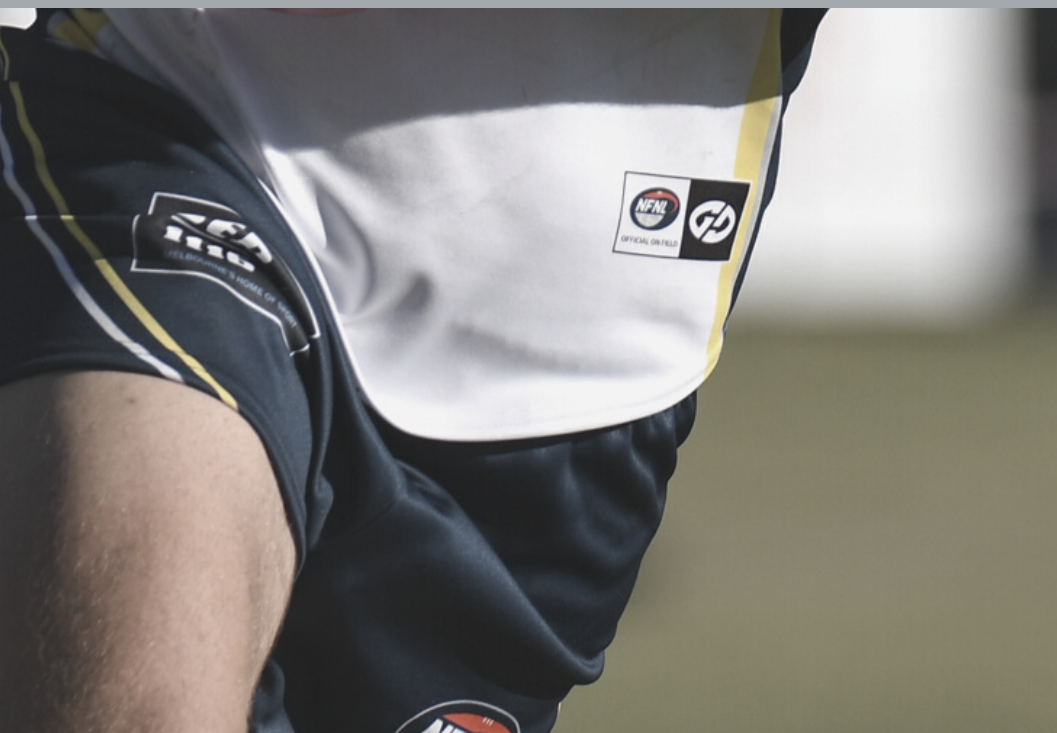




NORTHERN FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



PARTNERS



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STAFF LISTING

Chairman

Scott Walker

Vice Chairman

Michael McLellan

Board Directors

John Anderson

Susan Hecker

Nicolina Lademann

Paul McInerney

Bronwyn Neeson

Steve Sampson

Chief Executive Officer

Peter McDougall

Football Operations Manager

Simon Devine

Administration and Netball Manager

Delwyn Berry

Junior Football Manager

Paul Rogasch

Media Manager

Samuel Zito

Finance Manager

Byron Smith

Finance Officer

Joanne Timewell

Partnerships Co-ordinator

Kelly Walker (to July 30)

Head of Umpiring

Gary Fila (to July 3)

Cameron Nash (from 2021)

Junior Netball Development Officer

Elise Billings (to December 11)

Lauren Theodosis (from 2021)

Netball Umpire Coach

Amanda Dale

AFL Victoria Northern Region Football Development Managers

Phiv Demetriou

Anthony McDonald

CHAIRMAN

On behalf of the directors of the Northern Football Netball League, I present the League's Annual Report for 2020.

The 2020 season had looked promising, with high registrations and enthusiasm amongst all clubs. However, it quickly dawned on everyone that it would be a different year to the one that we were all expecting.

COVID-19 has had a devastating impact globally and our community has been no different, with the NFNL having to respond to the many evolving challenges throughout the year.

Unfortunately, a decision was made to not proceed with our football and netball competitions in 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic forced Melbourne into lockdown during the regular playing months of our competitions.

The NFNL took a lead role in responding to the issues associated with COVID-19, under the leadership of our Chief Executive Officer Peter McDougall and his experienced team. This was also done in partnership with other metropolitan football and netball leagues.

The decisions the NFNL Board made throughout 2020 have been tough but always in the best interests of clubs, players, and the wider community. We know it has been difficult for everyone and that is why the NFNL has shared the burden as much as possible, which has resulted in a financial impact for the league now and in the future.

