Latrobe Football Club (BLFC) members.



# MEMBERSHIP

Despite COVID-19 there was again a surprise rise of 8% in member numbers. There was a large 20% increase in our miniroos which resulted in some major operational difficulties at the start of the delayed season. We lost one senior team resulting in a small drop of senior members.

There were 48 Mini-roo teams, 6 Junior teams and 8 Senior teams making a total of 62 (54).

In addition we had a kindy soccer program running throughout the season.

A total of 677 (626) playing members were registered at the club in 2020: kindy soccer 12 (20), miniroo 424 (354), juniors 92 (86), Seniors 149 (166). (2019 number).

The club has now reached Brisbane City Council's optimal membership numbers for a site of our size. As a club we must decide whether to rent other playing fields or cap our member numbers in 2021.



# INFRASTRUCTURE

Most of the infrastructure projects commenced in 2019 have now been completed in 2020. Our members can change in state of the art dressing rooms. We can enjoy a fantastic new family friendly clubroom with baby change facilities, café style furniture and TV. The bar even has a selection of tap beers. However we still need to finalise and fund the trophy cabinet and clubroom artwork.

Major works have occurred in the kitchen and surround to bring it up to a commercial food licence standard. This includes the installation and connection of a grease trap which resulted in the necessity to landscape the southern side of the clubhouse including the new stairway to the field.

We also recently completed the shed with connection of services (water and power) and installation of motors to the roller doors. This makes the greenkeeping shed fully operational and reduces the workload for our volunteer field maintenance team. Finally just last week irrigation was installed to the whole oval.





# SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Again the club enjoyed a wonderful year of social activities. The regular third half celebrations on Friday nights were well attended, especially by the players of the women's team.

We also saw large numbers in attendance for the junior presentation day and senior presentation evening.

# SPONSORSHIP AND JERSEYS

We have continued to enjoy our home and away jerseys which were launched last year. We would again like to thank our generous premium sponsors Toowong Mazda, Mercedes-Benz Toowong and Stratacare.

We launched a limited edition Georges River celebration kit and our commissioned indigenous jerseys were again proudly worn during NAIDOC week.

We would also like to thank the many other local businesses who partnered with BLFC in 2020 enabling the club to provide a complimentary training jersey included in their membership package.

We have been very lucky to secure further sponsorship in 2021 and the 2021 training jerseys are currently in the design phase.





## FIELDS

Our volunteer field maintenance team continue to implement a programme of irrigation, aeration, top soil dressing & levelling and treatments with fertilisers, weed and pest control agents.

After a season with an intense fixture schedule the main and junior fields were worn. However good progress has been made since 2018 with the main field now weed free and covered, in most part, with Grand Prix couch.

