



Wahroonga Tigers Football Club
Annual General Meeting - 2016
President's Report

Welcome everyone to the 2016 Wahroonga FC Annual General Meeting. It is my privilege to present this report to you concerning the activities of Wahroonga Football Club (WFC) over the past 12 months on behalf of the Management Committee.

On the field

2016 was a relatively successful year on the field for Wahroonga FC. Our U13A team had a very successful year, winning the NSFA U13 division 1 competition by 10 pts. The boys, coached by Gerard Kerr and managed by Matt Cole, played consistently good football to beat Mongo, Northbridge, Lindfield and Hornsby Heights in a high quality division. The team lost the playoff final 2-1 to Mongo, but that wasn't the end of the boys' season, as they had qualified for the FNSW Champion of Champions, a competition for the division 1 winners in each association across NSW.

The boys had, earlier in 2016, reached the semi-finals of the FNSW State Cup and were trying to at last emulate their 2015 achievement of making the semi-finals of Champion of Champions, losing to the eventual winners. The first round saw a trip to Goulburn rewarded with a 9-1 win. A second round match up with Colo FC (Nepean) resulted in a 5-2 win on a day when lightning forced the match to be temporarily suspended. In the quarter finals the boys came up against Quakers Hill Tigers out at Blacktown, with a number of players absent on vacation in the school holidays or because of injury. A 1-1 draw after 60 minutes saw a penalty shootout, but the young Wahroonga Tigers held their nerve and scored all 3 penalties they were required to take, with their opponents missing 3 of 4.

The semi-final at Valentine Sports Park saw Wahroonga, despite suffering more injuries on the field, play brilliantly to beat Kanwal FC (Central Coast) 4-1 to reach the final.

Unfortunately in the final the boys met their match in Forest-Killarney (Manly-Warringah), runners-up in 2015 and also in the 2016 State Cup. It was third time lucky for Forest-Killarney and they deserved to win, although the 4-0 scoreline did flatter them a bit. But runners-up in Champion of Champions is a wonderful achievement and hearty congratulations to our team, Gerard and Matt for a great season.

Our Girls 12A Diamond League team, a team jointly run with West Pymble FC had a great season too. Before the NSFA season started the team's coach, Steve Wilson, entered the team in the Proctor Cup, which was held in Bathurst. The girls played four matches in their pool, winning 3 and drawing 1 and then beat Sutherland 1-0 in the semi-final. The girls then played a hard-fought grand final with a number of walking wounded and ended up on the wrong side of a 0-3 scoreline.

Girls U12 football in the NSFA was non-competition in 2016, but the girls were great rivals with Northbridge throughout the season. In the FNSW State Cup both teams made the semi-finals and they met each other on Sunday 26 June. Our girls played brilliantly, with the score 0-0 at full time. However after 9 minutes of extra time a ball bounced awkwardly away from our goalie and Northbridge scored against the run of play to win 1-0. (Northbridge went onto win the State Cup a few weeks later). Congratulations to the girls and coach Steve. After the season many of the girls trialled for Northern Tigers and 7 of them made the G13 squad, which will see them playing representative football in 2017 (but unfortunately means they won't be playing with Wahroonga next year).

In the Girls U14 age group Wahroonga and West Pymble entered 2 joint teams, one in Diamond League and one in Division 2. The G14A team reached the quarter finals of the State Cup and were runners-up and playoff finalists in Diamond League.

Our U15B team were runners-up in division 4 and our Women's All Age B team, who were a new team as Wahroonga fielded 2 WAA teams for the first time, were runners-up in Division 3. Well done to all of these teams.

Finally, last but certainly not least, our oldest team, the Men's Over 45 reserve grade (1 pm) team, not only won Division 2R (with a 4-1 win over Kissing Point in a winner take-all contest) but ran out 5-0 winners over Kissing Point to in the grand final to claim the double. Well done to all involved, including manager (and goalie) Richard Grace and coach (and striker) Owen Ballantine.

Competition teams in 2016 (U12 and up in mixed/men's football, G14 and up in girls/women's football)

This is how our competition teams finished in their respective competitions.

