



Chairman's Update

July 2019

Hi to everyone in our Football Community...(Soccer if I must...)

I just thought I would send out another Chairman's report and update on the state of all things Football in our zone.

Firstly, let me once again thank all the volunteers that have and continue to contribute to the running of our clubs and zone, without you our boys and girls and men and women would have no game.

On behalf of all the players and our administration a massive "thumbs up" and appreciation for the selfless hours and the passion that you bring.

As we enter the back half of our season and the run home to the final's series for many of you I would simply like to highlight some of the achievements of the board and the office and your clubs this season.

We have achieved over 6,500 Community Registrations a slight increase on last year and the highest number ever in the history of Football Mid North Coast (FMNC).

We have encouraged and supported 158 Registered Referees, an increase of 20 over last year and more than double the total of 2015 (78).

FMNC is the only zone to increase referee numbers, we are also the only zone to continue to fund and provide the game leaders course to encourage young referees.

We continue to assess and mentor our young referees and I urge you all to encourage and support them and keep them in the game officiating.

Without good referees our game is less enjoyable for our players.

I would also encourage a greater interest and involvement from females in the officiating role.

There are clear pathways to higher success in women's Football as is with the Men's side. The recent women's world cup and the continued success of the W-league and similar leagues across the globe as examples.

We have been running a successful and enjoyable Friday evening program for girls in the southern end of the zone and this push and support for more involvement and better facilities and infrastructure for our girls and women will be a major objective for next year across the zone.

In promoting female friendly Football, I have secured the services of Heather Garriock as guest speaker and presenter for our annual awards night on the 21st of September.

Heather currently coaches in the W- LEAGUE and has over 130 caps for the Matildas and was most recently Alan Stajics assistant coach for the Matildas resigning that post after Stajic was sacked recently.

In not only a celebration of our Premier League and Women's Premier League and Community clubs this evening promises to be a celebration of Women in Football.

I urge you to book a table or two through the office for this fantastic evening now in its third year and looks like being our best ever!

We have supported and assisted and encouraged the Rainbow Warriors club.

This program was the passionate project and dream that has become a reality for Matty Zarb on behalf of his son Marli.

With the help of many people this program for children with disabilities on the spectrum have had an opportunity to not only get a taste of our brand of Football but has been a great meeting point for the parents and caregivers and an outstanding success and model for future programs.

As I write this we are investigating and intend to begin a "walking Football" program as well as other inclusive types of Football for all our diverse community.

We have doubled the size of our Skills Acquisition Program (SAP) giving local access to players from Forster Tuncurry and Kempsey for the first time.

We have just recently organised a partnership with the Newcastle Jets to run the Sporting schools' program in our area.

FMNC operates the only Regional Jets Hub in NNSWF to enable our children and young adults to stay in the local area without having to move to Newcastle.

FMNC provides the most successful player pathway in Northern NSW with the following current representatives:

Men

Angus Thurgate – Newcastle Jets/young Joeys

Adam Pearce – Central Coast Mariners

Noah Stokes – Mansfield Town (UK)

Lachlan Watson – Spain (2nd tier)

Women

Clare Coehlo – Newcastle Jets

Sam Smitzer – Newcastle Jets

Olivia Price – Sydney FC

Caitlyn Cooper – Sydney FC

Rhali Dobson – Melbourne City

Molly Arens – Young Matilda's

Hannah Jones – Young Matildas

Mona Walker – NZ Under 17

FMNC clubs have had great success in infrastructure grants and funding, both individually and as part of a sports complex.

No zone has been more successful in the entire footprint of Northern NSW Football.

This can be directly linked to the work done by FMNC and NNSWF in lifting our profile with local, state and federal governments.

Over \$14.2 million dollars' worth of grants for items as large as sporting complex in Kempsey to lighting and drainage works and all the way down to shirts and goal posts!

We have at our zone's disposal, acquired the services of a brilliant and expert grants writer and at nominal cost can provide that service and contact for any of our clubs.

Despite still not having enough adequate infrastructure and indeed a "home for Football" the signs are encouraging as we continue to push all levels of government for an equitable share of facilities and upgrades for what is not only our local number one participant sport by a long way but Australia's number one participant sport with over 1.4 million players.

I am passionate and devoted to gaining more funding and recognition and in particular female friendly changing facilities for players and officials as well as improved playing field quality for our thousands of participants.

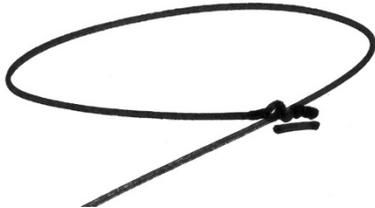
Once again thank you to all involved with our great game across our vast footprint.

If you are a local politician or decision maker reading this please continue to support and understand the community needs for updated and increased facilities funding.

To all of you that are part of our Football Family I wish you the very best for the rest of the season and in your lives in general.

It is an honour that I am privileged with to be your Chairman and on behalf of the entire board thank you for your ongoing support and contribution and I promise you that we are in this together for the common good of our game.

Best wishes and kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping oval shape with a horizontal line extending from the bottom right, ending in a small, stylized flourish.

Mike Parsons.

Chairman FMNC