



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023



INTRODUCTION

2023 was a successful year on and off the field for Bardon Latrobe Football Club. This was my first season as President and I am proud to be able to say that our club has continued to thrive and provide a much needed community good despite challenges we have faced throughout the year.

Like most inner city sporting clubs, Bardon Latrobe FC has limited access to greenspace and this makes it difficult for us to be able to keep up with increased local demand for football. The club will continue to petition Brisbane City Council and Football Queensland for additional greenspace opportunities but in the meantime we will continue to do all we can to provide a safe, enjoyable experience for our existing membership base.

In order to maximise the use of our limited greenspace, we have implemented various initiatives such as staggered training sessions, reduced field sizes, and shared use of fields with other local clubs. We have also invested in high-quality equipment and maintenance to ensure that our existing fields are in top condition for our members to use.

Moreover, we have expanded our outreach efforts to engage the wider community and promote the benefits of playing football. This includes hosting open days, school clinics, and community events. We believe that by increasing awareness and interest in the sport, we can encourage more people to join our club and support our cause for additional greenspace.

At the heart of our efforts, however, is our commitment to providing a safe and enjoyable experience for our members. We understand that the current situation can be frustrating, but we remain dedicated to making the most of what we have and creating a welcoming environment for everyone who shares our love for football.

Samuel Irvine Casey
President



MEMBERSHIP

Despite overwhelming demand in the local area, Bardonia Latrobe FC maintained its membership numbers from last season given the constraints on field space. The club fielded 90 teams in the 2023 season comprising 74 MiniRoos (U6-U12) teams, 6 Junior teams (U13-U18) and 10 Senior teams. We also ran a kindy soccer program throughout the season.

A total of 1,009 playing members were registered at the club in 2023 (2022 in brackets): Kindy Soccer 38 (30) MiniRoos 693 (658), Juniors 83 (76) and Seniors 195 (203). This season also saw an increase in female teams from 12 in 2022 to 15 in 2023.



Junior or
miniroos



MiniRoos



50% increase in
womens since 2020

The committee understands the importance of maintaining a sense of community amongst our members. We value each and every member's contribution to our club, and we want to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in our events and programs.

By providing an exclusive registration period for current members, we hope to give them the chance to secure their spot before opening registration to the general public.

This system also allows us to better manage our limited resources and ensure that we can provide the best possible experience for our members. We appreciate your support and look forward to another great season together in 2024.



ON FIELD SUCCESS



MINIROOS

Bowman park sprung to life on Saturday as our horde of MiniRoos and their families enjoyed football and fun throughout the season. Catering to all ages and abilities our MiniRoo program provided children with the opportunity to play football for the first time, keep active with their friends and continue to improve their footballing skills in our more advanced Kangaroo teams.

Our Kangaroo program this season was an overwhelming success and we saw teams from U8 to U12 play some amazing football throughout the season and at different football carnivals throughout the year.

JUNIORS

It was a very successful year for our Junior cohort. The club fielded 6 teams in Junior competitions this year and 5 of them made the semi-finals with 2 of them reaching the grand final.

While all our teams played attractive football over the season, a special mention to the U13 Division 4s who took out the Grand Final in a tense win against Taringa and to the U18 Division 2s who won the premiership in what was a dominating season.



SENIORS

It was a historic year for our senior program as our QPL5 side secured a top two finish and achieved promotion for only the second time in the past 13 years. Russell Mapri's side played an attacking brand of football which provided great entertainment to the Bardon faithful watching from the sidelines. Russell has signed on again for next season and we look forward to seeing how the team goes in QPL4.

In our social teams, there was strong club culture on and off the field. Three of our teams (Metro 5, Over 35 Division 2 and Over 45 Division 2) achieved finals football with the Over 45s reaching the Grand Final in a game that ended in a stalemate due to the weather.



INFRASTRUCTURE & FIELDS

Continuing to improve our club infrastructure and field space is the number one priority for the Committee and this season saw some much needed improvements to both. At the start of the year the club was able to complete Stage 1 of our field lighting upgrade project which saw high quality, environmentally friendly LEDs installed on Field 2. This provided a much safer training space for the second half of Bowman Park, something that has been sorely needed for many years. We are currently working with both the Federal Government and Brisbane City Council to finalise a plan to undertake Stage 2 which would see Field 1 brought up to FQ Competition standard.



On the field front, this year was a step in the right direction for the club as the club was able to linemark two main fields following the removal of the old turf wicket. This was an enormous win for the club as it removed a critical bottleneck in our game day field allocation and allowed the club to better rotate usage across the entire field. The club is currently working with Brisbane City Council and Qld Cricket to install a synthetic turf wicket in between the two fields to enable junior cricket to be played at Bowman over summer.



The committee has been working very hard to secure additional greenspace opportunities to reduce the load on Bowman during the season. This year we were very lucky to be able to license part of Dorrington Park from Norths Hockey which allowed us significantly reduce the training burden on Bowman Park during the week. We are very thankful for our relationship with Norths Hockey and appreciate all the support they have provided us this season. The club will continue to liaise with Brisbane City Council, State Government and Football Queensland in a bid to secure more permanent greenspace options although given the scarcity of greenspace in inner city Brisbane, this has proven to be a challenging task.



CANTEEN

The 2023 season saw a changing of the guard in the canteen with long-term canteen coordinator Ania stepping down to spend more time with family. The club welcomed Onley into the role who promptly hit the ground running providing our members and opposition players with hearty and healthy food options throughout the year. Additionally, Onley went above and beyond to staff the canteen during many club events including the Holiday Clinics, George's River Tour and Trivia Nights.

