



The Bulldog Banter



I would like to wish all the members and families of the Footscray Hockey Club a very special Christmas and happy New Year. It is really a great time of year to relax and celebrate the successes of 2015 and plan your goals for 2016. I hope that spending time with your family and friends brings you joy and fun, and some love too.

I am looking forward to 2016 to see the re-development of the Clubrooms kick off (in October) as well as consolidation of our Premier League status, and expanding hockey in all grades to as many people as we can during the year. It is a great sport where you can start around age 6 and go until you can go no more70's, 80's who knows. I aim to start a fitness campaign in 2016 so that I can be in better shape to play hockey for longer, as well as undertake my work and various other responsibilities with greater ease. "Fit-for-purpose" is what I am aiming at and I trust that you can also be fit-for-purpose in 2016 too.

Take care of yourself and others over the festive season and we will see you back for more hockey in 2016.

Regards

Rodney Johnstone (RJ)
Club Chairman

2015 Annual General Meeting

Thank you to those members that attended the 2015 Annual General Meeting held at the Footscray Hockey Centre on Sunday 6th December.

At the meeting the following positions were filled on the Board:

Chairman/Sponsorship Director - Rodney Johnstone

Vice President/Women's Director - Nicole Virtuoso

Men's Section Director - Darryl Jahnke

Masters Section Director - Damien Toussaint

Junior Section Director - David Braiden

Planning & Performance - Brendan Sheehan

Treasurer - Cindy Poole

General Secretary - Lauren Dick

Grounds & Pavilion - Colin Braithwaite

Retail Operations Director - Karen Johnstone

Please find attached Directors Reports from the 2015 AGM.



The best is about to get better!

Those members who attended the AGM last weekend heard of exciting plans to re-develop our pavilion to make it a model twenty-first century community space. Originally two pavilions built side-by-side (the western half originally housing the Yarraville Soccer Club), the whole building became fully ours when we expanded to two synthetic turf fields fifteen or so years ago. The resultant building has always been the best in Victorian hockey, but exhibited a lot of duplication (two kitchens for example), and in recent years has been showing its age in many ways.

Maribyrnong Council first spoke to us several years ago about their commitment to replace our worn toilet and shower blocks, and they placed \$440,000 in their 2016/2017 budget to facilitate those works. FHC took the opportunity to suggest to Council that the whole building design be looked at because we were aware of deficiencies with our catering (kitchen / kiosk) provision, inadequate meeting and storage spaces, inadequate player preparation / recovery amenities, our gymnasium space could be improved, and so on. This led to preliminary investigations of the building by different Council inspectors, who added to the urgency of the project by identifying that their / our pavilion was now well out of compliance with modern standards for disability access and the contemporary design required for food preparation and handling.

Despite all of these issues, Council officers / inspectors have, to a person, been lavish in their praise of FHC for the brilliant manner in which our volunteers and members have maintained and presented our home. They all comment on the pride and professionalism that they sense as they review the Footscray Hockey Centre pavilion, and we're sure that this recognition has worked in

our favour as we've negotiated an increase in the project scope from the original \$440,000 toilet / shower replacement to what is now an \$840,000 complete building upgrade.

Stage 1 works involve all of the ground floor alterations, and they are due to take place immediately at the end of the 2016 playing season. The key changes will be the creation of a consolidated kitchen / kiosk / bar precinct, the creation of separate shower / toilet amenities off each of the four change-rooms (no more shared shower blocks), all new 'public' toilet facilities, an upgrade of one of those changeroom amenity precincts to include an ice-bath and a massage / physio room, a separate toilet / shower room for people with disabilities, a regulation-compliant staircase to our first floor storage, and the creation of a space that will house a lift which will be installed in 'Stage 2'.

Stage 2 works (yet to be funded at this point in time) will include the installation of that lift, the placement of a floor above our four changerooms which will be utilised as a large meeting room and a smaller meeting / 'Board' room, new storage spaces and a better designed gymnasium.

Your Board is working closely with our Ward Councillor Cr Michael Clarke to find ways in which the entire project could be constructed in one go, thereby minimising the disruption to our operations and giving us earlier access to the facilities that we need. Keep your fingers crossed for us in that regard, and if you have any comments on the concept design appended to this newsletter, make your thoughts known to Brendan asap (0405061536)!

HOCKEY HQ

****Cyclone Jacket****

Available 2016



\$110



In 2016 we are introducing the Cyclone Jacket as part of our off field gear, fully lined with polo fleece to keep you warm throughout the season. Sample on display at Hockey HQ.

All jackets can be ordered to suit your sizing, for example if you are a M for size but sleeves are either too long or short this can be adjusted to fit you correctly at no extra cost.

