

# FOOTSCRAY HOCKEY CLUB

## UNDER-AGE DIVISION

### ANNUAL REPORT – DEC 2009

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#### **1. Introduction.**

It's been another record breaking year for the FHC juniors:

- attended a record 33 schools pre-season and distributed 10,000 FHC postcards
- ran our biggest ever four week Come 'N Try program involving food and drink each night plus showbags for the kids attending.
- recruited a record 76 new players.
- had a record 20 teams (incl. Minkey).
- had a record 237 players
- for the first time ever, had an equal balance of boys and girls (118 boys, 119 girls)
- a record 44 representative players
- played in 5 of the 7 'A' grades (will be 6 next year).
- Most Successful Girls Program (second year in a row)
- Ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> most successful junior program overall (out of 67)

This performance is a reward for eight years of increased hard work with our juniors, and I wish to put out a great thank-you to the 100 or so volunteers who contributed to the operation of our junior division in 2009.

#### **2. Elite Level Representation.**

Another area in which FHC juniors had a record-breaking season. FHC dominated Western Wildcats selections with a record 37 children selected for the junior state championships, and a club record 8 children were selected to play for Victoria!

Congratulations to Georgia Hopkins, Kaitlin Grimaldi, Reid Sargent, Olivia Colasurdo, Oscar Allan, Sarah Breen, Alexandra Leeder and Scott Shaw on your selections, and a huge congratulations and thank-you to the coaches that have taught and inspired these kids to get where they are today.

#### **3. Development Programs.**

Particular thanks to Michelle Leeder and Anne Robinson whose respective stewardship of the G/Keeper and Umpire Dev. Programs continue to achieve outstanding results. Thank-you to their helpers also.

#### **4. Team Coaches.**

Our standard of junior coaching continues to be one of our greatest assets, with elite level coaching on display across the range of our 20 X 2008 teams. We conducted a number of specialist courses in 2009, as well as having interested coaches trained in

the 'game sense' model of coaching (which has been implemented with our 2010 U9's and U10's via a six week program through November and December).

Many of our coaches are racking-up significant multi-year commitments to the FHC juniors, and are the real bedrock upon which our junior division rise is occurring. Congratulations FHC junior coaches – you are up there with the best junior coaching groups strutting their stuff in Victoria!

#### **5. Social Activity / Transition to Seniors.**

Another terrific year in terms of junior parental participation in whole-of-club activities (especially the Australian Mens Veterans Championships). We need to ensure a welcoming environment for our children into the senior side of the club, and the linkages (on field and off) that our families are making between the junior and senior sections are a major success at the moment. Thank-you also to the senior section administrators / coaches / selectors that are doing their parts to manage these processes successfully.

#### **6. Facilities.**

FHC's facilities are amongst the best community club type facilities in the world. In 2010 we were able to add a magnificent junior training / warm-up space to our assets, an area that took the pressure off our demand for training space each night. Set up as a full-size indoor hockey court, this space will allow us to run a variety of specialist training programs in the years ahead, and provides the kids with a wonderful casual hit-up area as well.

#### **7. FHC Board Support.**

Thanks to the FHC Board for another year of unquestioned support for our junior programs. This has been particularly highlighted by end of year initiatives that will lend strong support to our young players that are already in the mens and ladies State League squads. These initiatives had to happen now as we stand to gain (or lose!) so much in coming seasons if we don't create the highest possible playing opportunities for our young talent. The Board has responded accordingly!

**Regards to all – Brendan Sheehan**