



BARDON LATROBE  
FOOTBALL CLUB



2021

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

# INTRODUCTION

It was another significant year for Bardon Latrobe Football Club (BLFC) both on and off the field. Following the increases in playing members over the previous years, the club continued to experience significant growth throughout 2021.

With most of this growth occurring in the U6-U11 age groups, the challenge for the club from here is to ensure that this growth is managed, and the club is sustainable.

 The club continues to be very fortunate to have a very capable, stable and cohesive volunteer management committee with a high level of corporate governance who have worked tirelessly in 2021 to provide a great club and experience for our members. 

From here, the committee and our volunteers are focussed on providing a high quality football experience for our members, ensuring we have supporting club infrastructure and fields, providing pathways for players to develop their football skills, managing the impact on the surrounding community and continuing the wonderful community club spirit for which Bardon Latrobe is well known.

The committee is just about to embark on an update to the 2018-2021 strategic and will create an updated three-year strategic plan for 2022-2025, that will take to the club further and continue to provide sustainable value to our members. The committee will perform this process in close consultation with our lessor, the Brisbane City Council.

# MEMBERSHIP

Despite the spectre of COVID-19 with a number of restrictions for a few periods, the club experienced significant growth throughout the 2021 season.

This was reflected in an almost 30% increase in members from 2020. The 83 teams comprised of 66 MiniRoos (U6-U11) teams, 8 Junior teams (U12-U18) and 9 Senior teams. In addition, we ran a kindy soccer program (aka Squirts) running throughout the season.

A total of 879 playing members were registered at the club in 2021: Kindy Soccer 27 (12), MiniRoos 559 (424), Juniors 110 (92) and Seniors 180 (149). (2020 number). This season saw an almost 50% increase in female players and an increase of from 4 female teams in 2020 to 9 in 2021.

These player numbers have placed pressure on the capacity of our fields to accommodate both training and playing. The experience from the 2021 season will feed directly into the planning process for the 2022 Season. As a club, we must decide whether to rent other playing fields or cap our member numbers in 2022, mostly likely a combination of both.



80% U6-U16



MiniRoos



50% increase in  
womens since 2020

From an operational aspect the club continued the implementation and use of new club administration software, Majestri. It enabled the earlier opening of registrations, running two school holiday clinics in April and July and a kindy program, running social events and a higher level of communication to our members and team coaches and managers.

# INFRASTRUCTURE

The infrastructure works throughout 2021 consisted of completing and acquitting the major infrastructure works on the green keeper's shed, the clubhouse, the new change rooms and the kitchen facilities conducted through 2019 and 2020.

Some of the finalisation activities included addition of a grease trap for the kitchen and completion of concrete stairs on the left hand-side of the club house. 2021 also included the installation of new power cabling to the light poles in preparation for the lighting upgrade.

A trophy cabinet was installed in September and will be filled with a selection of BLFC's memorabilia from the club's rich history by the end of the year.





# SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Again the club enjoyed a wonderful year of social activities. The regular third half celebration on Friday nights were well attended and we also have large number in attendance for the MiniRoos, Juniors and Senior's presentation days/nights, all held at the club house this year.

The club also hosted the inaugural Third Half Trivia night in June and players came to the club to watch World Cup games. Who will ever forget the England vs Scotland game? Not the Scots.



# SPONSORSHIP AND JERSEYS

The playing jersey remained the same this year whilst once again we created and distributed a new teal coloured training jersey for 2021. Due to the increase in player numbers, we had to order some additional playing and training jerseys only weeks out from the start of the season.

We would also like to thank the many other local businesses who partnered with BLFC in 2021 enabling the club to provide a complimentary training jersey included in their membership package. The arrangements with sponsors are well progressed for season 2022.

In addition we produced a limited edition Latrobe Ladies centenary shirt to celebrate 100 years of women's football. The shirt was provided to the senior ladies and a junior team to wear.



# FIELDS

The volunteer facilities and fields team spent many hours to ensure that the playing fields at Bowman Park could accommodate the larger number of players training and playing at Bowman Park in 2021.

Despite the continued of the field maintenance programme in 2021 (irrigation, aeration, topsoil dressing & levelling and treatments with fertilisers, weed and pest control agents) both the main field and junior fields were severely worn by the end of the season. An additional initiative included the sowing of Rye winter grass on the main oval in late June. This significantly improved the playing surface throughout August and early September. The club also invested in a new fairway mower which was much better in the cutting and maintenance of the fields.