U12A	6 th in division 2
U12B	6 th in division 5
U13A	Division 1 champions, lost the final 2-1 to Mongo FC, Runners-up in FNSW Champions of Champions, semi-finalists in FNSW State Cup
U13B	4 th in division 5, lost their semi-final 6-4
G14A	2 nd in Diamond League and lost grand final (joint team with West Pymble FC)
G14B	3 rd in division 2 (joint team with West Pymble FC)
G14C	3 rd in division 3
U15A	3 rd in division 2
U15B	2 nd in division 2
G16A	4 th in division 3
MAA3	10 th in both first and reserves in division 3
MAA6	3 rd in firsts, lost their semi-final 2-0, and 6 th in reserves in division 6
WAA A	7 th in division 1
WAA B	2 nd in division 3
M35	6 th in firsts (lost 1-0 in the semi-final of the Rick Close Cup) and 9 th in reserves in division 1. This squad has been in division 1 for at least 17 straight years.
M45	3 rd in firsts, lost the semi-final on penalties after 2-2 draw, 1 st in reserves

MiniRoos

Wahroonga fielded 25 mixed (U6-U11) and 3 girls MiniRoos (G11 & G12) teams in 2016. There were many enjoyable mornings of small-sided football at Karuah Park, Carrington Park, The Glade and Ku-ring-gai High School this season.

Gala Day

Gala Day in 2016 saw good weather and many smiling faces as the football season came to an enjoyable end. Judging by the Gala Day reports we received, Wahroonga teams generally seemed to have a great time and were pretty successful too:

Winners

U8 Lions, U8 Alligators and G16A

The following teams were runners-up

U8 Leopards, U8 Sharks and U10 Chelsea

Player numbers

In 2016 Wahroonga FC fielded a total of 31 junior mixed teams, 3 girls' teams and 4 girls' teams jointly run with West Pymble FC and 4 senior squads and 2 teams – for a total of 604 registered players. This was a small decrease on the previous year but understandable given we lost our U15 and U16 teams and our MAA3 squad from 2015 for various reasons.

We fielded the following numbers of teams/squads:

Mixed MiniRoos (U6-11)	25
Girls MiniRoos (G11/G12)	3 (including 2 shared with WPFC)
Mixed Juniors (U12-U15)	6
Girls (G14-G16)	4 (including 2 shared with WPFC)
Women's All Age	2 teams
Men's All Age	2 squads
Men's Over 35s	1 squad
Men's Over 45s	1 squad

There are a number of age groups where we were not represented (U14, U16, U18, G8, G9, G10, G18, W30 and W35), but for the first time in memory if not ever we had 2 WAA teams and a full M35 squad.

The WAA teams deserve special mention. Not only did Wahroonga have a team in the NSFA Women's Division 1 for the 8th consecutive season but the new WAA B team were Division 3 runners-up in their first season.

The new team was formed from a combination of existing Wahroonga WAA players, the addition of some G18 players from last year and the introduction of some great newcomers and this meant there was a 'squad' of 35 players who enjoyed a great season of training, playing and socialising together. With the support of the NSFA the teams were often able to play home games at the same ground with the Bs followed by the As and this meant a large group of supporters at each game with a barbeque afterwards.

In 2017, with the help of our coaches, Nick Mountford and Tom Woodward, to whom many thanks are due for their efforts, we are looking to expand to have 3 WAA teams for the first time.

Off-Field

Administration

Anita Stickland became our Administration Manager & Club Secretary in 2013. Over the past 4 seasons that she has been in the role she has done a sterling job in getting the Club functioning smoothly and we have had another great season with her at the helm. Thank you Anita for all your hard work and commitment!

Management Committee

To our Committee of 2016, thank you very much for all your hard work – your efforts are much appreciated - by me at least!

Committee members

Chris Wilkinson (Vice President).

Anita Stickland (Secretary & Administration Manager).

Alan Wylie (Treasurer).

Terry Jones (Marketing Manager).

Nick Mountford (Coaching Director and Men's Over 35 Football Co-ordinator).

Richard Grace (Men's Over 45 Football Co-ordinator).

James Dunning (Girls' Co-ordinator).

Jacqui Goldfinch (Women's All Age Football Co-ordinator).

Tony Batten (Men's All Age Football Co-ordinator – shared role).

Jamie Batten (Men's All Age Football Co-ordinator – shared role).

Age managers

Vanessa Hodgkinson (U8), Judy Hibbert (U9), Gerard Kerr (U11 & U13), Steve Wilson (G12) and James Dunning (G16).

We can still use much more assistance to make the Club what we all want it to be, so I encourage all members to consider making a contribution – you will be most welcome!

