



Chairman's Report AGM 2018

This season we had a record number of registered players and match officials totalling over 6,800!

This does not include all the managers, coaches, committee persons and volunteers from all our clubs and high performance programs.

We have had many recent success stories with grants and funding for various club facilities and ground improvements but still plenty of potential for improvement and access to funding and assistance.

To that aim I am in constant contact with our local councils, state members of parliament, federal members and the media and all interested parties to improve this situation on behalf of our stakeholders.

With State elections coming up early in the new year Bruce and I will be lobbying both sides and likely independents for additional support to gain a more equitable funding model for our sport which remains not only Australia's number one participant sport but our regions' by a considerable percentage margin.

Please be aware that the office can assist clubs with the grant process and also contribute towards the funding of professional grant submissions through our relationship with professionals in this field.

We had an increase of Referee numbers for 2018, we also increased our numbers of Referee assessors and trainers. Improving not only our numbers but also the quality of the referees performances and ongoing support to retain and lessen the churn rate.

We are mindful of our partnerships with our member clubs and have embarked on many and improved coaching clinics and coaching courses.

We have funded several hundred community-coaching courses.

We have restructured our Judicial Process to give more transparency and allow fair and equitable and more prudent application to our appeals and outcomes.

We established outstanding support and rapport with the Newcastle Jets Football Club, culminating in multiple visits by club players, coaches and Administrators.

This support is integral to growing our game and obtaining support from the local community for enhanced infrastructure and promoting the values and benefits of our sport in general.

As a result of this collaboration and relationship we established the first regional Jets training hub for aspiring players that may be seeking a career path.

Over 4,000 people attended the 2017 Newcastle Jets v FMNC Premier league select sides match and backing up with over 4,200 people attended the corresponding match held this year.

The Jets team included our home-grown Angus Thurgate who not only gained a full time contract with the Jets but was also recently selected in the Australian National youth side!

As an additional level to the relationship the W-League Jets visited us and played against a select Women's Premier League side in Taree and included many world superstars of women's football and also our own ex WPL and SAP players Clair Coelho and Molly Ahrens.

This match was well attended and a commitment from the Jets Women to be back next year when we hope to incorporate a girls/ladies clinic and tournament around this potential visit.

Once again highlighting the support of our community given adequate venues and resources and demonstrating their love of round ball Football on the whole.

This match was followed by our very first North V South representative clash, which was eventually won by the Southern side on penalty shootout.

We still have much to do and much to achieve, supporting all our clubs and stakeholders daily throughout the season and beyond.

Our aim is to grow the support and foster increased participation for girls and women in our sport as well as special needs programs such as the recently introduced “Rainbow warriors F.C” for children with special needs.

A pilot program for walking football is currently being introduced.

Recent support for indigenous Football teams as well as other programs to ensure that we are inclusive across all genders, social needs and all levels of ability ensuring everyone has a chance to enjoy the benefits that sport, and our game in particular bring to a community and the participants.

Our continued challenges are to enhance our high performance programs **and for me especially** never forgetting that most of our players play “**park football**” with their mates and to make that experience as best as possible.

To that aim we continue to provide better conditions, more coaching programs and match official retention, recruitment and training so that their skill base and the support is such that we all enjoy the benefits of our game across all levels of ability and be inclusive for all demographics and ability levels.

Our Zone championships continue to be well received and supported. As was this years first ever Champion of Champions held at Coffs Harbour where our teams not only got to travel and enjoy a tournament but also to see the standard of Football throughout the NNSWF Zone.

Our Women’s Premier league sides had major successes and capped off with a win in the State Championships for our Under 14’s and our Under 12’s (2nd) demonstrating the ever-increasing potential for women’s participation.

So many other achievements and awards and recognition for our teams, officials and volunteers have been highlighted in my monthly newsletters and through our web site and social media.

In closing, I wish to thank Bruce in his role as General Manager, in what has been for my part, an extremely rewarding working relationship and also building on a very close friendship allowing us to deliver “best practise” performance across the Zone.

To Amanda and Justin in the office supporting Bruce, my personal thanks for your efforts, energy and professionalism.

To Larry in his role as Technical Director you continue to provide programs and support to our players and coaches. My admiration and appreciation for your knowledge and communication skills.

Our board has been a collaborative of dedicated participants with various levels of interest and expertise in our game and my colleagues have brought to the table intelligent and well based views and opinions as we continue to look for improvements and additions to the way we are structured and provide football across our vast footprint and ever increasing numbers and the challenges that brings to the table.

Each board member has been a contributor and an invaluable source of wisdom and counsel to me and I am thankful and appreciative of their involvement.

Of course our season is more than the sum total of this brief report and so many other achievements and successes throughout 2018.

On behalf of all our stakeholders and all of us at FMNC I cannot speak too highly of the contribution of all of your clubs and your tirelessly hard working and dedicated volunteers and committee members.

Without your involvement our boys and girls and men and women would not have the opportunity to play our brand of Football.

So thank you one and all and my best wishes for you and your families for Christmas and the New Year.

We love our community, we love our Football!

Mike Parsons
Chairman FMNC

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