

Dear Club Member,

It's hard to believe that the 2017 football season has almost ended, but what a good season it has been. Our club's teams won more games than they lost and 4 of our teams won premierships, the rain stayed away once the season started, our training partner T3 provided great training to our MiniRoos teams and so many of our girls and boys (and men and women) had a great time playing their favourite sport.

As this season comes to a close I am really pleased to share some important news about the future of our club for season 2018 and after. Some of you might have heard some whispers, but now is the time to share with all.

The Wahroonga FC Committee is putting plans in place to improve all of our members' football experience by providing more resources, more facilities for training, involving more sponsors and overall providing a better way of promoting and developing football in the local area, while still maintaining our very proud community club spirit and culture.

The plan is that Wahroonga Tigers and Bannockburn Rovers Football Club are proposing to merge to form a new club, which will be called Turramurra United Football Club.

One of the reasons for uniting to form a bigger club is to increase the opportunities available to footballers of all ages to develop their skills and play football at a level appropriate to those skills within the NSFA. Both Wahroonga and Bannockburn are medium sized clubs and in recent times have not always been able to field teams in every junior age group, which can result in players who have been with their club for a number of years having to find another club. Even where each club has been able to field a team in an age group, it has often, particularly in the U15-U18 mixed age groups or in all of the girls' football age groups, only had one team in the age group, and this often results in teams with players of varied skill levels, which causes problems for grading and training.

Coming together to form Turramurra United should mean a new club of around 1,000 members, which should result in at least two teams in every mixed junior (U12-U18) age group and hopefully in each girls' age group. This should enable players to be appropriately graded in a team with a smaller range of abilities and should result in happier teams that can capably compete in the appropriate NSFA division. We also believe that forming a new, bigger club will help to continue the provision of professional training and development opportunities which both clubs have engaged in with the assistance of T3 and NSFA in the past few years.

NSFA are encouraging local small to medium sized clubs to consider merging and both clubs' committees believe that there will be an advantage to being the first movers in this regard. This proposed merger is for the two current clubs to unite on a 50/50 basis – this is not a takeover in any shape or form. Turramurra United will be able to play home matches at the new North Turramurra football grounds, on the grass fields when they are available for use and on the new artificial surface. The existing home grounds of the clubs (Bannockburn Oval, Karuah, the Glade, KHS and Carrington) will still be used as well.

The increase in the size of the club will bring benefits as described above but should not result in a club that is too big for its community base and we believe that Turramurra United will maintain the community based culture of both clubs. The colours of Turramurra United will be a combination of the colours of each club – red, yellow, navy blue and white but we are still working through various options and designs for the new playing strip. It is likely that Turramurra United will be able to provide subsidised shorts and socks for all returning players of each club next year. We anticipate that the registration fees will be in line with previous years.

A new committee will be formed to run Turramurra United. The current presidents - Mark Bendall (Wahroonga) and Geoff Harvey (Bannockburn)- have offered to stay on as co-presidents for the 2018 season.

Our junior Presentation Day is coming up on Sept 10th where we will be able provide more information and you will be able to ask me questions.

One important piece of information – this merger can only take place with our members' approval. A Special General Meeting will take place in mid-October and to which all club members will be invited, at which members can have your say and cast their vote.

These are exciting times and we are looking forward to providing more information to you in the coming weeks.

Regards,

Mark Bendall – Wahroonga Tigers President.