A special mention for all her flexibility and support around the Women's World Cup watch parties which saw themed menus containing the opposition's finest cuisine. We are delighted to have Onley on board for 2024 and hope she and the rest of the canteen crew have a relaxing Christmas break.



VOLUNTEERS

As with any non-profit community sporting organisation, the club would not exist without the dedicated support of all of its volunteers. We would like to thank all of our volunteers throughout the season from our committee and subcommittee members, coaches and managers and mums and dads who helped set up the field and serve behind the canteen on matchdays.

GEORGES RIVER

After a brief hiatus due to Covid, the club was able to resume the Georges River Touring tradition this season. In July, an U12 team traveled down to Sydney and spent a long weekend playing three games of football and visiting some of Sydney's finest tourist attractions. This was one of the highlights of my year as President as I chaperoned the tour and was able to relive my own George's River tour from 2006.

Our Under 15 Division 1 side also went on their own Georges River tour playing four games over a week in the September school holidays. These tours are an amazing footballing experience and are a great way to build strong relationships with your teammates that will last a lifetime. We are very thankful for our longstanding relationship with Georges River FC and all of the support they showed both our touring teams. We look forward to continuing the tradition next season with the next cohort of U12s.

The club also hosted an U13 Touring team from Georges River in July in what was a memorable week of games and entertainment at Bowman Park.



SPONSORSHIP & PLAYING KIT

This season saw a new playing kit across the club and a Matildas inspired training kit to show the club's support during the Women's World Cup. This training kit proved to be a huge success and attracted a lot of media attention during the world cup.

We would like to thank our major sponsor ManCave for all of their support during the season and also thank all the other local businesses who have partnered with us this year. Their sponsorship has been critical for the club being able to issue training kits to all our members.



Home Kit

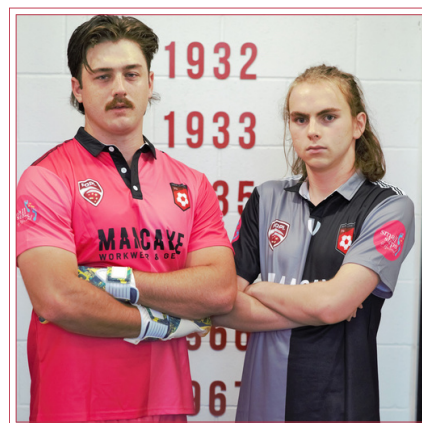
Red and white halves

The red and white home kit holds a special significance for our club, embodying a rich tradition and symbolising the unity forged through the merger of the Bardon and Latrobe football clubs. The distinctive design, characterised by bold halves, is more than just a pattern on a shirt; it's a visual representation of the amalgamation of two proud histories. Crafted by Veto, the design expertly captures the essence of our club's journey.

Away Kit

Black and grey halves

Our black and grey away kit stands as a testament to the club's commitment to innovation and style. Designed in a sleek and modern fashion, the kit breaks away from convention while still paying homage to our heritage. The fusion of black and grey reflects the contemporary spirit of the team, encapsulating resilience and determination.



Training shirt (World Cup Edition)

Green and gold

The green and gold training shirt holds a special place in our collection, symbolizing our anticipation and excitement for the Women's World Cup hosted in Australia in 2023. The shirt was a vibrant expression of our support for the global celebration of women's football. The choice of green and gold resonates with the national colours, showcasing our pride and unity in promoting the game on the international stage.



WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

One of the highlights of the 2023 season was the Women's World Cup. The club fully embraced the tournament with a themed training jersey and multiple Matildas watch parties at the clubhouse. It was fantastic to see members of all ages and demographics come together to support the Matildas on their record run.

The World Cup also saw a lot of media coverage for Bardon Latrobe FC given our club history of fielding the first recorded women's team in Australia with the Latrobe Ladies.



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

As a community sporting club, we are committed to providing our members with opportunities to socialise and unwind at various social activities during the season.

In addition to the World Cup Watch Parties and the U13 Georges River Tour above, we also had a number of great social events at the club including two entertaining trivia nights and amazing end of season presentation days across our MiniRoo, Junior and Senior cohorts.

FINANCIALS

Once again the club maintained a strong financial position this season which allowed us to deliver a high quality program to all our members while also providing contributions to much needed capital works such as the lighting project.

A full financial report has been compiled by our treasurer and will be independently audited and made available to our members on request. Our grants team continue to work tirelessly to secure funding for further infrastructure projects.



FINAL COMMENT

While this season wasn't without its challenges, I thoroughly enjoyed my time as president this season and am beyond proud of our club's achievements this year. Highlights such as watching our U13 Div 4 win their Grand Final, seeing our QPL team achieve promotion and chaperoning the U12 Georges River tour made all the painful aspects of Presidency worthwhile.

I'd like to take the opportunity again to thank everyone who was involved in making this season a success. I look forward to continuing this success into the 2024 season.

As a final comment, I really hope there is a concerted effort from all levels of government to adequately support the growth of football in Australia, particularly in inner city areas. The Women's World Cup was an overwhelming success but with inner city clubs like Bardon Latrobe already bursting at the seams, it saddens me to think about the army of new players (especially women and girls) who will be excited to play football for the first time next year only to be turned away from their local clubs due to space constraints.

Samuel Irvine Casey

President

CONNECT WITH US



Website

www.bardonlatrobe.org.au



Address

41 David Avenue, Bardon



Email

president@bardonlatrobe.org.au



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