However, the NFNL has been able to maintain a committed and dedicated workforce who have been flexible and are now ready to bring community sport back to life in the northern region in 2021.

This includes the tireless work of Peter McDougall, with outstanding

support from Simon Devine as Football Operations Manager; Delwyn Berry in so many ways, but particularly in relation to netball; Paul Rogasch as Junior Football Manager and Samuel Zito from a media perspective.

All their work has been exceptional, along with all the league's part-time staff. We are in great hands.

Our clubs have been extremely supportive of the League and I would like to thank them, their members, volunteers and players for their support and responsiveness to changing expectations throughout 2020.

Feedback indicates that clubs are in a strong position and we look forward to them taking that strength in to 2021 and continuing to be such an important part of the local community. We are truly grateful for the work of all the volunteers within the clubs.

Amongst the many changes in 2020, the NFNL headquarters relocated to the wonderful new sports park at La Trobe University Bundoora in February. Our partnership with La Trobe University is a momentous one and kicks off a new era for sport in the northern region, with the NFNL in the centre of the action.

We are also extremely grateful for the continued support of our valued partners. We would like to sincerely thank the following partners:

La Trobe University, AFL Victoria, The Meadows, MC Labour, Mirvac, Winning Edge Presentations, Heidelberg Golf Club, Yarra Valley Water, Game Day Apparel, Grashan Sportswear, Zagame's Reservoir, Alphington Sports Medicine Centre, Colbrow Medics, Cluey Learning, Carlton Football Club, Netball Victoria, Victor Sports, SEDA Group, Sherrin, Sportscast Australia, ANZ, Midas Greensborough, WaterMarc,

TeamApp, Couta Group, Sporting Fine Art, SALT, Plenty Valley FM, Asahi, Schepisi, VIDA Footy, Pat Cronin Foundation, Nathan William Photography and Local Legends.

I would like to thank the Board for their support, focus and care during the year. A big thank you to Michael McLellan, Nicolina Lademann, Bronwyn Neeson, Steve Sampson and new members serving in their first full year Susan Hecker and Paul McNerney.

Steve Sampson recently stepped down from the Board after two years to take up an alternative role in local community sport. We wish Steve all the best but have also welcomed John Anderson on to the Board in his place.

There are many people who work extremely hard for their local community with so many dedicated people right across the NFNL.

We thank you for your time and efforts. We need you now more than ever so that we can all return better and stronger in season 2021 .

Scott Walker
Chairman



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

I would like to thank all NFNL clubs for the fantastic way you have worked with us throughout 2020, and for the way you all have navigated your way through the most difficult season since World War II.

The last time a season did not go ahead in our league was in 1945 due to WWII. Who would have thought that 75 years later we would not play a season for such a very different reason?

When presented with tough times, it puts everyone under pressure to manage many issues simultaneously, and it would be understandable to falter along the way.

As the entire community was doing it tough during the COVID-19 pandemic, you all managed to deal with your own personal challenges as well as manage your club, and work with us at the same time.

I would like to also acknowledge the tremendous goodwill demonstrated by our 450 umpires, who overwhelmingly supported a pay cut to help clubs keep their costs down in 2020 and, also, in 2021. Thank you to each and every one of our umpiring group for your support of the NFNL and our member clubs. It is greatly appreciated.

2020 will unfortunately forever be remembered for the pain and suffering felt by many people throughout the world. Many lives have been lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we must always keep in perspective where community sport sits in comparison to the health and wellbeing of our community.

To navigate through the complexities and to plan for the unknown was extremely difficult. As hard as it was to cancel all football and netball competitions in 2020, ultimately the decision was taken out of hands as Melbourne grappled to contain the spread of the virus.

2020 started on an exciting note for the NFNL, with the league relocating our headquarters to the brand new and state-of-the-art La Trobe University Sports Park in February. This will be the home of the NFNL for at least the next 20 years.

Unfortunately, this year we did not spend much time in our new office, but this move is a significant milestone for the league.

I would like to acknowledge Russell Hoyer from La Trobe University for his tremendous support in making this venture possible. In addition to the NFNL being based within the University's Bundoora campus, La Trobe University will also be the major naming rights partner of the NFNL for the next 20 years.

Having no competitions run in 2020 placed the NFNL under considerable financial pressure and, as I frequently said to all clubs during the year, our aim was to minimise the financial impact on all member clubs, with the NFNL to wear the brunt of the financial impact.

