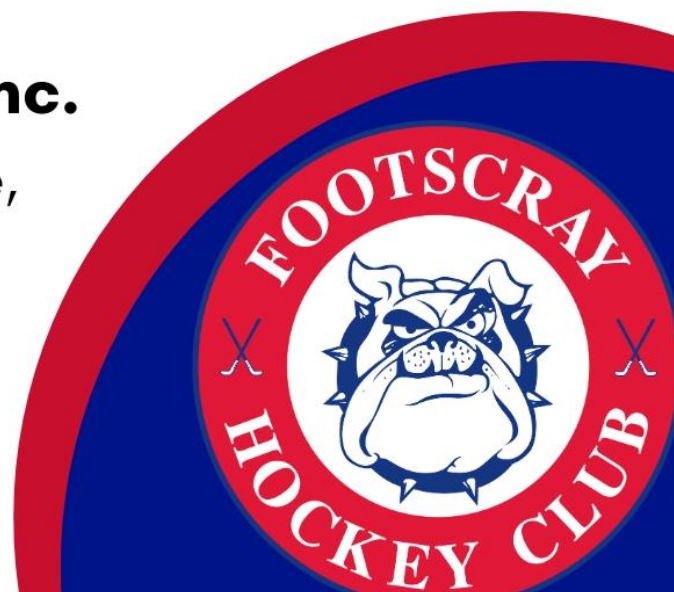




# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

## **Footscray Hockey Club Inc.**

Mclvor Reserve, Fogarty Avenue,  
Yarraville VIC 3013  
[footscrayhockey.com.au](http://footscrayhockey.com.au)



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another eventful year on and off the pitch at the kennel for our 91th year. Our Premier League teams both held the grades, with an outstanding performance by our Men's PL team to make the top 6. 3 shield premierships and 1 runners up flag another great achievement. FHC being awarded the Best Junior Boys Club in 2025, Jack Tamblyn The Best & Fairest for the U16 Shield competition as well as the Hookin2Hockey Club of the year at the Hockey Victoria Awards Night. An honourable achievement for Connor Tuddenham being awarded the Finn McNab Men's PL Best & Fairest. We were saddened to hear of the passing of life member Bobbie Speed and longtime parent supporters Wal Hopkins and Arthur Toussaint.

The League and Shield teams would not have been able to succeed without the huge depth we have at Footscray Hockey Club and all our reserves, pennant, metro, district and masters grades are just as important and achieved outstanding results in their own right. FHC ran the second year of the U8 and U10 Hockey Hub venue and a successful HV Carnival Day coordinated by Junior Director Cindy Blay. A notable mention to Men's Metro 1, who always have a September appearance, winning the flag again.

Off field we aimed to ensure operations, events and projects were set up for success for the year and although we had budgeted for a loss, the final financial position was as expected. Although our membership numbers were strong this year, rising costs associated with umpires, team entires and administration and running the grounds. We will need to look at increasing our fees next season. Disappointingly, we parted ways with Osaka in delivering our uniform as they had difficulty sending correct samples. We are not engaged with another supplier and working through options.

## Key Highlights:

- 2025 membership 630, (2019 602, 2022 630, 2023 600, 2024 592)
- Hosted Stand Out Cup tournament
- Met the 2025 Premier League Entry Criteria
- Record junior representation in Western Wildcats, HV Academy, Victorian State Teams
- Successful Inclusion Rounds NAIDOC, Men's Health Round, Women's Round, Pride Round, Men's Mental Health Round
- Social events Trivia Night, Ipod Shuffle Night, Round 18 Function
- 13 teams in finals, 5 junior teams, 2 masters, 3 Men, 2 Women. 4 premiership flags, 4 runners up
- Expansion of volunteerism and volunteer sub-committees
- Successful Hookin2Hockey program that boosted U6,U8 and U10 numbers
- Entering of a 7th Men's Team and U18 junior team
- Best year to date for sponsorship income to the club
- Held Premier League in the Women's section
- The FHC Summer Mixed competition - fielding 12 teams

## Full Fee Review

The board has undertaken an extensive review of club fees and in particular the comparison to other Premier League Clubs based on 2025 fees. Without a doubt we are by far the cheapest hockey club in Melbourne. A feat which we are proud of with regards to supporting our members, we do this be heavily subsidising fees via other revenue sources. We will have to increase our fees for the 2026 season as



our other revenue sources are hitting their peak capacity with the volunteers driving those initiatives.

