

From the Chairman



July 2017

Hi again to all of you in our Football Family and friends of Football!

Who would have thought the season would fly by so quickly....

We turn into the second half of the season for most of you and for our Representative side's only a few rounds to go till the semi-finals.

A special welcome to Justin McIntyre to the position of Referee and Club Development Officer. Justin will be available in the office Tuesday to Friday, he has extensive experience as a volunteer club administrator within our zone and is well qualified to assist all of our member clubs, as well as provide administrative support to our referees.

Justin better known to many of you as "Macca" looks forward to his role and welcomes the opportunity to be involved in his beloved Football from the "engine room" of the Front office.

We continue our push for improved infrastructure at both ends of our vast Zone and maintain our desired outcome for our "fair share" of ground allocations and improvements.

As the local council elections draw closer for the Mid Coast Amalgamated area we will keep the clubs up to date with candidates that are "Football friendly" and having said with that we are currently meeting Mayoral candidates in Port Macquarie to the same aim.

The greatest and latest News is that we have secured a substantial visit from the Newcastle Jets A- league and they will be here on the 14th and 15th of August.

Lawrie McKinna has been a great advocate of the Jets renewing their supporter base in outlying regions from the City of Newcastle and to that aim will be hosting after school clinics down the southern end of the zone on the Monday. Then following up with school visits in the Port Macquarie area on the Tuesday, a business lunch at the Westport Club, culminating with a game against a joint Premier league representative team playing half a game each against the Jets.

The Southern Zone to be coached and selected by Jonathon Newman and the Northern Zone by Matt Baker.

This promises to be an outstanding collaboration and the match will be played at the Port Regional Stadium (a major win for us with the assistance of Hastings Council staff) under lights.

We will be sending out information to the general community and all your clubs and look forward to some additional sponsorship and huge support from your player base and supporters alike.

Lawrie has promised that if this trip is a success and supported that the Jets WILL play their 2018 FFA cup home game in our Region! They may even manage to do that this year!

We have been trying to get such a visit for a few years now and need your support to ensure we get more A- League visits and also the publicity that our game deserves.

We are also finalising clinics and visits from the Liverpool FC Academy later this year.

Later this month Bruce, Justin myself and David Lee will be attending the first ever National Sporting Football conference in Melbourne and look forward to even more ideas and up to date information gathering and sharing so that we can bring to you the very latest in, on and off the field, strategies and concepts.

Our aim is to be a leader in the field of Administration and the delivery of our great sport.

As always I don't pretend to be perfect (despite my confidence!) and we may not always get it right or have full agreement with our pathways from all of you.

However I am positive that the board and all the administration personnel and myself are focused on delivering the best outcome possible for the greater good.

It is an enormous task to deliver a simple game to so many and who would be believe that it could be so complex, as I am sure many of you that volunteer or are part of your own individuals clubs administration teams would agree.

So as always my special thanks and massive appreciation to all of you in club land that play such a vital role in putting your teams on the park week in and week out.

Also to our restructured Referee's operations, my thanks for embracing the many changes and projects we have implemented or are in the process of implementing.

I am sure that you all will see a massive improvement in our Refereeing numbers and quality as we invest in their training and support.

Larry is doing a fabulous job in the technical department and as I write this newsletter is conducting school holiday coaching clinics in various locations.

Our High Performance committee now well established is already making plans for 2018 and hopefully we will have most of our teams competing in semi-finals series as this season draws to a close for them.

A reminder to all clubs to save the date.... September 30th

Don't forget to put in your diary as we hold our first ever Gala End of Season Dinner and Awards night for all clubs in the entire Zone.

Please make sure you avoid holding any of your own clubs presentations or events on that evening so that all clubs can be represented.

I am currently negotiating a special guest and presenter that will hopefully be just another draw card for this special night!

I am looking forward to making the trip to Sydney with all my family and especially my grandchildren to watch the mighty Arsenal and Sydney FC put on a Football night to remember, followed by a visit to the Zoo the next day for a great family couple of days of fun and the rare opportunity to share in each other's company. I am told "Macca" also an Arsenal tragic will also be there!

Yours in Football for another month.

Mike Parsons

Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, loopy oval shape followed by a horizontal line and a short vertical stroke.