The MiniRoo and Juniors fields on the Bowman Parade side of Bowman Park have progressively worsened over the past 3-5 years due to player load and the inconsistent grass varieties. In September, the Brisbane City Council agreed to BLFC's request to conduct a significant remediation over this side of the field starting in November and taking over three months. This will mean that the West Brisbane Cricket Club, who have still not agreed to sign a council-approved licence agreement, will not be playing at Bowman Park for the 2021/2022 season.

Moving forward, to better manage the sports field part of Bowman Park, the committee continues to advocate strongly with the Brisbane City Council to be given the ability to alter the layout of the oval to accommodate two full football fields.

## FIELDS (CONTINUED)

Improving the quality of the playing fields at Bowman Park is a multi-pronged management strategy of ensuring we are maintaining and cultivating the fields in the optimum way through irrigation, aeration, topsoil dressing & levelling and treatments with fertilisers, weed and pest control agents in accordance with a budgeted maintenance plan reviewed in turn by a Sports Turf agronomist, working within the fields carrying capacity and seeking fields at other locations for training. The committee has initiated approaches to other surrounding clubs and schools accordingly.



# SURVEY

The Club undertook a survey earlier this year of both our members and the surrounding community to gain an understanding of different viewpoints and feedback on a range of ideas to help assist the club with future planning initiatives. We wish to thank those members and the local community who have provided feedback and suggestions; we appreciate your time and interest in our club. In the feedback, some key issues were raised by the community which we would like to acknowledge.

- Parking activity within the carpark and along David Avenue – the club is working with Council to improve car parking at Bowman Park and ways to manage illegal car parking on David Avenue
- Light glare and duration of use – the club is looking at upgrading the lighting and incorporating an automated control technology system
- Evening noise from training, games, and post-training/game activities – the club will continue to adhere to the clubs operating hours when scheduling activities to manage noise, as well as investigating use of additional venues.
- More soccer fields – the club is looking at reconfiguration of existing playing surfaces to better utilise space and reduce wear and tear on the fields, including improved irrigation.

We will use the results of this survey as a key input to the strategic planning process that the club is embarking on in late 2021.

