

2016 has been an interesting and productive season.

We began in a world of hurt with our previous General Manager Peter Daniels resigning unexpectedly to return to his chosen career of journalism right at the beginning of our busiest time.

Despite this loss we soldiered on and with the commitment of Amanda and Larry in the office we managed to keep things moving in the right direction.

I was fortunate enough to have had enormous support from my fellow board members and also a substantial contribution from Larisa Sultana who stepped in to a part time role to assist Amanda and Larry in the office whilst we advertised for a new GM.

We had an overwhelming amount and array of applications and after an exhaustive process appointed and secured the services of our current General Manager Bruce Potter who came to us highly credentialed and proficient in administration of our brand of Football.

I know I speak on everyone's behalf when I thank Bruce for his visionary approach and practical application of many new and past initiatives in collaboration with myself, the board and you, our Football community.

We had another year on year increase of around 5% in player registrations with over 6,500 participants that required us to provide a massive 10,750 matches not including Finals or our Representative games.

Simply putting together the draw for this amount of games is a major event in itself requiring a massive effort from all concerned at all levels, by you and your clubs and our Administration office.

We promised this time last year to be more inclusive, more transparent, more involving, and more aware of your requirements and recognizing who we represent and what we are entrusted by you to achieve. To be far more pro- active and engaging from the top down and listening to you our stakeholders from the ground up.

Whilst still a massive work in progress I believe we have delivered on that promise and if I am fortunate to be returned as your President I promise to see that vision through to even greater and more successful outcomes.

Regardless, I do believe that this board and administration has set a solid platform that is now well and truly set in motion for the future of our Zone.

I have made a genuine effort to inform our community of events and items of interest through my welcome letter and half yearly newsletter sent to all our 6500 members and participants and a monthly newsletter on our web site that was also individually sent to all clubs in that effort to deliver on my promise of transparency.

We are actively finding new ways to invest our earnings and savings back in to the sport in order to not only grow our player base but to give better value for money.

To substantially promote an ever improving product that through better coach education, improved refereeing assessments and recruitment and better resources and funding I believe that not only do we improve the standards and a better infrastructure but as a result of that we provide more enjoyment of “Park Football” for people of all ages, genders, and levels of ability.

My personal crusade if fortunate to be in a position to do so next year and beyond is to lobby local, state and federal governments for funding and allocation of more playing fields, funding to improve playing surface standards, more lit fields and far more recognition of the fact that our registered players out number some of the other Football codes 6 to 1.

We have been the poor cousins in terms of recognition of infrastructure and facilities locally and despite being Australia’s number one participant sport continue to be out funded by other interests.

To further assist in that aim we have set up a Grants assistance program headed by our Director Jason Ryan and will be developing templates, keeping you up to date with Grant availability and assisting you in the preparation of your applications if required.

We have involved clubs from the largest to the smallest in the Northern Competition Zones and Southern competition zones in our working parties as we finalize our strategic plan for the future of our game in the short, medium and long term.

Bruce and I have been “on the road” over the past number of months personally visiting many of your clubs committees in order to maintain a “face to face” contact and to identify ways we can help clubs individually as well as collectively.

These visits have been well received and we have gained a valuable insight in to your overall needs and taken on board some innovative and sound suggestions that we will either be implementing or making further investigations.

My aim is for us to visit every single club between now and January.

Your current board members have been an invaluable resource and have represented with genuine passion and have all played a significant role in setting up a more efficient and pro – active approach to the way we go about the business of providing Football and the social benefits that go hand in hand with team sports.

In closing I wish to thank Bruce for his expertise and willingness to work for the improvement and continued success of our competitions and also his friendship and counsel through the year.

My thanks to Larry and Amanda, Larisa and also to all my fellow board members for their substantial contribution to Football in 2016.

Also my thanks to Ossie Bellamy for his role as our Zone Referee Co-ordinator and his ongoing support as we make substantial changes and improvements to our Refereeing models of operational structure and recruitment and education.

As I said at the outset this is a work in progress but I hope that we have demonstrated our commitment to genuine change and reform in order to progress our game and our future successes.

My vision is that we provide not only weekly rounds of Football but to leave a legacy of a sustainable and improved infrastructure and a better experience and a higher level of involvement with our stakeholders and leave the game in better shape not only for next season and the one after, but for future generations of participants in our much loved sport.

My congratulations and sincere appreciation to all of you in "club land" that spend countless hours of personal time volunteering and contributing to the welfare and well-being of your members.

You and your members are the silent majority and the unsung heroes and the very heart and soul of why we do, what we do, for the many and varied reasons that we do.

Please pass on my genuine thanks and best wishes to all your members for the off season and my hope that God willing we are all back again safe and sound for another year of Football.

Thank you all for having the confidence in my ability to represent such an outstanding group of individuals that make up the collective Zone of Mid North Coast Football and the game we all love and are passionate about.

I table my Chairman's report for 2016.