## FEE COMPARRISON 2025

	FHC	Altona	DON	MCC	MNT	SUHC	WAV	TEM	GRN
Senior	640 (inc \$50 levy) (PL + Sponosr \$275)	655	710 (PL + 155)	710 (PL + 180)	720	755	755 (PL + 150)	850 (PL + 100)	892.5
Student/Consession	500 (inc \$50 levy)	520	600 (PL + 150)	590 (PL + 120)	610	600	605 (PL + 105)	650 (PL + 90)	777
Masters	520 (inc \$50 levy)	655	500	525	530	595	585	600	724.5
Senior & Masters	860 (inc \$50 levy)	655	985	920	940	905	1135	1080	1669.5
Goal Keeper	250	210	365	270	340	N/A	375	570	231
Junior playing Seniors	500	520	770	710	610	500	755	850	619.5
Junior U12 - U18	310 (inc \$50 Levy)	300	385	395	390	310	395	530	451.5
U10 / U8	200	170	180	160	210	185	180	300	not listed

ESS, BPH - not listed on website

### 2026 Plan

Looking ahead to 2026 the board will be working on the following projects:

- Ensuring our membership numbers match or exceeds 2025
- Continuing to review our success against the strategic plan 2023 - 2026
- Introduction of an additional 7th Men's team and an U18 junior team
- Establishing sub-committees and increasing volunteerism across all areas of the club
- Negotiating Council Lease Agreement and commencing plans for the ASF pitch replacement
- Fulfilling 2026 League Entry Criteria (including finishing top 10 in PL for Men and Women)
- Continued focus on Come and Try and delivery of HV U8 and U10 junior program
- Delivering the Stand Out Cup and Junior State Championships Tournaments

I wish to thank all the Board members for their many countless hours of dedication to the Club that we all love and aim to promote for the benefit of all members. Your time and energy are appreciated by me as Chairperson and by all the members. Thank you to all the coaches, team managers, coordinators, canteen volunteers and every single person who contributed to the betterment of the club.

I'd like to particularly give a shout out to Andrew Boyle for his continued support and efforts in the role of 'Grounds Director', Andrew is not continuing in the role. Thank you also to Karen Johnstone for your support with the finances and to Sally Walsh our canteen manager for your continued work and all the extra hours you volunteer on top of your role.

Huge thanks to Greg Hopkins for his 4 year service on the Board as Planning & Performance. Greg commenced on the board after the passing of Brendan Sheehan and just as we were coming out of the pandemic and he led the club with the current strategic plan and continued Brendan's legacy, leaving the club in a very solid position.

All the best for the festive season and we hope to see everyone's smiling faces in 2026.

**Nicole Virtuoso**  
**President**

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

2025 marked my first year in the role of Secretary, and I would like to begin by sincerely thanking the Board for their support and guidance throughout the year. In particular, I want to acknowledge President and Women's Director, Nicole Virtuoso, for her ongoing mentorship and encouragement, and Rod Fuentes who supported my transition as I navigated this new position. It has been both a learning experience and a privilege to contribute to the ongoing success and governance of Footscray Hockey Club.

## Governance and Administration

A key focus this year was ensuring that the Club's governance documents, policies, and administrative processes remain strong and up to date. This included:

- Implementing the Constitutional amendments that were proposed and endorsed at the 2024 AGM.
- Reviewing and updating FHC Policies to align with the most recent Hockey Victoria and Hockey Australia standards, including format corrections and formal endorsement by the Board.
- Updating FHC Policies to align with Club community standards, as discussed and proposed in regular Board Meetings.
- Working in partnership with Good Sports to ensure that our club policies reflect contemporary community health concerns—particularly addressing vaping in sports settings and promoting healthy environments for all members.
- Supporting member registrations, transfers, and clearances through Revolutionise Sport as our membership base continues to expand across senior and junior programs.
- Maintaining Club governance records internally and on the FHC external website.

## Club and Community Engagement

In addition to administrative responsibilities, I supported and participated in initiatives that celebrate inclusivity, connection, and community:

- Assisted with the Senior Club Person of the Year process by communicating nomination criteria to members, reviewing submissions, and participating in the selection panel. Congratulations to Amanda Braiden, a most deserving recipient.
- Contributed to the Social Media Sub-Committee, helping to strengthen our digital presence through Facebook, Instagram, and the club website. I also began writing and posting club updates to share achievements, promote events, and celebrate the many successes of our members.

## Events and Acknowledgments

Footscray Hockey Club continues to deliver an outstanding calendar of community and inclusion events that embody our values. My sincere thanks to the dedicated volunteers who make these possible:

- Stand Out Cup (Sunday 23 February 2025): hosted in partnership with Hockey Victoria, this event celebrates inclusion and the LGBTQIA+ community in sport. Thank you to Karen Johnstone, Andrew Boyle, and Sally Walsh for a fantastic day.
- Indigenous Family Day (Saturday 26 July): led by Gabrielle Minett and Emma Robinson, this annual event acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we play and recognises the ongoing impacts of colonisation on First Peoples.
- Inclusion Rounds – Women's Round, Men's Health Round, Pride Round, and Indigenous Round – coordinated through the dedicated efforts of Amanda Braiden, whose leadership ensures the delivery of medals and celebrations across Juniors, Women's, Men's, and Masters teams.

## Looking Ahead

As we move into 2026, I look forward to continuing to strengthen our governance foundations, streamline communication processes, and support the Board and sub-committees to ensure that our club's administration reflects the professionalism of our on-field performance. My goal is to further build our documentation systems, enhance volunteer engagement, and continue celebrating the diverse people who make Footscray Hockey Club such a vibrant community.

If anyone would like to be involved in Club events, inclusion work, or social media for the Club, please get in touch. Volunteering is the lifeblood of local sporting clubs and we would love to have as many members as possible in all sections of the Club to keep FHC delivering great experiences for members and the community.

**Scarlett Fitzpatrick**  
**General Secretary**

# WOMEN'S DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## Summary

The aim of the 2025 season was to consolidate in every grade while fielding 8 teams successfully, and that we did. Although only 2 teams in finals, we made 2 grand finals with 2 runners up premiers by Women's reserves and Women's Pennant D, both being the underdogs. The return, recruitment and the welcoming of many new members to the pre-season certainly was exciting for the pending season.

Alex Shirley served his 4th full season of hockey and although the team were under the pump most of the season, fielding the youngest squads in PL and Reserves, the PL squad earned vital points in games that counted and solidified a PL spot by round 16. Thank you to Craig Morton for filling in for 5 weeks of coaching while Alex was abroad. Harry Zac as a trusty team manager (definitely dressed in bright colours for the inclusion rounds) was of course behind the girls with gusto, this year was his final year of team managing.

Reserves had a consistent season finishing 5th on the ladder and Runners Up Premiers - an outstanding achievement after Phil Frost's return, Michele Doolan as the team manager. Congratulations to Monica Singh for the second year in the row taking out the highest goal scorer in the entire Reserves competition.

contention or nudging a finals spot and were well out of relegation zone. Women's Pennant D came runners up Premiers from 3<sup>rd</sup> on the ladder, a significant achievement.

PA finished 6th (Tahlya Sleep), Pennant B 5th (Julian Pratt), Pennant C 8th (Phylicia Taylor), Pennant D 3<sup>rd</sup> (Craig Williams & Rodney Johnstone) Pennant E 8<sup>th</sup> (Mel Sanders) Metro 1 7<sup>th</sup>. (Tania Bezzobs)

U14 Zoe Higgins, Adi Sanders

Dev Emily Shepard

U16 Freya Hudson, Ruby Gorton  
(Ruby Gorton U16 Australian Squad)

Dev Kiarra Massa, Puneet Kaur, Sage Toussaint

U18 Jaime Lam, Ruby Gorton  
Digney

Dev Ava Doolan, Anya Dreyer, Evelyn Boyle, Erika

U17 Hockey Club Melbourne Futures

Erika Digney, Anya Dreyer, Ruby Gorton, Mai Lorezen, Kiara Massa (coached by Paul Schram)

Shout out to Zoe Brown winning the Best U18 umpiring seniors award by Hockey Victoria.

We have a stream of young state players coming through and multitudes more knocking on the door right behind them, together with our valued senior members – our future looks extremely bright.

## Acknowledgments

Thank you to all those who contributed to the administration support and social support. Karen Johnstone, Angela Thompson, Sue Milford, Heather Shaw, Amanda Bradfield, Amanda Braiden, Liam Braithwaite, Cindy Blay, David Gorton and Lynda Thomas. Thank you to our photographers, Ric Wiseman, Frank Massa, Bronwyn Massa, Anna Encio. Thanks to Heather for the terrific PL & RES afternoon teas.

Thank you to our terrific team managers, Harry Zac PL, Michelle Doolan RES, Siobhan Hannon PA, Iian Carruthers PB, Giulia Wiseman PC, Karen Johnstone PD, Mel Sanders PE, Sharon Pollard M1.

Big thanks to Alex Shirley for his contributions to the Women's section Premier League association and coaching for the past 7 years. You came to the club right before the pandemic and put your best foot forward at every stage for the betterment of the players, team and club. All the best with your next ventures.

Thanks to our sponsors who have committed, we hope you are back on board in 2025.

## Looking Ahead

We look forward to next season, consolidating the 2025 results and striving for better results in 2026.

Thanks again to everyone, have a great 2025 festive season.

**Nicole Virtuoso**  
**Women's Director**

# MEN'S DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## Summary

It was a strong performance from the Men's section in the 2025 season, with 5 of the 7 teams making it through to finals action.

Congratulations to the Metro 1 team who secured a fourth premiership in a row, an extraordinary achievement from a team perspective and one that should receive the recognition it genuinely deserves.

Whilst Pennant D made it all the way through to the prelim final, they couldn't quite overcome a strong MCC team and concluded their season just short of making it to the big dance. An exceptional season nonetheless, and another example of a team blending the deep experience from the Men's section and the youth from our Junior section to achieve a great outcome for the year.

It was a slightly tougher and earlier end to the final's campaigns for our PL, PLR, and PB teams, but again, a fantastic demonstration of the depth of experience from our Men's section combined with a wealth of emerging talent from our Junior playing group.

Overall, we have continued to deliver opportunities for juniors transitioning into seniors this season, although on reflection, there are some learnings to take from the process of engaging juniors in their first senior games. This will be addressed in a fresh approach transitioning junior players into the senior section for the 2026 season.

In PLR, our average player age for the season was 19 to 20 depending on selections from week to week. In PA, removing a couple of outliers that were DU's for less than 3 games, the average age was 22. These numbers, combined with our continued strong presence in pathway junior teams, represents a strong picture for the Men's section moving forward. Having said that, we're still looking to adopt a strong recruitment plan for 2026 in support of the already established based of experience and youth.

Overall, we're excited as a Men's section heading into the 2026 season, looking to springboard from the strong performances across the grades in 2025.

**Col Keating**  
**Men's Director**



# JUNIOR'S DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## Overview

The FHC Juniors section had 250+ members in 2025 across our Under 6, Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, Under 14, Under 16 and Under 18 teams. We hope our new FHC families, coaches and players feel welcome and supported by our FHC hockey community.

Nicole Virtuoso started our 2025 year strong with the delivery of our successful local school roadshows and Come & Try sessions, these are important in introducing hockey to potential players and their families. Over 2025 there were over 140 participants attending our Come & Try sessions and over 2000 participants were seen during local school roadshows. We are fortunate that many are now continuing their hockey journey with FHC. A massive thank you to Nicole for driving these initiatives, and the coaches who help run these school roadshows and Come & Try sessions.

The Under 6 mini bulldogs were guided in learning and developing hockey skills by experienced coach, Julie-Anne Sheehan (JA) with assistant coaches - Maggie Warren, Halle Hitch and Andi Chisholm, and age coordinator, Jaimee Skilton. JA and her team have the front row seat in seeing our future hockey stars learning to love the game. We all smile knowingly when we hear "Are you hockey ready?" from the cage on a Wednesday night.

Footscray HC was awarded the Hookin2Hockey Club of the year at the Hockey Victoria Awards Night, congratulations to Nicole Virtuoso and Julie-Anne Sheehan (JA) as the key drivers in this program.

After many learnings in 2024 with the introduction of the Hockey Victoria Under 8 and Under 10 Hockey 5's competitions with Saturday games and Carnival Days, we were excited to once again be successful in being selected as a hub venue and hosting the Term 3 Carnival day. We entered seven under 8 teams and four under 10 teams into the HV Hockey 5's competition.

Shirena Patel stepped into the role of Under 8 Head Coach position this year and ran an incredible program to further develop these players hockey skills and game play. There were many first year players that were able to take part in the HV Under 8 Saturday morning games This was one of the largest groups of Under 8's that we have seen since pre-COVID, thanks to the very successful Come & Try sessions. Shirena was well supported by age coordinator, Andrew Shand, and team coaches, Fiona Collie, Nicole Rhind, Ethan Brain, Kiran Murth, John Herity, Esme Titley, Tahlia Xinomilakis, Heather Kendrick.

Our Under 10 cohort took things to a new level this year with new Head Coach, Kate Neville. Kate was supported by age coordinator, Martin Griffin, and Team Coaches, Simon Millar, Tom Newman, Hernie Isorena, Paul Montgomery. The key focus for Under 10's was to learn about team work in defending and attacking in games. Team spirit was so strong it was a struggle to move some kids around in teams!

Thank you to the coaches, coordinators, team managers and families in their continued support for our mini bulldogs!

We were successful in gaining entry grading for 6 Shield teams, across Under 12 to 16 for girls and mixed (boys). Our Shield teams enjoyed another year of success, winning 3 Shield Premierships for Under 14 Mixed (Boys), Under 16 Girls and Under 16 Boys. FHC was awarded the Best Junior Boys

Club in 2025 and congratulations to Jack Tamblyn being named the Best & Fairest for the U16 Shield Boys competition. Under 14 Girls finished 3rd on the ladder, Under 12 Mixed (Boys) finished 9th on the ladder and Under 12 Girls 6th on the ladder.

Congratulations to all the shield coaches this year in developing their players skills, team and game structure to the standard required in Shield. Thank you to all the Coaches Under 12 Girls - Damien Toussaint & David Forsyth , Under 12 Mixed (Boys) - Mark Wiseman, Under 14 Girls - Peter Agius & Melanie Sanders, Under 14 Mixed (Boys) - Peter D'Agostino, Under 16 Girls - David Gorton & Alannah Hibbard, Under 16 Boys - Nigel Toussaint & Mitch Braiden.

We are incredibly fortunate to have the number of junior players at our club that this year we entered three pennant teams - Under 12 Mixed (Boys), Under 16 Girls and Under 16 Boys, and two district teams - Under 14 Mixed and Under 18 Mixed. The pennant competition was very challenging, but we are very proud of the development of the players and teams as the season progressed. We were able to provide a few of our pennant players the opportunity to fill in for shield games, showing just how much depth we have as a club.

Thank you to our Pennant & District coaches for all the hard work you do in keeping our teams developing and having fun, Under 12 Mixed (Boys) - Dylan & Geoff Peacock, Under 14 Mixed - Anthony Santaro, Under 16 Girls - Siobhan Hannon, Under 16 Boys - Ngaire Smith and Ethan A, Under 18 Mixed - Isaac Grimes.

Junior Team managers are an incredibly important role across our Under 12 to 18 teams, they communicate about all things FHC and team level communication for training, game day availability, changes and vital game day lollies and fruit. A huge thank you to all of you - Bronwyn Darragh, Simone Barlow, Emma & Haydn Ferrier, Bek Cleeland, Sean Brophy, Kim Dee, Bron Massa, Russell Wickson, Siobhan Hannon, Janet Cheong and Christy Jeromson.

Russel Wickson has been a junior (and senior) team manager over the years that his two sons have played in the juniors section, this year is officially his last. Thank you Russ, we really appreciate everything you have done to support our junior section.

Our junior goalkeepers continued to enjoy specific goalkeeping training delivered by Laura Milford (Womens PL Goalkeeper) and Jye Walters (Mens Pennant A Goalkeeper). These sessions have been filled with learning and growth, with a side of laughter! Laura and Jye bring so much energy to these sessions and our junior goalkeepers are fortunate to have such wonderful players to learn and look up to. Thank you Laura and Jye, the stickers are true - Goalkeepers are amazing people!

Our success in fostering learning and growth in our juniors umpire group continues this year, under the guidance from Melanie Sanders. This year we brought on 8 new umpires to learn the ropes in the Under 8 and Under 10 competition and more experienced umpires moved to Under 12 and Under 14 games.

The interest in Indoor Hockey has grown again this year, we have entered a whopping 11 teams across Under 12, 14 and 16, Div 1 and Div 2. Thank you to Gareth Wynn for stepping into the role of Indoor Coordinator this year.

A big thank you to our Indoor coaches and team managers, Term 4 Indoor competition has been a big success.

- Div 1 Indoor Coaches are Under 12 Girls - Alex Grosz, Under 12 Mixed (Boys) - Peter Agius & Cindy Blay, Under 14 Girls - Ava Doolan, Under 14 Mixed (Boys) - Alex Grosz, Under 16 Girls - Darren Bradbury, Under 16 Boys - Charlie Keating.

- Div 1 Indoor Team Managers are Simone Barlow, Pauline Warren, Fiona Collie, Nicole Virtuoso, Damien Brain and Gareth Wynn.
- Div 2 Indoor Coaches are Under 12 Mixed - Red - Mark Wiseman & Hernie Isorena, Under 12 Mixed - Blue - Bronwyn Darragh, Under 14 Mixed - Laura Milford, Under 16 Mixed - Red - Siobhan Hannon, Under 16 Mixed - Blue - Isaac Grimes.
- Div 2 Indoor Team Managers are Giulia Wiseman, Andrew McKellar, Mark Titley, Catherine Titley, Deepa Travers.

FHC had record numbers in representing Hockey Victoria State and School Sports Vic teams continues to be strong with 38 FHC juniors playing outdoor hockey at a state level, 75 FHC players playing in Junior State Championship (JSC) competition and 16 FHC juniors selected in state indoor teams. There were 11 FHC representatives selected in the HCM Futures team. 3 FHC juniors, Ruby Gorton, Jack Tamblyn and Jake Rollibard, recently attended the 4 day Under 16 Australian National Camp in Canberra. The future of hockey in Victoria looks bright with all the talent and we are proud to have some of that talent playing at FHC. Congratulations to all the players selected and we hope the experience has been positive for you all.

We are continuing our focus on developing all our junior players skills as hockey and team players, through the Bulldogs Hockey Academy, designed and run, by Daniel Mitchell (Mltty) and delivered by Junior Coaches and Premier League players.

## **2026 – Juniors Focus**

- Building clear development pathways and growth for all juniors players, enabling depth in our juniors section.
- Supporting the development for our Junior Coaches.
- Continued focus on development of new and current junior umpires.
- Building a positive experience for all junior players and families.
- Building a strong sense of club pride and connection for new and current players and families.
- Build hockey engagement in our local community.

## **Acknowledgments**

This has been my second year as the Junior Director and I am amazed at how much I have learnt and continue to enjoy in this role. My favourite has to be seeing how much the juniors just love their hockey and the pride they take in being a Footscray HC player!

A huge thank you to the FHC Board, coaches, coordinators, team managers, umpires, canteen & retail volunteers, parents and families for the support over this year. The (often) invisible work that you do to support our juniors must be acknowledged and celebrated, we appreciate you.

A massive thank you to my family, Nick, Daniel and Kieran, for the continued understanding and support with me taking on this role.

**Cindy Blay**  
**Junior Director**

# MASTER'S DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We had 5 teams on the field this year with the same teams entered as last year.

I'm proud to say that our Masters section enjoyed a very successful season this year with three out of 5 teams making the finals and both the men's 50s and women's 35s making Grand Finals and finishing runners up.

Many thanks and gratitude to all the team managers and captains this year – Dean Hopkins (45 Mens), Geri Karla and Vanessa Smith (45s Women), Kathryn Clarke (35s Women), Heather Shaw (60s Men) and Marty Babb (50 Men). A special thanks to Marty Babb for all of his efforts during the last few years = Marty played his last game for FHC this year and is moving to Queensland for family reasons.

Again a big thanks to Nicole Virtuoso for her support throughout the season. A big thanks also to the other Board members for their work this year – they are an amazingly committed, hard-working and generous group and we should all be very thankful for the visible and invisible work that they do too.

Thanks to the one and only Sam Cutrale for helping to coordinate Masters games umpiring on Monday and Wednesday nights at FHC – we appreciate all of the work Sam does behind the scenes to ensure that we have good umpers on the pitch, especially during the cold, wet months and even when he's overseas or interstate.

A special thanks to Craig Morton, Maru, Juli and Taela who umpired most of the home Masters games this year – we are very grateful for their support and reliability, week in, week out. A very special thanks to Heather Shaw who was always able to find an umpire at the last minute when the regular umpires were not available and for opening and locking up on Monday nights.

We celebrated several wonderful milestones this year including Geoff Peacock's 500<sup>th</sup> game, Daniel Rihs's 500<sup>th</sup> game, Jo Torr's 400<sup>th</sup> game and Nicole Virtuoso's 700<sup>th</sup> game.

Well done to all those players on such amazing achievements and their long-standing commitment and loyalty to FHC.

## FHC AUSTRALIAN AND VICTORIAN MASTERS REPRESENTATIVES

We've again had many FHC Men and Women Masters' players selected this year to represent Victoria at the recent National Masters championships.

Firstly, a huge congratulations to Nigel Toussaint and Katherine Wilson who were both selected in Australian teams to compete in the 2026 Masters World Cup in 2026. Katherine was selected in the Aus Women's Over 45s team and Nige in the Aus Men's Over 50s team.

Congratulations to the following FHC Men's and Women's Masters' players who represented Victoria this year.

### MEN

- O34 - Rod Fuentes
- O39/1 - Mark Wiseman
- O44/1 - Alex Grosz
- O49/1 - Nigel Toussaint

- O54/1 - Paul Schram
- O59/1 - Martin Babb, Phil Frost (player and coach)
- O59/2 - Dale Rozario, Chris Kelly
- O69/2 - Graeme Veitch, Ian Sheppard, Mick Rothwell, Norm Hibberd, Ron Shadbolt
- O74 - Clive Quick, Neil Coster
- O/79 - David Sinclair

## **WOMEN**

- 45s - Penny Dabner, Katherine Wilson, Nikki Theodossi (ACT)
- 50s - Therese Burke
- 55s - Leanne Basham, Dani Wilde
- 60 - Geri Karla
- 70 – Sue Thomas

Well done also Heather Shaw who represented Victoria as a team managers, and Chris Henderson as Chef de mission, Sam Cutrale who was the lead umpiring official, and Dave Sanders who was a tech official. Congratulations to all those players and officials – it certainly should make us proud that we have such amazing representation at a state and national level.

## **Men's 60**

The goal for this team this year was to improve the team scoring rate, maintain our strong defensive playset while improving on our 4th spot placing in 2024.

The team started with a squad of 17 players and all were willing to try some new structures to our midfielders and forwards. The methods started to work as players became more confident with the team scoring and it was great that all players were making worthwhile contributions. As the season progressed it was difficult to have a settled team, but by round 18 they were able to field their strongest team of the season. Finishing 4th, was great considering their lack of stability. Going into the semi final against Brunswick the team was confident that we could beat them after our success 4 weeks earlier. With the Footscray way, everyone put their hand up for the challenge as they only had the bare 11 and everyone gave a great effort especially Heather playing in Goals. They went down 2 nil in the last 5 minutes. So overall, a good season – they played attacking hockey scoring 32 goals, third best scoring team in the comp while maintaining a tight defence. Many thanks goes to Heather as team Manager and the willingness to always put her team 1st. Also a big thank you to all the players who played with enthusiasm, fairness and more importantly with a smile whatever their results.

## **Men's 50s**

This team had a great season this year, making the Grand Final to everyone's surprise – including our own – after finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> and relying on a win in the last game of the season to make the 4. This group finished runners up to Geelong after losing the GF 3-1, despite being in the game at 1-1 at half time. They benefited from having a strong core group of players this year as well as a couple of new players join the team.

The highlight of the season was beating PEGS in the semi after not winning a game against them all season. In a way that was their GF and a reflection of the kind of 'get and give' hockey we could play when everything came together.

Special thanks to Gary Marshall for his support – Gary came to every home game and many away games this season. Thanks heaps to Marty for taking on the TM role and to supercoach Geoff Peacock and all his



work and expertise behind the scenes and on game nights as our coach.

### **Women's 35s**

Congratulations to the Women's 35+ team who also enjoyed a ripper season as underdogs, had a win the semi final to book a spot in the Grand Final against a super strong Greensborough side (they scored a staggering 134 goals during the season). The women lost the GF 5-0 but it was an amazingly successful season for this team who finished third on the ladder with 10 wins, 3 draws and 5 losses and scored the second highest number of goals (51) in this competition for the season.

### **Women's 45s**

This team had another challenging season after 2022's Grand Final appearance. The 45s women finished 8<sup>th</sup> with 3 wins, 3 draws and 12 losses – a season very like 2024.

### **Men's 45s**

This team had an almost identical season as 2024 and finished 7<sup>th</sup> in a season characterised by some cruel injuries to key players and games that were lost or drawn that could have been wins. The men's 45 North West team finished with 3 wins, 2 draws and 13 losses but the wins were great wins, with this team knocking off both top 2 teams in surprise upsets. Many thanks to Dean Hopkins for being TM and captain of this team again this year.

**Damien Toussiant**  
**Masters Director**

# RETAIL REPORT

## Canteen

This year the canteen came away with a \$56k profit which was a little less than expected due to game fixturing.

This wouldn't have been possible without those who completed their canteen duty and the many volunteers who put their hands up when we required the extra help for tournaments, school bookings or the occasional weekly shift that needed to be covered.

A big thanks to Sally our canteen manager for keeping things running, clean and tidy and being there to supervise our volunteers.

Thanks also to all those that volunteered in the canteen throughout the year especially Tanya Wischnewski, Macy Gorman, Heather Shaw, Dave Sanders, Graeme Veitch, Melinda Harper and RJ it was greatly appreciated.

## Hockey HQ

A big thanks to Jenny Hilton, Merryn Brown & Janet Harper for helping keep HQ opened on training nights in 2025 without their help we wouldn't have been able to come away with a small \$3.7k profit

With the delay of introducing our new uniform in 2025 due to supplier colour & sizing issues we are currently in the process of finalising details with a new supplier and should have complete samples in early 2026 for us to start the ordering process. Please refer to socials for try on dates and further information.

Without all our volunteers who keep the canteen & HQ running smoothly we wouldn't be able to help cover all expenses throughout the year which also helps keep fee increases to a minimum.

**Karen Johnstone**  
**Retail Director**

# GROUNDS

Special thanks yet again to all members who have supported the board to maintain this great facility and in particular to -

- Graeme Veitch - General around the grounds assistance
- Nick Dabner - Camera advisory
- Mark Titley, Alex Grosz, Dave Sanders - Scoreboard Gurus
- Jake Brady - Mr Recycling (Purple Bins)

2025 saw increased usage of FHC for -

- FHC Monday Night Mixed Comp
- Summer Comp
- Winter Senior and Junior seasons
- Primary and Secondary School Games and Finals
- Schools starting to increase usage as they train at FHC as well as games
- Partnering with local soccer and cricket clubs to facilitate pre-season training
- Local gyms utilising the fields for testing and specialist sessions
- State Schools Victoria Trials and Training
- Hockey Victoria High Performance Training for Juniors through to Masters
- Range of Key Events hosted by FHC in various rounds
- Bulldogs Academy for FHC juniors

2026 sees all of the above again plus the return of -

- JSC

2025 projects delivered -

- Ongoing use of scoreboard and increased capability
- New Sportsway Cameras being installed before end of 2025 to stream games
- All 8 Polytan Goal repaired

Key 2026 and Beyond Projects -

- ASF Pitch Resurface Project (rolled over from 2025)
- ASF Dugout Upgrade - starting with Tech Bench (rolled over from 2025)
- Electric Patio Heater donation of 6 to be installed before the season
- ASF rear fence upgrade for security and safety of park occupants (rolled over from 2025)
- LED lighting upgrade to provide better and safer lighting and also significantly reduce power costs (rolled over from 2025)

**Andrew Boyle**  
**Grounds Director**

# PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

As the club embraced its new Strategic Plan, the Board of Directors set out their immediate objectives and goals in their individual Actions Plans. This has, and will continue to be a focus in the background, as the Board works together to continually strive to build on our past successes for a stronger, more competitive and financially secure Hockey Club.

I said it last year but the club needs to continue to support and develop our talented youth, to ensure we build toward a fully sustainable position as a Premier League club for the next generations. The future is right there in front of us, the envy of other clubs, so let's not waste it!

Communication and development of the new leasing structure, planned to be introduced by Council this year, has been slow to get going. Discussions are still taking place, as the club works towards achieving an outcome which suits both ourselves and Council.

Council is well aware that our two next biggest future capital works projects will come at great cost, that being, pitch lighting upgrades and replacement of the ASF playing surface and dugouts. Whilst the ASF dugout upgrades have been promised as part of the future McIvor Reserve Master Plan, the Draft Lease required FHC to contribute \$25,000 towards a yearly ASF sinking fund towards the cost of carpet/shock pad replacement. FHC stressed that this is not achievable or feasible, so we will continue to work with the Council, to establish an agreed arrangement. This is prudent as we try to establish a facilities planning schedule to meet our upcoming and immediate needs, particularly as we have outstanding works to be done that have been requested, some for a couple of years.

As a separate project, FHC has made a submission to Council for its upcoming budget, to include the reconstruction of the ASF northern perimeter fence to the required standard height. Delayed due to budget constraints in 2022, this will assist in making the passive and organised sport users of the grassed areas of McIvor Reserve, a safer place to frequent, without fear of flying hockey balls endangering them.

Incoming grant funds was again a major priority with a few successes amongst many applications. I thank those who formed the Grants Subcommittee in Andrew Boyle, David Gorton and Ben Fusco, and also to the assistance of Cindy Blay and Nicole Virtuoso. Grant successes to date are.

- 'Change Our Game' community grant - junior coaching and umpiring training (\$2000)
- Greater Western Water NAIDOC day (\$5000)
- United Fuel Discount Program - petrol rebate (ongoing, currently \$300)
- Canva Pro - Professional subscription to social media graphics program (\$120)

Sourcing Individual grants for Victorian Junior athletes, continues to also be a focus to assist families with the expenses associated with representation and travel. We were unsuccessful early in the year, but with new applications just sent, we are hoping for success to bring relief to some families.

Grant applications are a time-consuming process left to few. If there are any members or parents who have time and/or possess a skill in document writing, who would be interested in assisting or leading up a Grants sub-committee, please contact any member of the Board.

I thank those past members, particularly those players from the 1985 Men's teams who attended the Men's Health Round '40th anniversary 1985 Men's Premierships celebration'. It was great to share some memories from that epic year in which all of our five men's teams won Premierships. We look forward to welcoming past members back for future Men's Health Round, or at any time during the year. 'Stay

connected'!

I informed the Board a couple of months ago that I will not be seeking re-election for the 2026 season, ending a 5 year term. It has not been easy filling the shoes of one of our best Directors, and my good friend, Brendan Sheehan's role as the Planning and Performance Director, I enjoyed the challenge, but it is now time for someone else to bring in some fresh ideas and initiatives, to grow and develop this great Hockey club. With some work still outstanding, I would be happy to assist the new incoming Director in areas that I still share an interest in.

I thank all of the 2025 Board of Directors for your continued hard work in ensuring we provide the best support and leadership we can, voluntarily, in representing the members of our Hockey Club.

We are a large, successful club, run mainly by the extraordinary efforts of a small percentage of our members. I encourage others to become involved and assist where you can to work towards jointly, the continual success and prosperity of the Footscray Hockey club.

**Greg Hopkins**  
**Planning and Performance Director**



# SPONSORSHIP REPORT

## Sponsorship Report

In 2025, we successfully retained our major sponsors: Hardimans, QUBE, and Yarraville Footscray Bowls Club, Frasers Property/Bradmill Yarraville. Additionally, we were pleased to welcome TITAN CONTAINERS as a new major sponsor.

The Player Sponsorship Program was another highlight, with support from 50 individuals and businesses. This initiative has not only provided valuable backing for our players but has also helped to strengthen our connections within the broader community, a positive step in fostering long-term relationships.

Our inaugural Golden Ticket raffle was a hit amongst members which we will look to build on before the 2026 season commences.

The 2025 Sponsors Day was well attended and run in partnership with our Men's Health Round Premiership reunions. This day was a great success and showcased the club's vibrant spirit and community engagement to the sponsors in attendance.

For 2026, my goal is to maintain strong relationships with our current major sponsors while attracting new sponsors. We aim to develop mutually beneficial partnerships that can further enhance the club's offerings and align with the sponsor's goals, a key area identified for improvement.

I am excited to continue in my role as Sponsorship Director into early 2026 before taking a break to focus on personal commitments. I remain committed to building the club's sponsorship base.

We are always actively seeking any form of support in finding potential sponsors or ways to fundraise for the club so if you have any leads or contacts who might be interested in becoming a major sponsor, player sponsor or product donations please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to another successful year for our club.

**Liam Braitwaite**  
**Sponsorship Director**

# TREASURER'S REPORT

**See separate Treasurer documents.**