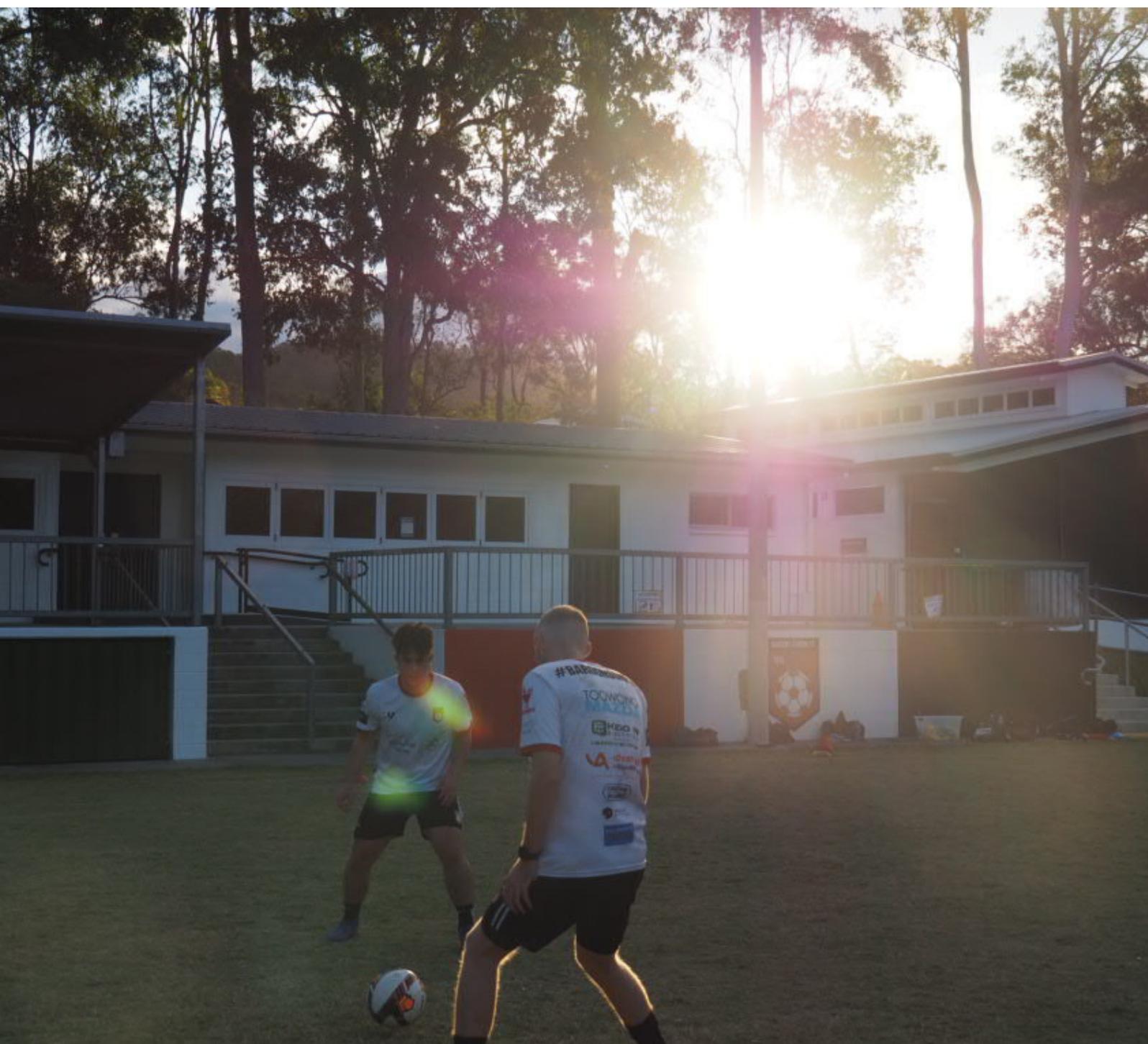
Further works are scheduled during the summer we expect the field to be in excellent condition at the start of the season.

Major works is also planned over the summer on the far side of the oval to improve the grass quality and playing surface.

# FUTUREWORKS

The final infrastructure works set out in our **2018-21 strategic plan** are a lighting upgrade to the oval and further shade and seating options for our spectators and members.

These projects are currently unfunded but the committee and treasurer will continue to look at funding opportunities both from within and external to the club.



# VOLUNTEERS

We would like to thank again all the volunteers at the club.

These included the committee and subcommittee members, the coaches, the managers, the ground and match officials and mums and dads who helped set up the field and serve in the canteen each week.

Without these dedicated volunteers the club would cease to exist.



## GEORGES RIVER TOUR

Plans to celebrate the upcoming 50 year anniversary of touring teams visting and hosting Georges River FC were sidelined this year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

These plans have been been postponed until next year which marks the 50 years since the inaugural tour in 1971.



## ON FIELD SUCCESSES

We would like to thank all the coaches at BLFC in 2020 whom have provided some exceptional coaching and ensured a high standard of football has been played at all levels.

For the first time BLFC fielded Komodo teams in U10 & U11 and two division 1 junior teams in U14 and U15. The U15 division 1 girls' team coached by David Bounds were Premiers for the second year running having an unbeaten season.

The U14 division 1 boys team were Plate Champions with the best defensive record in the ladder.

The senior teams did not achieve any silverware this year but all finished above the relegation zone and enjoyed a great season of football.

## FINANCIALS

Our strong financial performance in the last 4 years has enabled us to reinvest heavily in the infrastructure and facilities at Bowman Park.

A full financial report has been compiled by our treasurer and will be independently audited and made available to our members.

Our grants team continue to work tirelessly to secure funding for further infrastructure projects as outlined above

# FINAL COMMENT

No one could have predicted what was going to happen in 2020.

However, as president, I am tremendously proud how the club and members responded to this global crisis. Our members were loyal, understanding and patient.

In addition, many offered their support and time to help implement the changes required to reopen the club under the COVID safe plan.

I am also eternally grateful to all the committee and subcommittee members who volunteer day in and day out to enable the club to run smoothly.

BLFC is now a happy, thriving and exciting club. It welcomes players of all ages, abilities and gender.

Our members enjoy clean, modern and safe facilities in beautiful surroundings.

I have completed 3 years as president and it is time for me to step down.

It has been challenging, demanding, exciting, rewarding and for the most part fun and enjoyable.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone for all their help, guidance and support throughout this term of office.

**PHIL COWLISHAW**  
**PRESIDENT**