Fitting times 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Dates: 9th, 11th, 16th & 18th February.

Men, Women and Youth sizing available.

All orders must be placed by 20th February and will require a \$50 deposit and balance upon delivery approx. 8

NB: Limited Stock of standard sizing will be kept in store.

Is this the FHC that you experience?

Later this year FHC will conduct a formal process to update its 'Strategic Plan'. The current 5 year model runs out at the end of 2016, and it will be timely that we take a look at where we are now at as a Club, define where we want to go over the next 5 years, and work out a plan of how we get to those targets.

As part of putting the current plan together in December 2011, we clarified our Club's 'Purpose', its 'Vision' (half a dozen characteristics that we wanted to see define our organisation by 2016), and also the 'Core Values' that we see as ideally underpinning our growth as a club.

Those 'Core Values' were / are:

- Welcoming, friendly, caring
- Inclusive
- Respectful
- Ethical, high integrity, good sportsmanship, and
- Club first (not 'team' or 'individual').

In some ways, the values defined in those top three dot points go together, and they are encapsulated by a new banner that the Club will be hanging in our pavilion this coming week which celebrates both our commitment to 'Inclusion' and 'Diversity', but also our judgement that we achieve a pretty high score if marked against those top three values.

A welcoming and inclusive club is defined in Hockey Victoria's Strategic Plan as:

'a club where everyone is made to feel welcome, regardless of their ability, background or personal attributes. A welcoming and inclusive sporting club is a safe and friendly place which is free of harassment and discrimination'.

As a long-term Board member I am very happy to report that we have a clean record in terms of having to investigate any incidences where harassment or discrimination has occurred, but it begs the question: 'Could such incidences occur within our Club, but not be reported to or known about by our leadership'?

I really hope that this article doesn't uncover abuses of these values, because I feel a real pride that across our membership we are characterised by people that don't care about gender, sexual orientation, age, cultural / linguistic background, level of ability / disability, and so on. I hope that we have a membership which welcomes this diversity, and makes every member or guest feel really safe and happy within our own community.

I love the fact that these values are lived within our organisation without there having been any great campaign to focus upon them. These commitments are just there because of great general leadership over the years, and because good people come to FHC, like what they find / feel, and stay on – adding their bit to the 'culture' that defines our club.

So when you walk under our 'Inclusion and Diversity' banner in coming times, reflect on whether it truly represents a core value of this club, of how you contribute to its relevance, and how we ensure that every minute in-between the now highly-promoted campaigns around these issues, we add substance to these statements.

Brendan Sheehan – Director: Planning & Performance



Canteen Management Position - Vacant

Our current Canteen Manager Bronwynne Livingston has resigned from her position with the club to take on a new position outside the club. On behalf of the board I wish Bronwynne all the best in her new role and thank her for the fine job she has done for the club.

Therefore, the position is now vacant and the club is looking for suitable people to employ to manage and operate our canteen. This is a paid position and is supported by volunteer rosters arranged during busy periods.

Due to the many hours the canteen is required to be open, job sharing will certainly be considered and this will depend on the flexibility and circumstances of applicants.

Further information and a copy of "Canteen Manager Position Description" are available by contacting Karen Johnstone via email fhcretail@gmail.com

Support our Sponsors that Support Us!

Please support the following sponsors that provide a commission to the club when you utilise their services. Remember to mention that you're a member of Footscray Hockey Club!



Calling all Masters!

If you're keen to get involved in Masters hockey in 2016 please register your interest with Masters Director, Damien Toussaint.

[Click here](#) to register your interest.

Further information regarding all player registrations will be available in the new year so keep an eye out on the Club website, Facebook page or Club App!

HOCKEY SUPER CAMP!

WHEN
**Monday 18th &
Tuesday 19th January, 2016**

INCLUDES

- 10 hours of skill development
- Individual feedback report
- Cordial and fruit supplied
- Guaranteed small group

HEAD COACH

MEGAN BERRIMAN

- Victorian Vipers 2009—2013
- Footscray Premier League Captain

CONTACT

berriman.megan@gmail.com OR 0449 877 717

JUNIOR CAMP
AGES 7—13 YRS

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2 DAY CAMP
\$200 per player

WHERE
**Footscray Hockey
Centre**
Fogarty Avenue, Yar-
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**ONLY 4 PLACES
LEFT**



CONTACT ME NOW
**To secure your
child's spot in this
exciting Hockey
camp!**

DON'T MISS OUT!!!

Following a recent break in during summer hockey, it is a timely reminder to all members to ensure you do not leave valuables in your vehicle, particularly where they are visible.



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