Our Volunteers

Almost all of our coaches, referees, and team managers at Wahroonga FC are volunteers – generally mums & dads of team members. We simply couldn't function without you all, and a huge 'Thank You' is due to all of you for the work you do to keep our teams' functioning.

Special thanks to Greg Nelson for his Ground Co-ordinator duties at Karuah each Saturday, and to Kris Cormack who dressed and undressed the main field at the Glade each weekend.

A further special mention to Chris Wilkinson and Anita Stickland who turned up every Saturday at Karuah to sell gear and generally assist players and parents.

Presentation Day

Our Presentation Day at Ku-ring-gai High School was a success. A highlight was the story-telling of WFC Life Member and legend Bill Mackay about his first years at the Club, particularly his coaching of the U9D team back in the early 1960s. The day ended with a very successful 9 a side tournament, organised by Nick Mountford as a celebration of our 60th season in the NSFA (previously KDSA). Many of our Men's All Age, Women's All Age, Men's Over 35 and Men's Over 45 players took part in the tournament, with a great afternoon had by all, with some good football mixed with a lot of fun. Congratulations to the "Blue" team who took out the final with a win over the "White" team. We hope to run an event like this annually.

Sponsors

A big than you to our major sponsor, La Zana Ristorante. Peter and Katie Lazanas and their team ran the 'Tigers' Den' at Karuah each Saturday morning and also ran the BBQ and canteen at Presentation Day. I encourage you to support them during the off-season – their restaurant is at 46 Hampden Ave, Wahroonga and their website is www.lazana.com.au.

Thanks also to Bendigo Bank Turramurra and Lindfield community branches, Unearthed Vitality, Triforce Sports St Ives and Business Plaza for their support during the year. But we need more sponsors in order to help keep the Club running and we hope that local businesses will want to come on board with us in 2017.

Grounds

Karuah Park

Karuah Park remains the hub of activity for our junior football at Wahroonga FC, with our U6 –U9 teams using it as a home base throughout the season. As mentioned above, Karuah is the site of the Tigers' Den canteen and BBQ each Saturday and is always very busy during the season.

Ku-ring-gai High School

We continue to benefit from our previous investments in the football grounds at Ku-ring-gai High School (KHS). These fields are available to the Club as a training and

playing facility. We have storage facilities onsite near the grounds thanks to a partnership with North Shore Hockey.

Having the ability to have pre-season training and to schedule pre-season matches and at KHS in February and March, when most Council grounds do not have goal posts up and players can't wear boots, is a big plus for our Club.

KHS 1 held up well over the season and was in much better shape than 80% of the Council fields by seasons' end, despite its heavy usage.

The KHS 2 field, used for U10 and U11 matches, was not in good shape by the end of the season and we are looking at returfing parts of this field over summer.

Wahroonga FC also used Carrington Park, Turramurra Oval and the Glade as home grounds in 2016.

Financials

I will leave it to our Treasurer, Alan Wylie, to report in more detail on the financial position of the Club but I can say that we made a small loss in 2016 after budgeting to break even. This was partly due to the fact that we did not hold a raffle in 2016, had about 25 fewer registered players than in 2015 and had a few non- payments of registration fees.

However we have close to \$80,000 in bank or term deposit accounts with Bendigo Bank. During 2016 we successfully transferred our banking arrangements to Bendigo Bank from CBA, mainly because Bendigo, unlike CBA, offered internet payment facilities at no cost. We have moved away from having to draw cheques that we then need to have 2 executive committee members physically sign, and we can now make payments electronically, still with 2 executive committee members approving each payment for audit purposes but with less hassle and much more quickly and efficiently than previously.

I commend Alan for his management of our finances in 2016 and thank him for a job well done.

Diamond League joint venture

In 2015 Wahroonga FC had fielded a team, the G11As, in the NSFA Diamond League, an elite competition for girls. However NSFA required clubs to field teams in all of the Diamond League age groups: G11, G12 and G14 in 2016 and on our own we were unlikely to be able to do this. So, we decided to partner with West Pymble FC to field joint Diamond League teams in 2016. The joint venture started with both clubs working together to run trials for the Diamond League teams back in November

2015. The trials saw over 75 very talented girls attending Charles Bean on two Sundays to try out and were a great advertisement for girls' football. After the trials the teams were selected. All teams were mainly comprised of girls from West Pymble or Wahroonga, with some others coming in from other local clubs. The girls attended skills training at Norman Griffiths each Monday and also have team training as well.