As expected, we traded at a loss in 2020. However, the final outcome exceeded our expectations and considering the year we had, the result could have been a lot worse.

We were also committed to making sure that we did not have any clubs come back in 2021 worse off than they were at the start of 2020. To the best of my knowledge, every club has improved their financial position, which is a credit to every club committee.

2020 was also tough for many of the NFNL's partners. Unfortunately, quite a few of our partners were not in a position to provide the level of support they had planned to. As a league we fully understood their position and our priority was that they look after themselves to ensure their business survives.

Fortunately, some were able to contribute all or some of their commitment to us and I express my deepest appreciation to Yarra Valley Water, Mirvac, Heidelberg Golf Club, Schepsi, TAC, SEDA, Zagame's Reservoir, Winning Edge, Couta, Cluey Learning, Game Day Apparel and Grashan Sportswear.

To my amazing administration team, who remained committed to the NFNL and continued to provide support to all clubs whilst on reduced pay conditions. I send a big thank you to Simon Devine (Football Operations Manager), Delwyn Berry (Administration and Netball Manager), Samuel Zito (Media Manager), Paul Rogasch (Junior Football Manager), Byron Smith (Finance Manager), Joanne Timewell (Finance Officer), Gary Fila (Head of Umpiring) and Kelly Walker (Partnerships Co-ordinator).

The NFNL is indeed fortunate to have a committed team of directors, who are dedicated to the growth and development of our league.

The support of Chairman Scott Walker and the Board to myself and all our staff has been outstanding. Everyone on the board has been a pleasure to work with and I thank you all for your continued support and commitment to the NFNL.

I cannot express how proud I am of every club for the way you managed 2020, and I am looking forward to getting all our competitions back up and running in 2021.

Peter McDougall
Chief Executive Officer



FANS' TEAM OF THE DECADE

2010-19

Coach



Garry Ramsay
Macleod, Lower Plenty,
Montmorency, Watsonia

B



Ben McNiece
Northcote Park



Nick Riddle
Greensborough



Ben Shelton
Bundoora

HB



Justin White
Macleod



Brad Leggett
Macleod



Jack Johnston
Greensborough

C



Jesse Donaldson
Montmorency, Diamond
Creek



Bronik Davies
Northcote Park



Michael Brunelli
Heidelberg

HF



Shane Harvey
North Heidelberg



Cameron Cloke
Bundoora, Hurstbridge



Tim Bongetti
Greensborough

F



Gary Moorcroft
Bundoora



Pat Fitzgerald
Montmorency



Ahmed Saad
West Preston-Lakeside

FOL



Matthew Dennis
Bundoora



Lucas Hobbs
Macleod, Whittlesea



Brent Harvey
North Heidelberg

INT



Matthew Hyde
Greensborough, Bundoora



Anton Woods
Eltham



Matthew Vasilevski
Thomastown, Lower Plenty,
W Preston-Lakeside, Bundoora



Patrick Flynn
Lower Plenty

2020 AFL & AFLW DRAFTS

Eight NFNL alumni were selected in the 2020 AFL and AFLW Drafts.

Nik Cox, Bailey Laurie, Liam McMahon and Josh Eyre were taken inside the top 40 picks of the 2020 AFL Draft.

Meanwhile, Jessica Fitzgerald and Alyssa Bannan were both top-five selections in the 2020 AFLW Draft, with Georgia Hammond and Bess Keaney also picked up by AFLW clubs.

Essendon used its first selection in the AFL Draft to take Cox at pick No. 8, before selecting Eyre at No. 39.

Laurie was drafted by Melbourne at pick No. 22, while McMahon found his way to Collingwood at No. 31.

A key position player from Montmorency Junior Football Club, Cox had long been earmarked as a top-10 prospect.

He represented Vic Metro at the 2019 AFL Under-18 Championships, was a member of the NAB AFL Academy and was named co-captain of the Northern Knights in 2020, prior to the cancelled NAB League campaign.

Standing 200cm, Cox boasts remarkable athleticism and was one of the top performers at the Vic Metro Draft Combine - running the 20m sprint in 2.95 secs and the 2km time trial in 6:05 mins, the third-best result of all Draft Combines.

Laurie began his football journey with Diamond Creek Junior Football Club, before moving to Beverley Hills and progressing to the Oakleigh Chargers.