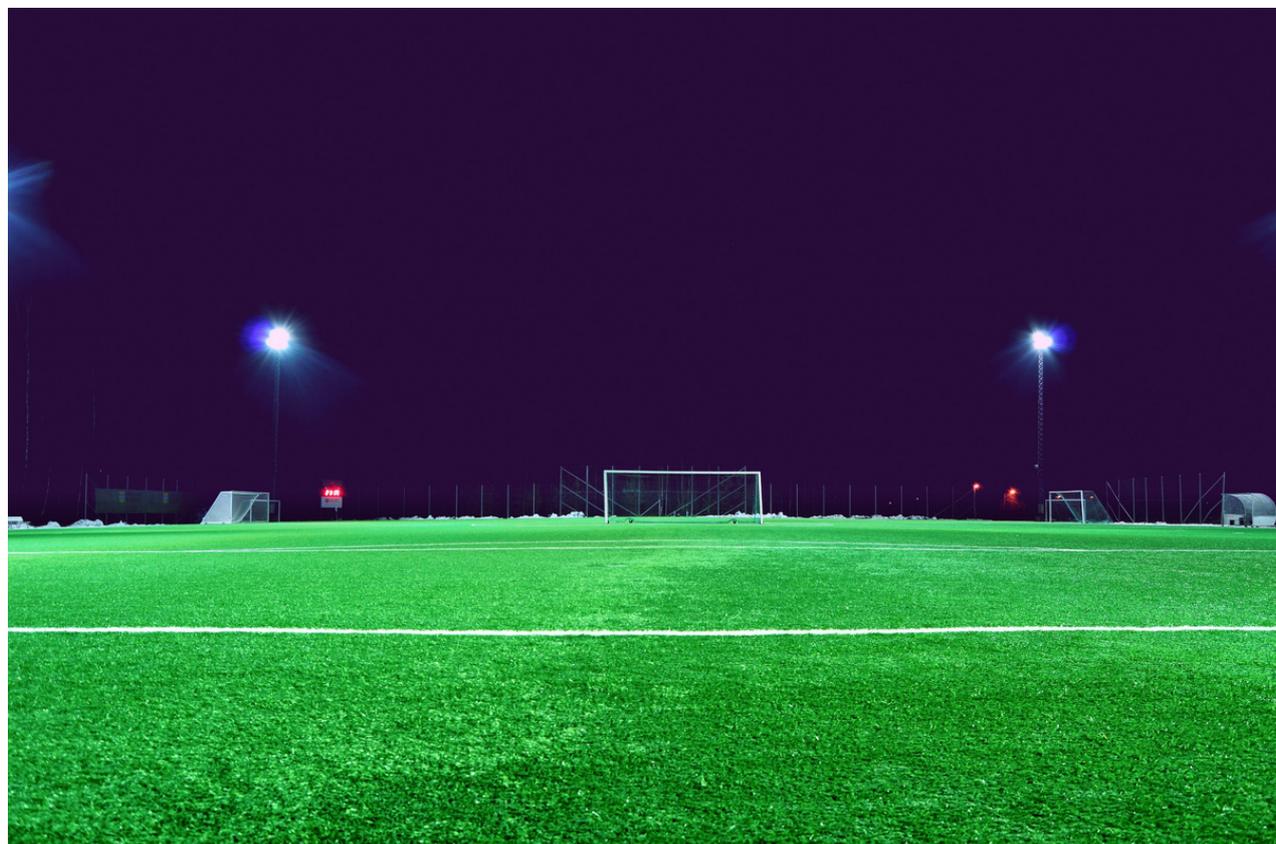


# FUTUREWORKS

In line with the 2018-2021 strategic plan and to be further informed by the strategic planning update, the club has a number of identified future plans

- Creation of two main fields through re-location of the current cricket block
- Creation of a roof over the terrace closest to the car park
- Upgrade of the field lighting to LED system providing a more efficient, flexible (competition grade), less light pollution facility
- Increased seating for our spectators and members

The club is applying for a number of grants which will address one or more of these items in some cases including a contribution from 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 visiting and hosting Georges River FC were sidelined this year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

These plans have been postponed until April 2022 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 2021 whom have provided some exceptional coaching and ensured a high standard of football has been played at all levels and to the managers who enable this to occur.

The significant increase in the MiniRoos teams' augers well with the highest age group U11 having 2 Komodos boys teams and a strong U11 Girls team.

There were more U12 teams than ever before all proving very competitive. Additionally our U15 Div1 and Div 3 teams performed well showcasing the increasing talent throughout the junior part of the club. Notably U15 Harry Winks got Junior player of the year

The successful U16 girls cohort were again premierships winners in 2021 it was great to field an U18 again after a very long time.

In the seniors, there were some very fine performances from our Capital team finishing the highest for many seasons. The City 8 and O35's Division 3 side secured Premiership wins.

The City 5, City 8 and O35's Division 2 teams all made it to the Grand Final but unfortunately didn't win.

The O30s Women's Bolt continue to improve, enjoy each season and display a comradery second to none.

# STRATEGIC PLANNING

The end of 2021 will see the commencement of an update of the 2018-2021 strategic with the creation of the club's next three-year 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

The key focus of this planning will be making the club a more sustainable, managing the growth that has occurred over the past few years and continue to provide a wonderful community football club.

# FINANCIALS

The club again finished the year with a very strong balance sheet enabling us to invest into field major remediation and infrastructure project funding or grant contribution.

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

As the first year of my presidency draws to the a close, I am very proud and amazed at what the club has accomplished this year and how we have worked together to enable our members the opportunity to play football and experience the many wonderful things that a community sporting organisation can bring to them and their children. This is all in spite of the many challenges that 2021 provided.

This would not have been possible without the team of devoted, hardworking skilled committee members whom I sincerely thank. BLFC now has clean, modern and safe sporting facilities for the local community to enjoy and continues to be a welcoming and inclusive club for all.

The club would also like to recognise the support of the local, state and federal governments. Bardon Latrobe Football Club particularly recognises and value the importance of a close relationship with the Brisbane City Council in managing the many issues presented to a community sporting organisation.

Like many sporting clubs or organisations, Bardon Latrobe is a dynamic club. People come, people go. One thing that is special about Bardon is that many people who are involved with the club feel a connection, an augmented sense of community.

This was displayed only recently when the family members of a young former club player who passed away approached the club to hold a wake in his honour, saying that it was the first place they thought of, a place to which he, his family and friends had a real connection.



This is also the driving force behind things like the improved clubhouse and the trophy cabinet. I like to think of it as 'Once a Bardon Latrobe member, always a Bardon Latrobe member'

Bardon Latrobe Football Club continues to have a very bright and secure future. The committee is committed to ensuring that Bardon Latrobe Football is a thriving, vibrant, spirited community sporting organisation for many years to come.

**MICHAEL WATTS**  
**PRESIDENT**