The G11 team was coached by Matthew Collins and enjoyed their season. The G12 team was coached by Steve Wilson and as mentioned above had a very successful season, being finalists in the Proctor Cup at Bathurst and making the semi-finals of the State Cup, only losing 1-0 to the eventual winners Northbridge. The clubs fielded two combined G14 teams – one in Division 2 coached by Chris Williams and one in Diamond League coached by Cam Jones. The G14 Diamond League team came 2nd on the Diamond League ladder and made the quarter finals of the State Cup. The G14B team also had a good season, finishing 3rd in Division 2.

Both West Pymble FC & Wahroonga FC intend to continue the joint venture in 2017 and recently held the trials for next season.

Thanks to James Dunning, Steve Wilson, Nick Mountford and Anita Stickland for their efforts, along with Kevin Johnson and Catherine Weinress of West Pymble, in getting the joint venture going.

Future Strategy and Outlook

Back in 2013 the Management Committee under the stewardship of my predecessor as President, Tony Batten, set out a Strategic Plan for Wahroonga FC. I have set out the key elements of that Strategic Plan with an update on how we are going against each one.

- **To be competing in All-Age Premier League within 3 years**

One of our key challenges is player retention once they attain their teenage years. Having teams competing strongly in Premier League for Men and Division 1 for Women will give our youngsters something to aspire to and this help us keep our players. Our goal starting in 2014 was to get Wahroonga FC back to Premier League within 3 years. Unfortunately our Men's All Age Division 3 squad was relegated from that division at the end of 2016, so we will start 2017 with at best a Division 4 squad, although it must be said that our Men's All Age Division 6 squad had a successful and enjoyable season and just missed out on promotion. Hopefully our young All Age players will be able to achieve promotion back to Division 3 and higher in the near future.

In 2016 our Women's All Age team played in Division 1 for the 8th consecutive season and we now have a second Women's All Age team (Division 3), with the aim of having a third team in 2017.

- **To be the club of choice for players in the Wahroonga/Turramurra area**

We want strong relationships with schools, players and their families such that Wahroonga FC is the club all players in our area want to join and stay with. We already have a strong relationship with the Wahroonga 'Bush School' and many of our players attend or used to attend this school. We made contact with Knox and Barker in late 2015 to see if they were interested in promoting the new U13 Sunday competition amongst their football players and to see if we can build a relationship with these schools which many past and present Wahroonga FC players attend. There are a considerable number of Wahroonga players who have been selected in Northern Tigers, Skills Acquisition Program and NSFA Regional Conference teams for 2017 which shows that Wahroonga continues to produce quality footballers and we want to continue to do so.

- **To improve the quality of coaching across the board**

One of the most critical factors in the development of players is the calibre of coaching received. We seek now to educate our coaches better so that they may in turn improve the standard of our players across the board, and provide them with tools that will help in this regard. Since 2014 we have partnered with T3 (formerly the Football Sydney Group) to run, with a significant subsidy from the Club, a pre-season skills development program for our U6-U11 players. This has been well received and in 2016 we offered our MiniRoos teams the option of having a paid coach provided by T3. 9 teams took up this option and the feedback received was good. Further, we have agreed with T3 that in 2017 that they will provide weekly training for all our MiniRoos teams, with the cost to be paid for by a small increase in the registration fee and with a subsidy provided by the Club. The T3 involvement will only be for training, not on weekends for matches and will probably be for the first 8-10 weeks of the season.

Our Coaching Director, Nick Mountford, runs Grassroots coaching courses and has provided assistance to a number of our teams and coaches over the past few years and will continue to do so in 2017.

- **To find Wahroonga FC a home base**

Wahroonga FC is one of the 5 founding clubs in NSFA, but after 60 seasons still does not have a real clubhouse as a base. We have engaged in discussions with Ku-ring-gai

Council and NSFA about the possibility of developing a proper clubhouse at Karuah but the amounts required are substantial and we will require significant government grants to proceed.

Conclusion

2016 was my second year as President. It was a hectic but enjoyable year, and I am willing to keep going in the role for another year. I could not have done my job without the amazing support of Anita Stickland and the assistance of the Committee and other volunteers. 2017 promises to be an exciting year, with our continuing joint venture with West Pymble FC in Diamond League and early indications of increased player numbers in our Women's All Age, Men's Over 35 and Men's Over 45 teams. I look forward to 2017 and I hope you all do so as well.

Mark Bendall

President