He represented Vic Metro at the 2018 AFL Under-16 Championships and impressed in seven NAB League matches for the Chargers in 2019.

An NFNL representative at both under-14 and under-15 level, McMahon played junior football with both Eltham Football Club and Greensborough Junior Football Club.

He burst into draft contention with a promising 2019 NAB League campaign, where he kicked 14 goals in 15 appearances as a bottom-age player for the Northern Knights.

A product of Kilmore, Eyre played eight games for the Calder Cannons during the 2019 NAB League season and was part of Essendon's Next Generation Academy.

Standing 198cm, he was a standout at the Vic Country Draft Combine, finishing second in each of the 2km time trial, 20-metre sprint and the running and standing vertical jumps.

Fitzgerald, who was selected by the Western Bulldogs at pick No. 2 in the AFLW Draft, began her football journey with Bundoora Park and was a member of the club's under-9 team in its inaugural season in 2011.

The following year she was among the best players in the Thunderbolts' Under-10 Red grand final victory.

After taking a break from the game for several years, she returned to football with St Mary's, before moving on to the Northern Knights.

She won the best on ground medal in the Knights' 2019 NAB League Girls grand final win.

Bannan, taken by Melbourne at pick No.5, was also a key figure in the Knights' 2019 NAB League Girls premiership, and was a member of the 2020 AFL Women's Academy,

The South Morang and Diamond Creek Women's junior starred for Vic Metro at the 2019 AFLW U18 Championships and was part of the NFNL's Under-15 Girls premiership team at the 2017 AFL Victoria Metro Junior Championships.

Bannan won the 2016 NFNL Under-14 Girls Best and Fairest in 2016 and also tied for the 2020 Section 2 Summer Netball Best and Fairest.

North Melbourne drafted Hammond as a mature-age recruit at pick 44. She was a regular in Darebin's VFL line-up and played two matches in the NFNL Division 1 Women's competition in 2017 and 2018.

A former field hockey player, Keaney only began playing football in recent years, but was selected by Gold Coast with pick No. 58.

She was drafted from VFLW club Southern Saints but began her football career with Melbourne University - where she played eight matches in the NFNL Division 1 Women's competition in 2017.



OUR VISION

To provide the best and most inclusive sport to our community.

OUR VALUES

INCLUSIVE - We will create an inclusive and quality environment for all.

TRANSPARENT - We will be transparent, authentic, respectful and fair.

INTEGRITY - We will act with integrity and honesty.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT - We will challenge each other to seek continuous improvement.

STRATEGIC PLAN PILLARS

PARTICIPATION - Recruit, retain and support participants and volunteers.

- Increase opportunities for people to participate in community football and netball in the Northern region.
- Ensure all participants in the NFNL actively support the delivery of a positive, safe, family-friendly environment.
- Ensure the best possible standard of umpiring and coaching occurs in all NFNL competitions.
- Provide meaningful pathway opportunities for NFNL players, coaches and umpires.
- Introduce new participants to the NFNL through the establishment of a junior netball competition.

LEAGUE AND CLUB DEVELOPMENT - A vibrant and sustainable league and clubs.

- Provide club volunteers with support and education opportunities.
- Provide opportunities for NFNL clubs to contribute to the direction of the NFNL.
- Monitor NFNL club performance to ensure the sustainability of the NFNL and its clubs.
- Develop, maintain and enforce a set of policies and standards.
- Ensure there is a volunteer recognition program.
- Ensure there is a Club of the Year award for juniors and seniors.

FACILITIES - Football and netball facilities that are inclusive and support growth.

- Develop a regional facilities strategy to identify opportunities for new and improved club facilities.
- Continue to advocate for facility development to all levels of government.
- Continue to partner with the education sector to provide and/or improve facilities for NFNL clubs.
- Assist clubs in developing facility improvement projects.
- Ensure the NFNL has a visible and recognisable "home" in the Northern region of Melbourne.

GOVERNANCE AND PEOPLE - A high performing, professional and engaged board and staff.

- Ensure the NFNL is a financially sustainable organisation.
- Ensure the NFNL has a sustainable, transparent and effective governance system.
- Develop and maintain effective relationships and partnerships with key stakeholders.
- Maximise licensing benefits for the NFNL and stakeholders.
- Develop and implement aligned values for board and staff.
- Attract and recruit quality people from diverse backgrounds to the NFNL.
- Continue to develop and communicate the NFNL brand and image.



NORTHERN FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE

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ABN: 86 607 912 971



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY