

KENMORE BEARS YEAR BOOK

2019

If you are a Kenmore Bear then sing along with me; we are the Bears on the road to victory

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2019 SEASON SUMMARY

Presidents Report

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

As the curtain falls on the 2019 season it is time to reflect on a fantastic season for the mighty Kenmore Bears. In thinking of how to describe this year I came up with “the year of the resurging Bear” or “the Bears come out of hibernation”

Our year started with the annual pre-season camp. This awesome 2-day overnight camp held at the YMCA Camp Warrawee Campus at Lake Kurwongbah, was the perfect start to the season. This year, the Kenmore Bears girls joined us at Camp Warrawee and the season kicked off with some fabulous team building activities and lots of footy fun,

2019 saw numbers increase overall by 63 players or 28% growth, with 93 new players to the club this year. We would also like to thank those 93 new players and their families that joined the club this year and integrated so well with our existing membership.

With this increase in numbers to nearly 300 players registered we were able to field an additional 4 teams, bringing our total number of teams this season to 21 across 10 age groups. The club is so proud of all our players and teams.

2 x Roys Juniors
3 x Under 8
2 x Under 9
3 x Under 10
2 x Under 11
2 x Under 11 Girls
2 x Under 12
2 x Under 13 Girls
2 x Under 14
and 1 x Under 16 boys.

It was a huge effort to source 4 new sets of jerseys (thanks to U14 Gold for wearing pink through the season when we received wedding dresses instead of your jerseys!!), not to mention encouraging 4 new coaches and managers to step up and lead our teams throughout the season.

Topping that off we had 3 teams play in Grand finals: our Under 16's, Under 14 Gold and Under 12 Gold. Such a wonderful effort for all these teams to make it into finals, and it is with great pride that we celebrate our Under 12s Premiership win – our first in 8 years!

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A huge thank you to all Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Managers and parents/siblings that helped out on training days & game days - without you volunteering we could not play games, have fun and be such a successful club.

We would also like to thank our 6 club umpires: Austin Mc Cue, Aidan Treacy, Hayden Smith, Lachlan Rawson, Blake Robinson and Abi Lunson. Great job team! The junior players and the coaches really appreciate your efforts.

We have a fantastic committee here at Kenmore, and I would like to thank them for their efforts. These are all volunteers that give up a lot of their time to make sure the club runs smoothly.



2019 Committee *front row L to R* Kylie Hardwick, David Brickhill, Rod Lake, Alix Kennedy, Lynda Brickhill, *back row L to R* Adam Taylor, James Benjamin, Taylor Middleton, Brendan Dennis *absent* Mark Russel, Belinda Nuske, Greg Ogle, Brad Stephen

Special mention Dave Brickhill who found the time to mark the fields for every game this season, and secondly Belinda Roche and Sue Boyce, who have done a marvelous job of running the uniform shop this season. Where would a footy club be without a canteen? And where would our canteen be without Alix Kennedy and her Nana Lynda, we need to acknowledge their contribution for many many hours they spent running the canteen.

Finally as a small local club, it would be impossible to exist without our sponsors. We have over 25 businesses that financially assist the club with sponsorships and I thank them all. To our major sponsors: Boutique Meats, Michelle Mc Leod Real Estate and Just in Time Electrical, thank you very much, your support is truly valued.

Rod Lake

President

2019 SEASON SUMMARY

REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL 2019

2019 was once again a successful season for Kenmore in the talent pathway space. 9 Kenmore players went on to be selected in representative teams to compete at State Titles.



2019 Met West Representative Players
L to R Aiden Brennan, Sam Russell,
Stella Young, Charlie Pingel, Francis
Lentz, Sophie David, Jack Boyce

First cab of the rank was Charlie Pingel who represented Met West under 15's on the Gold Coast in May. As June rolled around the Under 12 State carnival was hosted by Met North at the new Brendale football complex. Aidan Brennan, Jack Boyce, Sam Russell, Francis Lentz and our female representatives Sophie David and Stella Young got to experience playing in a Met West jumper.

Coming up in September is the AFLQ Academy series for Under 14 boys. We have 3 boys heading to this carnival Charlie Pingel representing Brisbane South West and first time rep players Zac Allen and Trent Samiao representing Brisbane Inner North. Good luck to these 3 players and may they make the Kenmore Bears proud.

There is great commitment and dedication to making Rep teams, a lot of trials and a lot of travel involved and I am sure these Rep players would want to acknowledge the roll their parents played driving them to all their commitments.

On behalf of the club, congratulations and good luck with your football careers going forward.

Rod Lake

President

2019 TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Football Report

JUNIOR FOOTY

Kenmore Bears NAB Auskick

Auskick is unrivalled by any other in terms of a “value for money” introductory program for boys and girls into an organised sporting activity thanks to the ongoing 15-year sponsor and supporter, the National Australia Bank. Critically it also continues to be the lifeblood and point of entry for AFL for all clubs regardless of size and/or in what state, so its importance to the future of clubs like our own at Kenmore cannot be understated.

In recent years our numbers like for many other clubs have not been where we would like (2017 – 65 participants / 2019 – 33 participants). This in part is a result of the duplication of the program in nearby catchment schools and the challenges to promote the program at a club level directly with those schools and elsewhere in the community.

This year for experimental sake and to encourage further participants, we moved our program initially to Sunday mornings instead of Friday nights to avoid parking and club congestion sometimes experienced once the season commences. This was well received by parents and guardians and therefore something to consider again for next year.

The Auskick program format was completely revamped for 2019 by the AFL with a strong focus towards fun and games incorporating not just AFL skills but general movement and coordination. This was a positive change from what previously was a program that had changed very little since its first inception. With the support again of AFLQ, we were able to obtain the services of very qualified and experienced coach for our program who was fantastic with the boys and girls. A big thankyou to AFLQ, our coach Dakota and all those Kenmore players who came down to assist each week in training.

We will need to continue at the club to look at alternate ways to further boost our numbers in Auskick, which then transitions into Roy's Juniors and then U8's and so on. One thing is for sure based on the past two seasons, is that we need to be more proactive and self-reliant in this space.

To further help and strengthen the club into the future, all members can assist by encouraging friends or other family members to join us and have their children come and try Auskick at Kenmore which is open for all those boys and girls who turn 5 in that same season/year.

We look forward to further expanding our numbers in 2020 and again welcoming as many new faces to the club as possible.

Mark Russell

Football Director

2019 TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Roy's Junior Footy (previously U6s)

Once our Auskick program was completed, we then invited participants to transition into underage junior football directly with that of our club. Our Auskick group this year had a very broad range of ages (and talent) such that a number of participants went straight up into U8 teams with a further 20 players participating in our Roy's Juniors. This was easily the best transition of players from Auskick into further club football we have had in recent memory.

This program operates along similar lines to that of Auskick where fun & skill development is still the main focus however with a little more game time incorporated into each session and on our purpose-built field. Again, we were extremely fortunate to have our Auskick coach Dakota look after this group for the entirety of our program.

There were a number of highlights throughout the season for our Roy's Juniors including a half time game at the 'Gabba on the 30th of June when the Brisbane Lions took on Melbourne. This is an amazing experience for our players and hopefully it won't be the last time these players get to play on that hallowed ground.

The other highlight for the year came towards the end of our program when we kitted up our boys and girls in full Kenmore club playing attire and had them run out of our change rooms (like one of our youth teams), through the club banner, past our U8's who formed a tunnel for them and onto the field for a match like game. This was replicated in our final session except this time on camera by that of Channel 7 as part of the "Toyota Good for Footy Raffle" story being done on our club.

Finally thank you to all those parents & guardians for enabling your boys and or girls to participate throughout the year and hope your combined experiences at our club have been a positive one that will continue long into the future.

Mark Russell

Football Director

Under 8 Green

I have been lucky enough to coach Under 8 teams for the last few of years, with this my fourth go at it. As most coaches know it is definitely a challenge to try and organise very enthusiastic kids, especially on a Friday night after school is done for the week. Coaches also know it is one of the most rewarding experiences you can have, and I had such great fun with my group this year.

It is hard to try and set huge goals for kids at this age, as they are still growing both physically and mentally and they will be remarkably different people, and hopefully, still footballers in a few years' time. A lot of them are just learning the game, so the number one goal for me was to make sure each and every one of them improved from the first training session in March to the last game we had in August. A goal I think we certainly achieved.

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As the kids will quote to you if you ask them the three main things we focused on during the year were 1. When we have the ball find space 2. When we don't have the ball; man up and 3. Most of all have fun! This was a massive focus on game days with it much easier to show them how to find space and man up in a game setting. Friday nights were for skills and lots of fun with this the first year we have trained as an age group rather than as teams. It certainly created a lot of camaraderie with the other teams and will hold them in good stead as they move through the age groups together.

Here is the Under 8 Green Team 2019!

#1 **Liam Winter:** Small, Speedy and Serious! I am very proud to be my godson's first coach. He is a very determined and dedicated player who just loves his footy. Not scared of getting in under but was also one of our best kids at running to space. Unfortunately as one of our smallest kids he was sometimes hard to spot for his team mates out there but he never gave up and I look forward to watching his footy for years to come.

#2 **Seth Kalajich:** Another one of our mosquito fleet but also had no fear. He was never worried about getting in low and getting the ball out to his team mates. He was never afraid to ask a question (a lot of questions!) and loved kicking a goal. His skills improved through the roof during the year. A great trainer on Friday nights.... as long as we played Spiders and Flies at some stage.

#3 **Molly Nearhos:** One of our three superstar girls who absolutely loves her footy. From the first training session she was keen to learn and have fun. A great team mate who always looked to get the rest of her team involved in a game and make sure they were having as much fun as she was. Her pink boots were hard to miss and her kicking improved out of sight over the year.

#4 **Zach Dennis:** As one of our second year of Under 8's I was really proud of the leadership he showed in making sure all of his team mates were involved in training and games. Never afraid to crack a joke or have a laugh, even at his expense, to make sure the team was having fun. It is a shame he inherited his dad's lack of pace but he used the ball well and was never afraid to go and get it.

#5 **Gemma Roy:** She is the perfect example of the improvement we see over the season. She came to us not knowing much about the game but a great attitude to learn and try her best. She used her height with great affect in ruck contests and loved getting involved no matter where she was playing. I think she kicked a few points before realising she had to kick it between the middle sticks but that first goal was one of our highlights of the year!

#6 **Hugo Rigg:** Started the year with flowing blonde locks and ended it with nice neat short back and sides. He tried hard all year, even if he was injured, and did it with a smile no matter what the situation. He has a bit of flare when he takes a mark and unique but workable ball drop that delivered results. If I was getting frustrated I could just look at Hugo for a reality check on what footy at this age is all about, having fun and kicking a footy with your mates.

#7 **Peter Hoolihan:** I am sure him or his parents won't mind me saying he is a unique character but someone I have loved coaching for the last two years. A no fuss player who works hard for the fruit at half

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time and even harder for the lollies at the end of the game. He has improved so much in two years and we have made a couple of secret deals out on the field that has seen him be part of some great pieces of play.

#8 Cameron Smith: A tough in and under player who has grown both in size and as a footballer in the last couple of years. He enjoys playing footy with his mates and having fun at training. Never bothered about being at the bottom of a pack but was also great at finding space and delivering the ball. We didn't see as much fornite dancing from him this year as last year but I have loved watching his development.

#9 Ben Williams-Peters: Every time he kicked it I felt like there should have been a 'boom' sound effect that follows. He was often in charge of getting the ball in to the next zone for the team which was never a problem no matter how far that was. We also worked on distance control throughout the year which was evident later in the season. He played some great defensive roles and read the ball well to take a few game saving marks. A boy of few words but big actions!

#10 Ruby Golding: I don't know if when the Golding's had three daughters they envisioned their weekends being spent at various footy ovals around Brisbane. I am glad it has worked out that way because Ruby has been a joy to coach. Like all left footers she looks like a natural footballer when she gets on to a kick. Always plays with a smile and a great team player who is happy to dish off a handball to her fellow team mates.

#19 Zac Gromadski: He was late to arrive to our team but very quick to deliver ... I reckon his first three kicks were goals. He was keen from day one and fit in straight away with the team. He has a good goal sense, kicks the ball very well and knows how to find space and take a mark. I look forward to watching him play some good footy for the Bears in the years to come.

Lastly a team is not complete without its support network. A big thank you to all the parents who were very supportive throughout the year taking on game day jobs and getting their kid's to training and games. There was often a mad scramble after games to rush off to other sibling's games but there was 100% buy in from everyone on game day and I know the kids appreciated it. A massive thanks to Thomas Winter who was my Team Manager for us this year. It helps we are cousins but he did a great job of organising us every week and keeping everyone in the loop of upcoming events and tasks. Lastly a massive thanks to the other Under 8 coaches, Andrew Slatter and James Benjamin, plus the youth boys who helped out on Friday nights, Will, Harry, Lachlan, Jalen, Max and Manna. You definitely made training more enjoyable and easier to run.

Thank you for a great year and I hope I have been a positive influence on the kids this year. I can't wait to watch them in the years to come hopefully playing for the Mighty Kenmore Bears!

Brendan Dennis

Under 8 Green Coach

Under 8 Gold

I would like to start by offering all thanks to Robin Marshall for his awesomely organised and completely unflappable team management this year. As a coach, I couldn't have asked for a better manager.

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This has been my first year coaching Aussie Rules footy. The blind leading the blind springs to mind, but I have been amazed by how well our team has played and how much our kids have enjoyed their footy. I don't know how much I've been able to teach them about footy, but I have loved how much they've been able to teach me about having fun!

Player Profiles

Judd Marshall: the Powerhouse of the U8 Gold team, Judd was always prepared to put his body on the line and use his height advantage to gain control of the football. And, once he had the ball, nobody was going to stop him because they were all too scared to try. Judd with a look of determination on his face is not to be messed with!

Lucy Harris: Lucy is tenacity personified: she never just let the opposition do what they wanted. Lucy played many games this year where the opposition (especially the boys!) seemed to think she was just going to be a push-over and would just let them have the ball. Those boys couldn't have been more wrong! Lucy took some hard knocks and put her body on the line for the Bears.

Erik Lampaert: Blink and you'll miss him! Erik is fast and he's agile; one might even think he's got the skills to be a dancer – and that's because he does. He has that rare combination of twinkle-toes and absolute guts that makes for a well-rounded footy player. You know a kid is dedicated to his footy when he manages to get hurt in every game ... but not enough to need to stop playing!

Lincoln Watt: For one of the smallest kids on the team, Lincoln has a massive boot at the end of those little legs. He can slot goals from amazing distances and likes to take his time to read the lay of the land when looking for someone to kick to. The quintessential thinking-kids' player with a boot to back it all up!

Charlize Morrison: The official U8 Gold Mega-Boot for 2019! Charlize has fought it out with the toughest opponents, has been completely unafraid of being hurt and has scored more goals than I have fingers and toes to count with. She's got a never-say-die attitude that I admire enormously. I reckon she's going places – watch this space!

William Law: I'm not going to lie: getting Will to pay attention to the game requires attention. But when his attention is focussed on the ball, Will's attention is single-minded and tenacious. Will isn't scared of being hurt in the same way that the Terminator isn't scared of bullets! When he puts his mind to it and decides that he wants the ball, that ball is his and he's pretty much unstoppable! And goals follow!

Noah Hemming: Our resident mathematician, Noah always knows what the score is, even though we're not really keeping score. Noah is also a marvellous example of a team player. He's not on the field for personal glory; he wants the team to win and he's always looking for the best offload to achieve that. He's definitely got the stats for best hand-passes this season by far and he is always encouraging his teammates to keep up the hard work. But when he thinks the footy is a pizza, watch out; he gets hungry!

Tobias Woodhill: Don't let Tobias's size fool you: he might be our littlest player, but he's a terrier on the footy field! Our only player to pick his own nickname – "T-Bone" – he's also proved time-after-time that he

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has the skills to surprise the opposition, even when they were all of his mates from Sherwood! I don't know what we'd do without him!

Ace Finnegan: Ace by name, Ace by nature! Ace can read the field, direct his teammates where he wants them to be and inject himself into the middle of a mid-air contest and come away with the ball and that's pretty awesome for Under 8s footy. But, more important than his own skills, he's also a great team-player and is always looking for scoring opportunities for his team-mates and encouraging them to keep going.

Henry Benjamin: Henry, of course, is the player I know best on our team and I can say that Henry plays the game the same way he approaches life. Henry wants to do the best he can, but he also wants to give other people the chance to do the same. Henry's willingness to pass the ball to someone else when he has a goal-scoring opportunity is absolutely in keeping with his team spirit personality and he's done that many times this season. Who's got two thumbs up and is a very proud dad? This guy!

James Benjamin

Under 8 Gold Coach

Under 8 Blue

The First Step: Kenmore Bears U8 Blue 2019 Season Review

First up, thank you. Thanks for bringing the kids down to footy, thank you for washing guernsies, goal umpiring, the half-time oranges, the unpaid-uber-driving but most of all of for your unwavering support of the Mighty Bears!

Craig: cracking job as team manager, thank you for everything you did, through the week and on game day, magnificently supported by your wonderful family. The season ran like clockwork thanks to your managerial efforts.

The lightening carnival that we participated in at the end of the season highlighted to me just how far we came as a team and as individuals. Confident, respectful, competitive sportspeople having fun together, a great start to team sport and hopefully a life-long love of Hawthorn, I mean AFL.

If nothing else footy is a running game! Riverside Rocks Park Run is on every Saturday morning at 7am, completely free to join, come on down and get the whole family into pre-season!

Finally, thanks for the beautiful Hawthorn guernsey and running socks, incredibly generous. But my true reward is yet to come. Watching the mighty 2019 Rookies progress through the club (and beyond) will be the gift that keeps on giving! If you hear "GET THE FOOTY" then you know who is watching and what you need to next!

Isla: Speed & toughness, what more could a dad ask of his daughter? Cracking debut year. Will show her older siblings up without question. Strong teamwork in the tight contest a feature of her debut season. Raking hand-ball tore holes in even the tightest defence.

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Seb: Definitely has the makings of the next big “O”. Loved his time in front of the big sticks when charging forward but soaked up a lot of footy in defence, taking some big grabs across the half back line. Genuine big utility and will eat up the pre-season miles to hit 2020 hard.

Sam: Massive year for a young man giving up size and age to play with his older brother. Will be impossible to contain next year if he stays down. Definite Sam Mitchell material. Quick disposals under pressure feature of his game so far, delivering deep inside 50s from anywhere inside the square.

Fab: Huge tank with a massive hunger for the ball. Really got rolling in the 2nd half of the season as he developed some real “wheels” across the backline and through the midfield. Its not just the curls, comparisons to a young Dermot Brereton are not unwarranted.

Liam: Speed to burn, with the capacity to run all day. Great to see him get amongst a few in the 2nd half of the season and build in confidence. Did his best work in front of the big sticks under pressure. With a big pre-season with footy in hand he’ll be unstoppable in U9 when the pressure is on.

Jasper: This young man loved his footy more and more as the year went on and transitioned from the outside option to hard-ball-getter. Can’t wait to see how he does over the pre-season with big expectations now well set for 2020.

Brian: There’s a photo of this young man under “gutsy” in the Oxford Dictionary. Kept his head over the footy all season, big things will follow. As our last line of defence in so many crucial moments he never flinched and always delivered.

Piper: The complete package, speed, agility, hard-nosed competitiveness. Hard running off the footy set up a lot of our attacks. Will be a force to be reckoned with when the tackle is introduced. A “heads up” player with great down field vision, will be hard to contain across the half forward line.

Eddie: Loves the inside contested footy, can always be relied on to be in there and competing. Raking kick used to devastating effect out of the backline and punching it forward. Although there are dark forces looming repeat after me Eddie “yes dad, just one more year of AFL”.

Lorenzo: Break-out year in 2019 coming across from the round ball game with all of the quick foot work that we’d expect from a former world gamer. Could be relied upon to be hammer-down on the outside work but also great around the goals. He’s never going back.

Sam B: Silk. Relied upon across the ground week-in, week-out for his unparalleled consistency and execution. Great on the turn out of the centre, always reading the play to his advantage. Strong overhead work, threw himself into every contest. Watch the bench-press work this guy gets amongst during the off-season.

Andrew Slatter

Under 8 Blue Coach

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Under 9 Green

What an amazing year of footy by the mighty U9 Green machine!! We had a fantastic combination of players who had played before and some impressive new starters. What was evident right from the start was the passion that the boys have for their footy and also towards their club. While each player developed their individual skills over the course of the season, more importantly it was great to see a real sense of teamwork and friendship both on and off the field. You're a great bunch of boys!

A big thanks to the parents and families of U9 Green who have been happy to take on the essential roles that make a footy club tick. You were all very supportive of the team which made Friday training and Saturday games really enjoyable. Thank you to the team manager, Dave Patmore, for helping to keep us organised and informed with his weekly posts.

Now for the player profiles...

#2 Oliver Hardwick: Ollie, "The Tackling Machine" has had a fantastic season. Training Ollie has been incredible with him always willing to put his hand up to demonstrate a drill or to be at the front of the line. He has shown that he has the confidence to take on any challenge thrown his way. Ollie's captain's match was by far the highlight of his season where he earned player of the match and the title of "The Tackling Machine". I remember telling the boys the main focus of this game was to tackle and while I was saying that all I saw was Ollie smiling as it was his time to shine and show off his tackling ability. The amount of tackles he completed that game was too many to count but let's just say upwards of 100 tackles. Next season Ollie will no doubt continue to improve all aspects of his footy and I know that he will be a wrecking ball when he gets up into the higher age groups.

#3 Cooper Harrison: Cooper has been highly influential this season with his energy which he brings to training and games. Cooper's energy in team huddles has been amazing and he always fires up the boys when he screams "Bears on 3". This always boost the determination of his teammates and creates excitement - a true Bear's team player! Cooper trains well and always asks for the team to do extra running, and when doing the warm up slow jog he always sprints it in hard setting the benchmark. Copper has played some fiercely competitive pressure footy and I'm sure if he brings his excitement and strong form into next season he will be very successful.

#4 Riagan Quilter: Riagan has had an amazing season with his deadly kicking frequently damaging opposition teams. He has showed great sportsmanship qualities at both training and in games and has shown great drive to improve his skills. Riagan has had amazing focus, is very competitive, and has great self-confidence. He has been our team's Mr. Reliable whenever under pressure, and when he has the ball in hand he always manages to deliver a great disposal. Riagan has a lot of potential and with his already fantastic skills the future is bright for him and I'm sure he will be a great asset for the U10s.

#6 Harlin Smith: Harlin has had a wonderful season and he has showed everyone that he means business when taking the field. He has been super reliable and incredibly competitive all season and he has shown a willingness and ability to play in all zones of the field. If Harlin keeps up training hard I'm sure he will be

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able to go far in AFL. This season he has displayed his ability to run hard and fast, taking the game on. Harlin's pace that he has used to race around his opponents has been amazing to watch this season.

#7 Charlie Hill: Charlie (also known as the best full forward to ever play an U9s match) has had an amazing season. He has worked hard all season at training and his constant willingness to always improve contributed to his break out goal. Charlie's first goal of the season was an incredible moment for him and his loyal fans. All the parents from both Kenmore and the opposition team were stunned at his brilliance. This goal wasn't the only thing which earned Charlie his player of the match as he worked hard all day getting kicks, handpasses and winning ruck taps. His effort was second to none. Charlie's effort all season has been impressive and has by far been the best behaved player and has been a great player to coach.

#8 Thomas Murdoch: This season Thomas has shown week in week out that he is a genuine superstar of the game and that he is always ready to have a go. Whether it be for our team or when he volunteers for the opposition team he always tries his best and that is a good Bear's trait to have in footy. Thomas has trained extremely hard all season and has been outstanding in all the training drills and on game day. Thomas is very reliable, very versatile and his skills are great and next year will no doubt continue to grow and improve on his footy.

#9 Jacob Mills: Jacob all year has shown great improvement and he always puts in a lot of effort into his training and games. Jacob has had a fantastic season and this season I've seen that his marking of the ball above his head has improved a lot. This has become one of the most dangerous features of his game. Jacob's kicking and his attack on the footy has also dramatically improved as the season moved on. Next season Jacob will continue to improve on his skills and he will be a very valuable, hard and tough addition to the U10 team.

#11 Xavier Morrell: Xavier has been outstanding this season and he has made it clear that he loves the forward line and that he belongs up there. He has an ability to score goals and he has great potential to be a very successful Bear's player of the future. Xavier has worked hard at training and the work pays off in the games when he slots a brilliant goal. He has improved a lot this year with his kicking becoming deadly accurate. Another quality which he has shown this season is that he is a team player and once he has scored his goal he is always looking to help his teammates kick a goal as well. A selfless team first attitude! Great work, Xavier!

#12 Lachlan Patmore: Lachie P has been very significant to this team, as he has shown that he is a natural leader with great sportsmanship. I've seen professionalism from Lachie in the way he plays the game. He has a booming kick, goes hard at the ball and backs up his teammates. I've seen Lachie help his opposition player to their feet after he has tackled them and earned a free kick which are qualities of not only a good player but of a great person. Lachie is set for great things in AFL and I feel he has great potential to one day captain his own team later in his footy career.

#13 Elias Rigg: Elias has had a great season where he has drastically improved his AFL skills and knowledge of the game. He is great at picking up his player and stopping them from getting the ball. He has shown in games that he is very reliable and that he is getting really good at marking. He fights hard in packs

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and with his height I'm sure he will be a great key position player in U10 next year. He is a player to watch in season 2020!

#14 Lachlan Kelly: This season Lachie K has been a great team player, and he has had some amazing games where he has shown that he has great talent and pace. He has worked hard to keep on his opponents and give his teammates a target up forward. On several occasions where in games Lachie has been injured he has always fought through them and ended up playing well. This shows how tough and determined he can be. Lachie's football development this season has been great to see firsthand, and next year I see great things for him.

#15 Harley McCue: Coaching 'The H Man' this season has been fun and exciting. Watching Harley develop as a footy player has brought joy to me. Over this AFL season Harley has shown absolute brilliance, integrity, sportsmanship and flare. Harley proved more than a hand full for the opposition with him punishing his opponents 'selling the candy' and strong palm offs. This season Harley has worked hard at training to improve his skills and it definitely showed on game days. Next season Harley will be looking to continue his great form and with his height advantage I'm sure that Harley is looking forward to dominating the ruck next year and smashing packs in U10s.

Once again, thank you everyone for a great season. I really enjoyed my first year of coaching the U9 Green team.

Dave Patmore

Under 9 Green Team Manager

Under 9 Gold

Wow what a great season! As coach of the under 9's Gold team it has been a real pleasure to see each of the players improve in various areas over the season.

Being my first stint at coaching an AFL team I found the club and players more than willing to welcome me into the position.

Over the season I've tried to help each of the boys as a group and as individuals. Prior to each game I would always ask players to set a goal for the game. The goal would be to improve on something from a previous game or something that they felt they could work on to improve. Each week the boys would work very hard to improve on those goals.

Adam: Here is a kid who has shown great improvement from the start to end of season! Every training session Adam comes with great enthusiasm to learn something new. He has shown that he can follow instructions well at training and on game day. Whilst his balls skills are still developing Adam has shown me each and every game that he wants to be involved and is a great team player when he gets the ball. Over the past few games he has shown a real drive to get into anything and everything to help his team either retain the ball or keep moving forward.

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Archie: He is a kid who has plenty of charisma/energy. He is a very driven young boy who wants to play and score goals for his team. In game play you can see the skill that he brings to each game but do feel he can also distract himself from what he needs to do as a team player and keep moving forward. He is able to kick and pass a ball with the best of them. It has been a real pleasure to have trained Archie over this season & look forward to seeing him progress in the future.

Campbell: It was clear from the start of the season that Campbell was very confident in a game environment. His ball handling skills are great and he knows where he needs to be in each of the quarters he played whether in defense, mid field or forwards. He is a real team player who doesn't mind sharing the ball around to help the team keep moving forward. I think Campbell will make a good leader in the future.

Hatio: Hatio has been one of the other players who has shown great improvement over the season. He is always ready for a game and is willing to learn and have fun at training. Never afraid to go in and have a go on game day. He is a player who will listen to everything I've had to say and is willing to take my advice on board. At training he follows my advice with tentative ears and on game day follows my directions with ease. It has been very enjoyable to have Hatio (huds) on our team as I feel he helps keep some of the boys grounded.

Harry: With our training sessions you can see Harry is ready to work and improve on the skills that he has and to try to implement them on game day. He is one of the first to arrive and last to leave, eager to have a run with the ball and to assist his mates on the field. He is the glue which helps hold a team together. His marking and kicking skills from start to end of season have improved to help him shine in recent games. A real pleasure to have trained Harry over the season and I can see he has a real drive to improve himself over the coming years.

James: Throughout the season James has shown that he enjoys being part of a team. He has been a valuable addition and shows that he is prepared to have a go when on the field. It might take him a few minutes to get going but once up and running he is happy to get into all the action. If he is able to train a little more on and off the field I feel that we can see vast improvements in his ball handling skills. It was a pleasure to have helped him over the season to learn some new skills and to have a little bit of fun along the way at training and on during a game.

Joe: Joe is another all rounder! I first met Joe when he played up in an under 9's game last year. He is very quick and agile and prepared to get into everything. He is a great positional player and you can see his love and passion of the game. He is not a kid that sit's still & I've noted this a few games back when he still wanted to play injured. He has always listened to advice and is always ready to help his mates on the field. A true Kenmore bears team player.

Oliver: What can I say?. One of the toughest little kids on the team/field. He has a great command of the ball with his kicking and marking skills. He is never afraid to move up and retrieve the ball off another player through his tackling and retrieval skills. Watching him play has also helped me to understand a little

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more of the game. He has the ability to help other kids improve and feel he can improve his own game by working better with team mates in some situations. It has been a pleasure to watch him play.

Ryan: I've had the pleasure of training Ryan not only in Afl but other sports. Ryan is a bit of an all round player in AFL and shows he can play well no matter where he is on the field. He works well in a team environment which is his strength. A good positional player who looks for opportunities that are presented to him during game play. He has also improved as a player throughout the season with his ball kicking and handling skills. As a player he is also happy to help other kids improve by giving some great leadership advice on field. It has been a pleasure to have trained him again & trained with him in a new sport.

Scott: He may not be the biggest player on the team but he wears his heart on his sleeve! He embodies what it means to be a team player and a Kenmore bears team mate. Over the season Scott has shown that he is prepared to walk out on to the field and give it everything he has got. He doesn't shy away from the hard stuff and as a player has shown he can match every other player on the field with strength and endurance. His ball handling and marking skills have come a long way from the start of the season. I've enjoyed watching every single game Scott has been a part of as I know when a ball is headed his way he will do everything he can to retrieve it.

Travis: At the beginning of the season Travis seemed very new to the AFL like me and slowly worked on various ball handling skills and game play. The turning point for Travis was his new boots! He came to the next game with his new clean boots ready to play. He was electrified and wanted to help his team. It was a joy to watch as Travis dove on every ball and tackled other players who had the ball to help our team. After that game Travis was hungry to keep moving forward and his ball handling and catching skills have improved vastly since our first training session and game together.

Porter: The coach's son. It has been a real joy to be a part of my son's team. He has shown that he is prepared to play hard and help his team mates out on the field. Whilst he doesn't always listen to what dad has to say he has shown that he is a great positional player. He enjoys playing the game which can be seen when he gets out on the field. I get the best seat in the house as I can help coach him on the field as I do with the other kids to help him improve and advise him on how I feel he could do some things a little better. All in all I'm very happy with how he has progressed through the season and hope he still loves the sport for many years to come.

Nathan Thomas

Under 9 Gold Coach

Under 10 Green

Oscar understands the importance of being loud when calling for the ball, directing play and letting team mates know where he is. He is always excited to be at the footy whether it be training or game day and his long arms make him a strong high marking player. Last season he was at his best in the forward line and this year he has learned how to be a tight marking defensive player.

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Tom K loves to shepherd and get his body in the way to protect teammates. His second efforts to help out fellow Bears were a highlight of his play as was his use of handball to get the ball out into space. He is always thinking and trying to put himself in a good position to provide an option for teammates.

Nate has worked hard on his skills and has become a great competitor who now loves to tackle. As the season went on he learned to read the play and position himself to repel the opposition attacks. The way he attacks the contest and has learned to tackle ferociously will be a great asset as he moves into under 11's.

Zaire had a great first season with the Bears and was always listening carefully and keen to learn and improve his game. Difficult to tackle he was at his best getting the hard ball and busting out of packs. Unfortunately a broken ankle ended his season and we missed his great determination in the last few games. Next season he will enjoy the wide open spaces.

Charlie continues to be a huge fan of the horizontal speckie. He loves wrestling for the ball and this year he has improved his ability to run to space and use handball to attack. It was fantastic to see him sharing the ball through the middle with teammates. Always keen to improve and beat his player Charlie competes like a tiger and is a great learner.

Finn is learning to use his size and strength and is very difficult to beat in a one on one marking competition. He loves monsterring teammates at training. By concentrating on the play and thinking ahead he has improved his ability to read where the ball might go next and get to the right position. When he gets onto a kick or handball it goes a mile.

Tom B was always thinking and making second and third efforts to win the ball. He was the engine room of the team and enjoyed running down opposition players, dishing out handballs and pinpointing low passes to teammates in space. His left foot has improved and it has been good to see him using it during games. Next season he needs to work on his snapshots.

Noah loves to run when he gets a bit of space. As the season went on he learned to lift his eyes and scan the field to spot a target downfield and his long penetrating kicks to team mates helped us to move the ball quickly. He had an exciting first season and his great enthusiasm for footy was contagious. I think he will enjoy the big field in 2020.

Liam H has developed into an imposing key marking target who is unstoppable when steaming out from full forward. He is learning to think about where he needs to be and run hard to find space and has made great improvements in his field kicking. Next year on the big field his long kick will be a weapon and as a big mobile forward he will be enjoyable to watch.

Hudson improved his play every week and had his best game of the year before his season was cruelly cut short by a broken collarbone. In his last few games Hudson's teamwork and determination to win the ball grew and grew. Thinking about his positioning and where he needs to run to will help him be a force to reckon with on the bigger playing field next season.

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Liam A the speed machine, provided our team with impressive running power that made it hard for the opposition to stop us. He always has his eyes up looking for Bears downfield which helped him to use the ball well and hit a target. He was at his best cutting through the midfield and using handball to link with teammates. Over the summer some practice long kicking on the run will help him get ready for the big field.

Bas has great endurance and covers a lot of territory. He is both elusive and has lightning acceleration which makes him difficult to tackle. He is always trying to read the play and thinking about where the ball is going. His kicking is improving and when he drops the ball straight he has one of the most powerful kicks in Under 10

Simon Boyce

Under 10 Green Coach

Under 10 Gold

2019 has been an important development year for most players in the side. Whilst for most of the year we seemed to be outscored by our opposition (not that we were counting), I was impressed with how the boys stuck to the game plan and supported each other throughout the year.

The season began with developing kicking, marking and handballing skills all whilst adding in the additional tackling pressure. I am happy to report that the boys have responded very well. By the seasons end, the side was playing in a balanced way with a focus that has been not to just to win possession but to transition the ball down the field with as many Kenmore hands being part of the play. There is now also a better understanding of spatial awareness where not everyone will crowd around the ball with a player staying either a kick ahead or behind the play. This will be important next year when the zones are removed and the ground gets larger.

I am also very pleased with the boys endeavour to never give up and quite often to do the team thing (eg. picking up a players when the opposition has the ball and giving a handball to another Kenmore player). There is now some real urgency to do this in general play and it good to see the boys concentration span is getting longer.

I would like to thank our Manager Tiffany and the many parents who have helped out throughout the year in coaching, being involved in training drills, getting the kids ready on game day, setting up the ground, being goal umpire field marshals and time keepers. Without you coaching would be a lot more difficult and the end result and support we show our kids has made football more valuable to them. So a big special thanks to Ron, Marty, Neil, Ian and Gene just to name a few.

Players Synopsis

#1 Tyson Reed: Tyson is a great kid who always puts in 100% effort at training and on game day. He enjoys playing on the ball but has been known to play up forward. Tyson is often found going into pack to get the football and is one of the best handballers in our side. He likes to share the ball with his teammates and bring them in the play.

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#7 **Joshua David:** Joshua enjoys being in the forward or backline. He has one of the longest kicks in the side and despite his small size, is a good tackler and his hard to tackle. Josh has also been working on his handball which comes in handy moving the ball to a Kenmore player if being tackled. Josh didn't enjoys the sprints at training, but you can't like everything.

#8 **Harley Hughes:** Harley is one of the nicest considerate players in our side. His skills have improved tremendously throughout the year which must have been the extra coaching by his dad. He is a good runner and also an accurate kicker of the ball. He reads the play well and often runs into space to provide an option when Kenmore has the ball.

#10 **Thomas Greeves:** Tom is an enthusiastic player who has developed good kicking and marking skills and has an ability to read the play and anticipate whether the ball will land. Tom rarely gets caught with the ball when in attack and natural leader and often provides encouragement and instructions to the other boys like 'grab and give'.

#11 **Tyas Elsaesser:** Tyas is one of those kids that had a growth spurt throughout the year and enjoys the contested ball in the middle of the ground and the tacking. He did some bone crunching tackles throughout the season on much taller players. His kicking has really improved throughout the year with longer and more accurate kicks. He is also one of the kids who stand up and supports their teammates when there is a scuffle and chases opponent players.

#14 **Sebastian Yokoyama:** Sebastian football skills have drastically improved throughout the year. He is always pleasant, is a good listener, and gives things a real go at training night. Sebastian always puts in 100% in getting involved and is well liked by all the boys. This has been a great year of developing his footy skills and his positive attitude is always something a coach appreciates.

#15 **Hamish Kalajzich:** Hamish is a quick runner who uses his speed and strength to win the ball. He goes in very hard for the football and never gives up. Given his running ability, Hamish is a natural midfielder and can quickly move the football forward to Kenmore's advantage. Hamish's game sense has improved a lot as he has improved his decision making on getting the ball to his team mates rather than just kicking it down field. A big improver throughout the year.

#20 **Ben Marsden** Ben has had a great development year and become one of our strongest positional players. He is resolute in defence and in the centre of the ground going in to fight hard for the ball or taking pack marks. He is good in defence when the opposition has the ball and moves the ball forward when we are in attack.

#22 **Will Jenkins-Gierke:** Will has had a strong first year to Australian Rules football. He has great kicking and marking skills, goes in hard for the ball and is a good tackler. He also anticipates the ball well and can be great in the centre of the ground or in defence. Will is another one of our positional players that combines well our smaller midfield players to move the ball into attack.

#24 **Ewan Halden:** Ewan had a great first year with Kenmore and fitted well into the side. He goes in hard for the football to win possession and chases hard when the opposition has the ball. His kicking and

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marking skills have improved throughout the year. Ewan has worked hard on handballing and picking the ball up off the ground so that he is involved in many of the team plays.

#25 Bryn Halden: Bryn also has had a great first year with Kenmore. He has improved his skills in getting the ball on the field and when he gets the ball he makes good decisions in moving it to other Kenmore players. He is also good in defence finding opposition players when they have the ball and tackling in defence.

#29 Joel da Silva: Joel is an athletic player who kicks the ball well and is good in marking contest and presents well in the forward line with his leading. He has developed his ability to chase and now tackle opposition players and is good at going in and getting the ball. He is a natural ruck tapping the ball to other Kenmore players. Joel is also one of our most consistent trainers throughout the year and this hard work shows.

Jeff David

Under 10 Gold Coach

Under 10 Blue

Our U10 Blue team came together very late in the lead up to the season commencing. This was a result in having initially only two U10 teams however with nearly 15 in each team which would have resulted in too much rotating bench time and less on field game time for all our players throughout the season. Having this third team also provided a number of U10 players pushed up to U11's to get not just two games a week, but valuable learnings still available in the 3-zone game format.

The negative in hindsight for our team however and something I will be more conscious of in future, was that our trainings on Friday nights never consisted of a full team. This does affect team cohesion and was further compounded by a significant number of training nights missed by myself because of unforeseen work travel commitments. While not an ideal situation, as coach and as Football Director of the club, I was however in the end very happy with the overall season and the way in which the boys implemented for the most part what I was trying to teach. It would be fair to say that we had a very strong team throughout the year, so my expectations were higher than what they normally would have been at this level. On numerous occasions the team played some outstanding team football which was regularly commented to me by that of opposition team coaches.

Regarding our players this year, see below some comments for each:

Cooper "I don't like the backlines" Allen: There's one common theme in junior AFL, very few players like playing in defence and "Coop's" is no exception and has no problems voicing this to the coach. Coop's is not the first and won't be the last and as a coach there's nothing more satisfying to me in firstly using this as motivation for them to play elsewhere but even more so, showing them that its firstly probably the best position to learn the game and secondly that they can be very good in this position. It's way too early to pigeonhole players in positions, but Coop's best games for us were easily when in defence for which I see a

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bit of natural instinct. A talented player who takes on the opposition (sometimes a little too much) and who I will watch closely with future interest.

Noah “In and Under” Carrol: Its very difficult to teach/coach aggression at ball and opposition players. You rely mostly on instinct and Noah has this in spades. Just got better as the year went on and has come a long way in the past few years. If Noah can keep working hard on his skills, when those “click”, look out as he will be a very complete player. One of my favourites and always like to watch him play.

Archie “The Magpie” Dennis: Barracks for the magpies and swoops in like a magpie making the most of his opportunities when they arise. He can do this because he is a very good reader of the play and has good skills to back it up. I would however like to see less kicks around the corner and more straightening up however he has plenty of friends in this space. Great temperament and person to coach and hopefully not my last opportunity to do so.

Casey “The Coaches Kid” Russell: The coaches’ kid is typically on a hiding to nothing and like most dad’s, my expectations are high with work to do around tolerance and tempering those expectations. Fortunately, Casey takes all this in his stride, loves the game, continually practices and genuinely listens. Like his dad not endowed with speed but he more than makes up for this with his hand and foot skills, which truth be known at times can be very good. Bit of work to do around the physicality of the game and getting in and under but overall enjoyed having him in our team this year.

Sam “The Terrier” Smith: I said it two years ago when I last coached him; “You can’t help but love the way this young man goes about his football, it’s flat out or it’s nothing”. While this has not changed, Sam has shown significant improvement in his skills to further compliment his overall game. His improvement has been so pronounced that while still eligible for U9’s, has played numerous games up in the U11’s and competed on more than equal terms. Sam’s next step is to move from “see ball, get ball and kick ball” to learning special awareness and making the best disposal decisions at the time which will come with experience and further coaching. A prodigious talent with a fantastic nature.

Eamon “The Listener” Doolan: Its nice always nice to have a player that listens to his coach and it’s a credit to Eamon that he continually did this throughout the year against the background of a group with several very strong personalities. I was really impressed and encouraged by his commitment and willingness to learn and be involved whether it be at training or on game day. With another year to come in U10’s, I really hope Eamon sticks with his AFL and practices his skills every chance he gets as all players develop at different speeds and its only a matter of time before things start to fall into place for him.

Charlie “Fire Me Up” Harris: I was very impressed and pleased with the improvement Charlie has made this year on his skills. Charlie’s a big boy and is only going to grow further which can play havoc with coordination, so its imperative he continues to keep working on his ball skills and hand-eye coordination over the summer. When it comes to game days; it seems that Charlie does his best work on the field only after he gets hit in a big tackle or is aggravated by the opposition in some way. Once he’s fired up; he’s great to watch and can be a real team motivator.

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Levi “I Live for AFL” Jesse: I rarely see Levi without a ball in his hand and he is one of the most motivated and enthusiastic players I have ever seen play junior AFL. It’s not surprising that Levi’s skills are at the level in which they are however I think/hope this year has been a real leveller for him. Levi has dominated in previous years at lower age groups but he has not been able to do this as much playing up a age group this year in U10’s where players can be a bit stronger and faster. He adjusted well at times and is very much a talent, pleasure to coach and someone I look forward to seeing further develop and hopefully coach again in the future.

Jason “The Gun” Rabie: Jason is another underage player who we played up in U10’s this year and who has some scary talent. His level of output, contribution and consistency on game days throughout the year was extremely high and quite remarkable given his almost nonchalant nature at times. Jason however once he crosses the white line becomes a fierce competitor and has a natural instinct for the game of AFL. He’s a very exciting prospect and one I look forward to seeing develop in the future.

Owen “The Jet” Scown: Its quite amazing that this young man is still relatively new to the game. The year on year improvements he has made not just on his skills but in the understanding and implementation of more technical aspects of game play, has been very impressive and pleasing. While Owen is a naturally gifted athlete, he is an example to others of what can be achieved in AFL with practice and active listening to the coach. A pleasure to coach and easily our most consistent throughout the year and I very much look forward to seeing him further progress next year in U11’s and on a larger field. Stay fit young man.

Cameron “The Rock” Whitaker: While you don’t want to “pigeonhole” players into certain positions at this age, I think I said it 2 years ago when I last coached Cameron; he’s like a rock as a defensive player. While this has not changed along with his attack on the ball and excellent tackling particularly for someone a little smaller in statue, what has changed and improved is Cameron’s skills both in his kicking and marking. Having games in U10’s in my view has helped him in this area and as previously he has been a pleasure to coach.

In closing I’d like to thank Caryn and the Harris family for managing the team (and coach) this year as well as all the parents and guardians for your support. Next year will be the big step up to U11’s for most of the boys on an expanded $\frac{3}{4}$ size field with no zones. While not having to play zones will be an exciting change for the boys, it does come with some challenges around fitness and for most, not touching the ball as often as what they would in U10’s. Please bare this in mind over the summer break and encourage the boys to continue to be active and practice with their AFL footballs as often as they can. Keep a look out also for some information on some pre-Christmas training sessions the club will be running again this year.

I look forward to seeing you all again in 2020 and you never know maybe as coach again in the U11’s.

Mark Russell

Under 10 Blue Coach

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Under 11 Green

What a great season! It's been a privilege to coach Under 11 Green. At the start of the season I told the boys it wasn't the scoreboard, but the effort that I care about, and results will follow – as they did. It was a challenge stepping up into the big boys' league for all of us. Our team motto was "The greater the team, the greater the player you will become." I really enjoyed seeing the team develop into a strong unit. We were a team that had no heroes, but every person having a role to play.

We started the season playing some really good teams, and these teams gave us something to work towards. As the season went on, we grew as a team. Skills developed, team structure developed and we followed our three team rules: compete harder than the opposition, tackle harder and man up. In the second half of the season we saw some great success.

A brief summary of our players:

Bailey Russell: Bailey has a "Never give up" attitude. He has great skills and was known to be secret weapon around the goals. Bailey grew in confidence in the second half of the season while playing fullback.

Milan Mahrshahi: One of the big improvers for the year, Milan was always willing to listen to instructions. He saved many goals in the back line.

Shiva Jay Gopi: A very disciplined player, Shiva listens to all instructions and acts on them. He became a leader in the back line.

Braden Davison: Not many AFL players kick their first goal in their first game – well done. Braden played well in the back line, bringing in some of his league tackling skills.

Oliver Smith: Oliver became one of the team leaders throughout the season. He grew into his position in the back line. He has the ability to make smart decisions in tough situations.

Toby Close: A big improver for the year, Toby is always looking for ways to develop his skills. His run and carry on the wing was great to watch.

Kai Rogers: A real team player, Kai's speed and agility helped us to get across the line in some tight games. He always had a positive attitude, even when we were 10 goals down!

Jarvis Haywood: Great year, Jarv! He played with courage in the back line and in the later part of the season developed into a strong midfielder.

Bailey Phillips: A consistent player and great workhorse who can run all day. No job is too hard for Bailey – a great team player who has a penetrating kick.

Finn Adendorff: A great return to AFL after a year off in Europe. Finn's skills improved every game and he brought a great sense of humour to the team.

Ethan Merolla: One of the great improvers for the team, Ethan's handballs were great to watch. It was great to see him kick his first two goals in one game – the team were as excited for him as he was.

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Cooper Allen: Cooper added some spark to our forward line. He was a great competitor who loved celebrating after kicking a goal.

Jobe Taylor-Smith: Jobe was a pleasure to coach and a great team player. He has excellent foot skills and was up for goal of the year on several occasions.

Archie Dennis: Archie is a hard worker, developing into a great forward who knew where the goals were. In the second half of the season his contested ball skills improved greatly.

Arlyn Hanenburg: Arlyn showed steady improvement throughout the year. He enjoyed the jokes and team talk at half time and his marking skills developed.

Addison Stoltz: When he's on fire, Addison is unstoppable. He can play in most positions – a strong and versatile player. Addison loves playing football with his mates.

Sam Smith: Sam slotted into the team half way through the season. He showed great courage and skill throughout the season – it was great to see the brother combination on display.

Charlie Bowman: Charlie grew in skills throughout the season got comfortable in the forward pocket. He came so close to kicking a few goals.

The season gave the boys many opportunities to grow and mature, and has set them up for a great future with the Bears. I'd like to thank all the players for their efforts at training and in games each week. Thanks to parents for all your help with the many jobs required each week. Thanks especially to our manager, Paul, who helped us all turn up to games at the right time and the right place, and who helped us all in so many other ways.

Quentin Harwood

Under 11 Green

Under 11 Gold

Our Under 11 Gold team had an enjoyable and fruitful year of footy, that saw them grow quickly as young footballers. This year our team was made up of familiar faces and some very welcome new teammates, including many under 10s playing up a year.

It was an interesting year watching the boys grow. Every aspect of their football was amplified from their previous year - their confidence, physicality, skills and particularly, team focus. Every team member developed and learnt something during the year, and it showed on the field.

The under 11 game is a big step up from the under 10s. This was the first year the boys played the game "by themselves" without a "hand holding" coach on the field – we were banned to the sidelines, but they could certainly hear us! The rules were a step up as well. In general, full AFL rules played on a slightly shorter field - full tackle, ball smotherers, shepherding, and no zones marked by cones! This was also the first year that players were assigned specific roles on the field – gone were the compulsory forward, mid-field

2019 TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

and back rotations of the past. This allowed the boys to utilise their individual skills, in positions best suited to them.

From the outset, the boys brought another level of maturity to the game. It was impressive to see (from game one) that everyone was operating as a team, rather than seeking personal glory. This continued to grow throughout the year, to the point where selfless acts were a weekly occurrence. We had many team successes this year, including some hard-fought wins against quality opposition. Individually, each player had at least one game during the year where they found a way to stand out and raise their own personal bar.

And here they are, our fantastic Under 11 Gold team for 2019:

Angus Benjamin (Full-back): Angus cemented himself as a rock at full-back, and his ability to read the backline play was easy for all to see. His goal line marking and tackling on the last line of defence, kept us in the game on many occasions. Without him and his courage, we would have conceded many more goals this season.

Asher Brownrigg (Wing, Half-forward, Half-back): Asher did a great job wherever we put him on the field this year. A highly versatile player with good run and ball skills, Asher was never far from the footy. Asher's football growth was highlighted in one of our plays of the year - with Asher running clear of the opposition on the half-forward boundary to deliver a pinpoint centering pass to Louis on a lead.

Tosh Bowers (Back pocket): Tosh really found his voice this season (he's always had it at home!). Tosh acted as the "Luke Hodge" of the backline, being given the specific task of arranging our troops – be it calling players to man up or organising our kick in huddles. He put himself over the ball on many occasions and often got the team out of trouble with a quick handball to safety.

Xander Brickhill (Ruck rover): Xander is one of the more skilful players in the team. His poise, composure and accurate kicking was key to us moving the ball forward. Xander always placed pressure on his opponents and is a master of the hard ball get. On the occasions when Xander wasn't in the centre due to injury, it was always a hard game for us!

Mitchell Cross (Back pocket, Forward pocket): Mitch had a very unlucky start to the year, with a broken arm sidelining him for many weeks. As a true testament to his team dedication and personal courage, Mitch returned to the game quickly and kicked goals in his first match back! A versatile player, Mitch can play forward just as easy as he's able to slot into the backline – a very handy attribute indeed.

Thisara (Dineth) De Silva (Forward pocket): Dineth had some great moments of play this year, including several assists for goal in our forward line. Ever improving, it was enjoyable to see Dineth's marking and kicking development transition to on-field play. Seeing Dineth push his boundaries during a quarter, and high-fiving him on the way back to the team huddle was a regular highlight.

Darius Dundurs (Half-back, Wing): Darius was one of our team's great improvers for the year. Used for his defensive stopping ability on the half-back line, Darius wasn't afraid to put his head over the ball, pick it

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up in a crowded pack and hack it forward. Of surprise though, was how well Darius transitioned to a role further up the ground, on a wing (at his request). With Darius here, we moved defensive pressure further forward and often gained many valuable metres on the opposition.

Oliver Goring (Half-forward): Ollie was brilliant at half-forward this year. His run up and down the ground, skilful acquisition of the ball, as well as his marking and kicking ability, saw him claim the title as our most dangerous forward. On many occasions, opposition coaches would single Ollie out for an after-match commendation. Complementing some individual brilliance, it was great to see Ollie's team game come to the fore this year.

Louis Lowery (Full-forward): Louis had an amazing year. Positioned at full-forward for the entire year, it was Louis's role to learn the position and provide us with a tall focal point in front of goals. He did that brilliantly. With his confidence growing match after match, Louis took high ball marks and kicked true for us. Louis's on field improvement, as well as his attitude and willingness to learn, was one of the most pleasing aspects of the year.

William Lunson (Ruck): Will was possibly the most integral player of our entire year. He dominated the ruck and made his presence felt across the entire mid-field. Not only did his ruck-craft improve greatly, Will's big success this year was his second and third efforts on the ground. It was brilliant to see Will control the centre of the ground – with his voice directing players, gathering the ball in large packs or providing big defensive marks.

Noah Quinlan (Wing, Centre): Noah's athleticism and continual running effort in each game, underpinned what was a fabulous season for him. Well suited to the midfield, Noah's ability to read the play often put him in exactly the right place at the right time - particularly when called upon to rush back into defence. Noah has one of the best kicks in the team, with accuracy and penetration, and used that to great affect across the ground.

Aidan Raaff (Wing, Half-forward): Aidan had an interrupted season, with a badly broken arm keeping him sidelined for many weeks. In true testament to his courage and commitment to the team, Aidan was straight back into the thick of things shortly after receiving the ok to play. Aidan's speed was too much for many of his opposition, and his ability to get the ball into our forward 50 was rarely matched.

Casey Russell (Wing, Centre): Casey is a silky smooth footballer. His advanced skills by hand and by foot, combined with good overhead marking ability, were clear for all to see. Perhaps the most impressive aspect of Casey's game this year though, was his decision making ability with the football in his hands. Never rushed, Casey provided composure in delivery better than his years.

Archie Slatter (Centre, Wing): Archie can be described as an elite footballer for his age, and he proved that time and time again this year. With physical endurance and tackling skill in abundance, Archie's main weapon is his unwavering commitment and perseverance to get the ball or his opponent. Archie's never give up attitude and genuine sportsmanship, was an inspiration for both team mates and coach alike.

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Lukah Vallance (Half-back): Lukah made half-back his own position the entire season. Used specifically for his (sometimes shocking) player stopping ability, Lukah was our first layer of defence. Lukah impressed in his ability to read the play and take decisive action, to nullify the opposition's forward movement. There's always excitement when Lukah is moving at pace towards a competition!

Inu Watt (Forward-pocket, Half-forward): Inu sometimes needed the odd gee up to get going, but my goodness, once Inu gets going, he's fantastic to watch! Inu took his ball winning ability to the next level this year, and was like a player possessed when he was near it. With an uncanny ability to quickly get boot to ball, Inu would provide us with forward pressure in no time.

Milo Williams (Forward-pocket): Milo made himself at home up forward this year, providing a target up forward and kicking several opportunistic goals. Milo often put himself under the ball for marking opportunities, but it was his ground play that really improved this year, including his ability to pick up the ball and keep it moving to our advantage.

Cameron Whitaker (Back-pocket): Cam might be small, but he proved this year he can pack a punch on the footy field. A great runner with all-game endurance, Cam attacks the ball and his opponent with gusto. Our defence held strong with Cam's fantastic rebound and clearance abilities, and the effort he put into each game, acted as a great example for the rest of the team.

In summary, the Under 11 Gold team have had a great year full of good football and good fun, where it's safe to say our individual players have gelled as a team. From a coaching perspective, it has been a genuinely enjoyable and rewarding year guiding the boys towards playing better football.

Getting the boys onto the field would have been barely possible without the wonderful assistance of Team Manager, Carolyn Lowery. Special thanks must also go to Assistant Coach, David Brickhill and Under 11 Green team coach, Quentin Haywood, who shared coaching duties with our team each Tuesday and Friday night. 2020 is going to be a great year for the Under 12 Kenmore Bears!

Leon Bowers

Under 11 Gold Coach

Under 11 Thunder

It has certainly been a lot of fun this season coaching the U11 Thunder with a very 'vocal' group of girls ranging from 8 to 11 years, with varying levels of skills and experience. I'm very happy with the way they learned throughout the year, and the way the girls embraced their footy. We've had a great bunch of happy, enthusiastic players who enjoyed the social side of training and games, just as much as the match day experience.

I've been blessed to have a Team Manager in Bruce who is cool as a cucumber, and nothing is too much trouble to fix. I think the girls have appreciated how everything has just flowed and let them get on with their footy. Bruce has also made my time as coach so much easier, thanks mate. I also had the opportunity

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to attend the Level 1 Coaches course at Yeronga and picked up many good things for my own development as a new coach.

One of the challenges with a mixed experience team (in my humble opinion) was to find some common ground between them, so the fun side of footy was emphasised with games to challenge themselves and each other – these weren't necessarily in the coaching manual but were used to break up period of serious drills and skill building. Because of this, we consistently got high numbers to training to work on core skills to make their game better. Mark and I realised we were doing something right!

On match day (should I say match evening?) the girls always gave 100% and despite regularly being placed against teams with height, experience, age and numbers, our girls shone in commitment to tackling, passing, kicks to the attacking forward line and defending like there was a grand final being played.

As for the girls, this is what I learned about them ...So, in no particular order...

Arianna "Like a Tiger" Camacho: Don't be fooled by this girl's smile. She is as ferocious as a Bengal Tiger, a natural competitor who will strip the ball off you like a seagull on a hot chip! A great kick, Ariana when in the midfield became a key in getting the ball forward so we could score. Ari is likely to play U13 next year, so we say thanks for her contribution - we know she will go onto greater things! We will miss you, but will always say hi!

Isobel "Izzy" Golding: Izzy has also been a key player at Thunder this year, she doesn't say a lot on the field, but she has a lot of natural ability and is great at getting the ball forward and contesting. The middle of three sisters, she is probably used to fighting for things, this translates well for her on the field! Teamed up with Arianna, these two are quite a combination and she can play any role with no problem. She will also go with Ari into U13 in 2020, so thank you Izzy.

Neve "Big Sis" Hewson: Neve is one of those girls that is quiet, but polite, smiles and jokes with the other girls, and listens carefully during training. She loves her dancing as well as her footy, but the two couldn't be more opposite and there are no dainty moves when you see her in a game. A great tackler, ruck, attacker, defender, she covers it all. She has played when sore, never complains, and always keeps that smile on her dial. She always seems to have one of her team mates on her back!

Chloe "No Fear" Robinson: What does a coach say about his own daughter without appearing to be biased? Let me put it this way. Chloe has a 15 year old sister and a 13 year old brother. She has had to learn to be tough since she first climbed out of a cot. This has meant an absence of fear when it comes to bigger kids, and so it's not unusual to see Chloe tackling the biggest player on the field, often putting her own body on the line to do so. She has been doing kick to kick with me and her brother from the age of 2, and so handballs and kicking are not an issue for her ...but listening to me in the huddle at halftime is! Never mind! She has also gained more confidence by joining a team of just girls this year and is enjoying her footy. It has also personally been a wonderful experience, coaching my own daughter. Dad xo

Anna 'Goanna' Goring: Anna's grandad apparently played for North Melbourne back in the day, and you can tell Anna has inherited some of those footy genes when she trains and plays. Anna is fast on her feet, is

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a good kick and tackles well. Anna earned her name not only from her speed and skills, but also because of the cheers from the sideline. Get it? Go Anna!

Alita “I can still play” Lampaert: Alita would have gained the name ‘Lucky’ if I wasn’t around, being that I got my name from Baseball due to the amount of injuries I received during the season. Alita quite regularly had a sore ankle or foot, but being the great team player she is, kept playing, chasing, tackling etc. You really have to admire someone who insists on playing the “circle tackling game” at training when they copped a boot on the toe the previous round!

Yelena ‘Yeye’ Wallis: Yelena or ‘Yeye’ as she is called, is new to AFL this year, despite having an older sister in U13 she hasn’t had much of a prior experience with AFL. But what I can say is she has made a massive impact in games with big kicks, and “bear like” tackling that have helped even up the team considerably. Yeye doesn’t say much, but she communicates with face looks, some of them serious, some of them very funny! She has slot into the team seamlessly, like she has been playing AFL for years.

Lucia “I’ve got a question!” Vandeleur: Lucia is still mastering the art of talking with her mouthguard in her mouth. This hasn’t stopped her though – she’s quite happy to keep talking until you say “Lucia, take out your mouthguard!” Lucia is always the first and last person to ask a question at training. Maybe she will be an AFL sports reporter one day?! She is a great asset to our team, we love having her enthusiasm and willingness to participate. It’s been a real pleasure this year to coach Lucia.

Elena ‘Elly’ Kastelorios: Elly is Lucia’s footy ‘twin’, and shares the same birthday as Chloe. Therefore sometimes, we mistake Lucia for Elly, Elly for Chloe, and Chloe for Lucia. Elly thankfully decided to don pigtales during matches so we don’t call her Lucia or Chloe. Problem solved. She is improving every day and her big smile warms the rest of the team up. Thanks for your efforts this year Elly!

Marlee ‘Sidekick’ Quakawoot: Marlee is actually a brown belt in Karate, fortunately she leaves the martial arts background on the sideline when she plays! Marlee has gained confidence this season, the girls enjoy her skills and her company, and she loves to have fun at training or on game day - whether it’s a chat to an opposition player, or just doing cartwheels on the field.

I hope you all have a great summer and hope to see you all back again next year and/or at pre-season. It really has been a great pleasure to be your coach in 2019.

Girls...hands and feet in...Go Thunderbears!!!

3x cheers for the opposition/us/umpire/ball/grass/goalposts etc ☺

Have a kick during the summer months too!

Geoff ‘Lucky’ Robinson

U11 Thunder Coach

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Under 11 Lightning

What an absolute pleasure Coaching has been. This is my first season as a coach as I have always been a team manager up until this year.

Coaching Under 11 Lightning was not hard. In fact it was easy. With 9 strong young girls ranging in age from 8-11 the only challenge for me and Lucky was to try and even out the experience or lack of experience within our young team. So starting from round 1 we had to start at the fundamentals of footy. Kicking, handballs and most importantly having fun. Having fun is something all the girls were very good at and skills as a playing group came later. It was a great way to start the season.

With every great coach there is of course a great Manager and that is even more of a reason why i attribute the success of Team Lightning to Greg. Greg has been Team manager and Coach this year and I have to thank you mate for everything you have done for the girls in organising and training as well. Greg is always the first to put his hand up to help out whenever Coach Lucky and I need an extra pair of hands.

Honourable mention to David for helping us out as well (your Kicking has improved throughout the year) although an early start in the off season would pay dividends :-)

Also Marcus for stepping in and doing a cameo coach session for me whilst I was unable to attend a game.

As a new coach this year I was lucky enough to attend the Level 1 Coaches course at Yeronga. Although this was not aimed at girls whatsoever it was still informative and I picked up some skills that worked with the girls. As I mentioned earlier Lucky and I took the fun approach to learning footy skills. It was a great way to bridge the diverse range of experience in our teams. One of the girls favourite training drills was not kicking nor was it handball. It was the Tackling challenge. This was an adaption of something we had seen at the coaches training clinic. And every Wednesday night without fail we would do that drill. It was a really great way for the girls to have tackling contact. Although it did highlight the fact that if the person you tried to tackle got past you their hair was still a good option to stop them fast. Never intentionally might I add.

With about 5 games to go both Thunder and Lightning were being extremely competitive in all aspects of footy. Lucky and I spoke at great length during the year at just how much improvement our Under 11 girls were doing and at what areas we could help you. On match day each and every one of the girls brought a positive and fun attitude. All girls were encouraging and showed commitment in tackling, passing, kicks to the attacking forward line and defending.

As for the girls, this is what I learned about them...So, in no particular order...

Annabel: Such a determined girl. It didn't matter if Annabel was in the mids, forwards or backs Annabel gave everything. Always encouraging of team mates and loves a good goal celebration. Annabel is one of the unofficial leaders of the team (whether it is know or not) as the girls will gravitate and ask questions and Annabel gladly helps.

Emma: A competitive player on the field. Coming from the southern states is always an advantage for junior players in my opinion. Emma has natural ability and is dominant in most positions on the field this

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comes from fitness and ball awareness. Something Emma is more than happy to help fellow team mates with. When not playing a match I notice that Emma is relaxed but focused at training but loves to play with all team mates.

Ava: Gun Tackler. Ava is a little tackling machine. But this was not always the case. Ava's confidence with tackling came towards the middle of the season. With always strong performances at every match it was only a matter of time before it all started to click. Ava is really good at reading the play and will invariably be in the right position most times. Ava enjoys a bit of banter with the girls and myself and is always smiling or laughing. And has really been one of the most improved players of the season.

Jasmine: Big kicking Jazz. Jazz really hit the ground running this year with footy. I noticed early on that Jazz has great hand eye coordination and can really kick a footy. With a good kick and a pretty good handball the rest all kind of fell into place. With confidence growing throughout the season I could see Jazz become more involved in tackling and even advice for other players which was awesome to see. Not shying away from any area of the field Jazz always has a smile and it is infectious.

Georgia: Smooth moves Georgia. Georgia to has a very infectious smile and has a very unique dance/kicking style. From early on we spent time practicing our kicks trying not to point our toes like we were in the dance studio. And by the end of our season Georgia has made dramatic improvements. With time on the field and surrounded by footy friends Georgia's confidence sky rocketed and was heavily involved in tackling hand balls and kicking. I really enjoyed watching Georgia grow this year.

Lily: Lily the Entertainer. What can I say about my own daughter that doesn't sound biased. I know how hard Lily has worked this year. Every chance Lily gets we are kicking the footy whether it is with myself or Oscar Lily's brother. Lily's confidence has grown all year and as one of our teams youngest and shortest players I really cannot be any prouder. Lily loves a good gag and loves to make the girls laugh all be it at my expense sometimes but thats what makes coaching your daughter even more enjoyable. Lily gets my unofficial award for most improved.

Libby: Part 1 of the dynamic duo. Libby gives everything in the tank playing footy and is well liked by the team. Libby is super competitive playing footy and will help structure the team as each quarter goes on. Being a fast runner helps Libby to get to the ball first and with a natural ability to duck and weave Libby usually gets a hand ball away or a kick. At training Libby loves to be super competitive with Erin and this has provided much enjoyment from my point of view over the season.

Erin: Part 2 of the dynamic duo. Erin like the rest of the team is another girl that leaves nothing in the tank. And is comfortable playing in any position so long as it is with Libby. Erin and Libby work very well together and have a great rivalry and play really well off each other. Erin has learnt a lot this year about footy and continues to grow as a player. Erin has been a fantastic team mate this year, with talking to the girls about field placement or helping with setup for training. Erin is a natural leader.

Opal: Opal the Comedian. If Lily is the entertainer then Opal has to be the Comedian. Opal loves a good joke and will be seen most training sessions making the girls laugh. Opal works very hard on the field and is

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very competitive and is one of our fastest runners. Opal is a great tackler and very vocal whilst playing which is a very big part of our game.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all the girls this year. All are very polite, funny and just well themselves. All the girls are well respected by each other and I really look forward to see what we can accomplish next year.

I hope you all have a great summer and hope to see you all back again next year and/or at pre-season. It really has been a great pleasure to be your coach in 2019.

Girls...hands in, on 3 1,2,3 Lightning!!!

Have a kick during the summer months too!

Mark "Marko" Johnson

U11 Lightning Coach

Canteen fun facts: This season on Friday nights we were a thirsty bunch & drank more than 100 slabs of beer! We woke up each weekend and smashed more than 1000 egg & bacon rolls, and nearly 1000 sausage rolls! But the kids won with scoffing over 2000 lolly bags throughout the season!

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YOUTH FOOTY

Under 12 Gold

The 2019 season started with an apprehensive coach who wasn't sure if the boys would be competitive in Division 5. Most of the team were new to youth football so there were plenty of new concepts to adapt to, 18 players on the field, playing on fields of similar in size to the Gabba, playing a position and hopefully playing to structure. The season is long and during this journey the boys proved their coach wrong and showed they were worthy finals contenders and slowly built themselves into a formidable football team with a sense of purpose, understanding of team structure and the importance of maintaining possession and kicking sideways. The team finished the regular season in second place which resulted in their first final on a Friday night at Yeronga at 8pm. This game represented many firsts. It was the first time the boys were playing at 8pm on a Friday night, first final for most of the boys and their parents, first final of the season, and we needed to beat Narangba for the first time.

When the Kenmore players ran out onto the game we all remembered how big the Narangba team was, with six boys bigger than **Caelan** the parents were a little nervous. The first quarter didn't help our nerves as Narangba asserted authority and pushed the ball deep into our defence in the first few minutes. Fortunately for us our back six have become rock solid during the second half of the season and with the likes of **Ryan** who never seems to lose a one on contest and **Woody** who is calm under pressure we negotiated a safe passage out of defence as our hearts settled just a bit. At quarter time **Mana** seemed distressed at how big his opponent was but with some positive words of encouragement he went back into the second quarter with renewed confidence and several inches in height and reach. The game became an arm wrestle but slowly Kenmore edged in front in the second quarter and stayed in front. What we lacked in size we made up for in skill and speed, always kicking wide to space and running forward at every opportunity. With **Ben** and **Daniel** on the wings we commanded the open space and every time we kicked to the wing they would gather the ball with their pace and kick long into the forward line. **Oliver** was creating all sorts of chaos on the half forward line, small in stature his silky skills were on display running through traffic and tackling without fear. **Josh** and **Blake** have become our twin towers up front and asserted their presence in the game, **Blake** kicking a late goal to put the game beyond doubt and **Josh** taking marks and being the key target at centre half forward. **Adam** continues to improve and took contested marks at ease and providing genuine pressure with his tackling in the forward pocket which was assisted by **Hunter** with his trademark bursts of speed. **Noah** was able to capitalise on the swift movement of ball from the midfield to kick a great goal. The half back "brick wall" has been a highlight of the team and supported by **George**, **Harrison** and **Lochie**. **George** continues to read the play like veteran beyond his years and **Lochie** is a traditional no-nonsense defender and rarely beaten in a one on one contest. **Harrison** is the rock at half back and continues to win the contested ball and distribute to the wing with his penetrating left boot.

To beat a team that we have never beaten before was a major achievement and to step up to the pressure of a final and execute a win was a pleasure to watch and made everyone very proud of the boys.

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The next week we played the top team Alex Hills who had beaten us convincingly last time we played. It was obvious the boys were nervous again but they settled themselves and demonstrated that they were here to win. During the first five minutes of the game I heard some Alex Hills parents say that “it looks like it will be a good game, the boys need some competition”. I turned around and gave them a smile and said “I think it’s going to be a very close game”. As the game progressed quarter time was level and Kenmore just ahead at half time and eight points ahead at three quarter time. Kenmore controlled the game and were the better team. Once again Kenmore has risen to the challenge and was out playing their opposition. There was real pressure in the Alex Hills camp as this would be the first game they have lost since Round 1.

Caelan continued to ruck all game and continued to be a critical part of the team and always contesting against bigger opponents. Our midfield was small in size but big in heart and footy smarts, **Isaiah** continued to own the midfield, tackling above his weight division and delivering the ball to team mates chests all day long. **Will** and **Hunter** rotated through the midfield to provide support to **Caelan** and constant pressure on the Alex Hills opponents and continuous run through the midfield. Our strategy was to out run Alex Hills and **Joseph** provided support to **Daniel** as his “wing-man” ensuring quick rotations so that we always had fresh legs to out run our opponents. **Harry** and **Dylan** provided the forward spark with **Dylan** capitalising on his opportunity to kick a valuable goal and **Harry’s** constant pressure up forward ensured we had opportunities to score. The other part of our game plan was to have **Mitchell** start in the forward pocket but play across half back so **Harrison** could be the loose man across half back. We had practiced this strategy previously and once the umpire threw the ball up **Mitchell** kicked into gear to play this key role across half back. Going into the last quarter Kenmore was just ahead and with one more quarter left and a grand final spot up for grabs in was desperate stuff. Alex Hills managed to kick two goals in the last quarter to get in front with not much time left. To the boys credit they didn’t drop their heads and continued to push on for the win.

With everyone running on empty tanks Kenmore pushed forward one last time, with the ball locked in the forward 50 it was chaotic and desperate. Umpire! Surely that is holding the ball!! Kenmore supporters wondering if we will ever get reward for our tackling effortsthen the whistle blows, finally **Joe** wins a free kick for holding the ball on the boundary 10m out. If the angle was any tighter **Joe** would have been behind the fence. Having coached **Joe** for several years I have yet to see him miss a snap for goal. So with a sense of urgency **Joe** plays on and snaps his kick and slots it through the big sticks! The Kenmore crowd go wild, what a kick, what a performance, what a team! Whilst we are celebrating we watch the goal umpire raise his two fingers to signal a goal before several passionate Alex Hills players appeal for a “touched ball”. Over to the goal review on the big screen for a replay oh how I wish we had video replay. The crowd are waiting, the kids are pleading their case to the umpire, the goal umpire is sweating, the goal umpire summons the field umpire for a chat. The crowd go silent, waiting, waiting it’s a touched ball! That is one point to the scoreboard. Alex Hills are now four points ahead. Alex Hills complete their kick in from full back which is followed by the full time siren. Alex Hills win by 4 points and go straight to the Grand Final.

If **Joe’s** kick was a goal Kenmore win by a point. The boys are devastated. The parents, well raising kids can be stressful but footy finals raises the stress levels to another level. I speak to the boys after the game and look into their eyes, plenty of them have tears, all look shattered. I tell them the season is not over and we

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have another chance with the genuine belief that we really can beat anyone in our division. At time of writing we are preparing for our preliminary final against Narangba and hopefully a win which will put us into the Grand Final for a rematch with Alex Hills.

Marcus Brown

Under 12 Gold Coach

Editors note: as the season is now over, and we all know how this fairytale ends, but as they say, a picture speaks a thousand words



Under 12 Green

The Club and all the U12 Coaches are so proud of the boys this season. The Club was fortunate enough to have almost enough players for two teams, so with the help of some U11s we were able to start the season with a team in Division 3 (Green) and Division 5 (Gold). After performing well in the Grading games Green were promoted to the top Division of U12s for the 2019 McDonalds Cup. This was a fantastic achievement as it was the first time the Club had a team in the Top Division in a few years.

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This season the rules of the competition meant that the Club had a great of opportunity to move players between the two teams. This enabled us to give players the chance to play different positions and to experience different standards of opposition across the two teams. The boys who played in both teams seemed to enjoy experience to play with different teammates.

The McDonalds Cup season saw some mixed results we had some great wins against some very strong teams and also experienced some losses against the best teams in Brisbane. Despite the quality of some of the teams we played against we never dropped our heads and always fought out the whole game.

One of the strengths of this group of players, some of whom have played together since U6s and U8's is their hardness at the ball and tackling pressure. Even when we played some of the top sides in the Division our "never give in" attitude ensured we were competitive against teams that could have blown us away. There were times after a few games when the opposition coach commented to me how strong we were as a team and how hard we were around the contest.

It was a great learning experience for the players and the Coaches this year. I think the boys have had a great opportunity as a team moving forward to continue to develop into a regular top division team. We definitely need more improvement with our basic skills of kicking, hand balling and marking, and some improvement in fitness would certainly help on some of the bigger grounds we play on.

We'd love to see everyone return next season and keep playing together for as long as you can.

Chris Warr

Under 12 Green Coach

Under 13 Girls Gold

We started the season with barely enough players to form our team, but from Round 1 it became very clear we had some very fierce competitors capable of out playing their opponents. As the season progressed we gained a few more players and we developed our competitiveness, adding a new objectives to our match day strategy and tactics each week. Building on the fundamentals of winning the ball, tackling and chasing down our opponents, learning to protect each other through shepherding and using our voices the team developed confidence with a few wins and some very competitive losses along the way. While we faced down some very skilful and competitive teams we earned our opponents respect and were frequently complimented by our opposition team coaches for our tough, never give in team attitude and competitive spirit. The 2019 Bears U13 girls gold team demonstrated great sportsmanship (sportswomanship!), and by season's end showed vastly improved skills, teamwork and accountability and desire to improve further. Our final game against Jindalee epitomised this improvement, with our 12 (2 sick and injured) players leading through to half time against a 16 player squad, fought hard right to the end making this coach, team manager and the parent group extremely proud of their efforts!

On behalf of the Gold team, we all thank Adam for his coaching support training the full squad each week as we joined in with the Green team for skills and match play training.

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Thanks to our team manager Jacqui for keeping us organised, and kitted out! Thanks to all our parent helpers each week, we couldn't do it without you all!! Great team effort!!

Gold team players:

Chloe: One of our toughest teammates, Chloe proved more than capable up forward but was used through the midfield often posted on our opponents best to nullify their impact. Chloe's hard at it, disciplined competitive approach made her a great team first player. Left nothing on the field every week!

Emily: One of our new players, Emily astounded us with her speed which she was able to effectively put into action on game days, turning her opponents inside out, chasing down and tackling hard and using her pace to run into open space with ball in hand and scored some great dashing goals. Learned to kick and handball quickly, and eventually bounce on the run to great effect!

Jaime: Improved a great deal this season, with no other more passionate and enthusiastic to train hard and hunger to keep improving. Showed a strong desire to run hard, lead into space and compete hard in the packs. A great team player demonstrating the true Bears spirit!

Georgia: New to AFL, Georgia joined mid-season training hard, and worked diligently to improve her kicking, handball and marking, tackling and the rules of AFL. Played up forward to provide the team with another forward target and bring pressure on our opponents for repeat forward entries.

Kaitlyn: One of our experienced players, Kaitlyn's versatility allowed her to play forward, back and through the midfield, providing her teammates with a target with her strong pacey leads into space, competing hard in the packs, and accountable to holding down her opponents. Looked dangerous when on a lead up forward. Great potential to grow in this position in season 2020.

Lacey: One of our leaders by example, Lacey proved to be one of our best week in, week out, locking down our full back position for most of the season, continually turning defence into attack and frequently beat her opponent. Late season moves into midfield Lacey proved her versatility and brought another level of competitiveness to the team and her game!

Leona: One of our young ones coming up from U11's Leona quickly established herself as one of our most reliable, consistent and improved players as she fought hard down back, locking down her opponents and was able to repel many of our opponents attacking plays. Leona worked hard at training, and brought the same dedication on match day.

Lilly: Another new to ALF, Lilly had a great preseason and was passionate about learning all aspects of playing AFL quickly improving her kicking and handball, and come match day become one of our ever reliable and very capable backline. Lilly continued to improve throughout the season ending the last few games playing in the midfield where she played some of her best footy, with pack breaking attacking runs!

Lucy: a fierce competitor and leader in the group who provided the team with lot of energy and voice in firing up the team on match days. Her tenacity in chasing and tackling, was matched with leading and was a great contributor to the team's overall competitiveness. One of Gold team's pocket rockets!

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Madi M: Madi started the season with a great preseason but broke her finger before round 1, and despite starting late was able fit straight into ruck and up forward. Won most ruck taps giving her mid fielders first use of the ball, and learned to make her second efforts count with strong work around the pack in winning the ball and tackling. Madi's long kicking also a feature of her game.

Madi B: Joining the team at mid season Madi took a few games to get settled into the pace and tried a few positions up forward and down back, and quickly displayed her huge potential, with great kicking and dash with the ball. A young one in the team, Madi will be formidable backing up in U13's again in 2020 season.

Megan: Another AFL debutant this year, Megan joined the team and proved quickly to be a fierce competitor who could play short and tall, chase and tackle hard, and fight for the ball. Megan has a great mark and kicking improved as the season progress. Was a great target up forward and a real handful for her opponents.

Nikita: Nikita proved again this season to be a great footballer in the making, featuring her charging runs which gained our team valuable territory, raising fear as she repeatedly fended off her opponents before kicking to our forwards, and on occasion kicking a much needed goal! Consistently, tried hard in the ruck and midfield. Nikita trialled with Brisbane North representative team to her credit earning a place in the final squad.

Sophie: Our go-to-player, started the season strong and amazed us with her gut running fitness, ball winning ability in the packs and fierceness around the contest. Sophie always worked hard frequently providing the team with midfield clearances and forward attacks, sneaking a few goals with her pace and dash into the forward line. Took on our opponents best each week, and was hard to beat. Another of our representative players, Sophie played in the MetWest rep team.

One and all, stars in the making! Go Bears!!!

Damian McCue

Under 13 Girls Gold

Under 13 Girls Green

What a wonderful year it has been for our girls this year!!

The year started off with a few girls having played AFL previously, some had played Under 13s the year before and some were making the step up from Under 11s, we also had some that were dipping their toes in for the very first time. As I prepared myself for the first training session for the season, I honestly did not realize what an amazing journey we were all embarking on. The girls showed such great excitement and enthusiasm and a thirst for footy knowledge. Throughout the year, they asked questions, listened and learned so many aspects of our great game, and I dare say I have learnt just as much coming back the other way.

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Training at times was a challenge, with the constant banter between the two girls team, but on a whole, the girls showed a thirst for AFL knowledge and a want to improve their skills and teamwork. We practiced our kicking, handballing, bouncing and tackling every week, the improvement I seen was amazing.

Match Day was really, where the girls shone, with the massive backing of the parents turning up in numbers every week, boy did the girls turn on a display of speed, skill, hardness and teamwork.

To coach a group of young ladies that conducted themselves with such grace, respectfulness and drive was an absolute pleasure. Thank you to all the parents for your support and help, and a special thank you to Rob our team manager, what a rock you have been to the team, your help, guidance and humor was definitely appreciated.

Bella: What a little terrier this girl is. Fast, tough, skillful and a never say die attitude. Bella shows great skill, whether it be her kicking or handball and her speed is blinding.

Bridie: Bridie is a very clever footballer; she is always a step ahead of the play and knows how to find the ball. Her weekly run down the wing and great disposal is definitely a highlight of every game.

Charli: Charli has grown so much as a footballer over the year. Her great ruck work and strong marking has developed in leaps and bounds. Always helping her teammates and using her strength in the contest is a major asset to the team.

Amy: Amy is the rock down back for the team. Amy's strong tackling and toughness around the ball helps create opportunities for her teammates to move the ball quickly.

Zara: Zara is a tough and selfless member of our team. Her strong tackles and quick handballs help the team hugely. Her desire to improve weekly has definitely payed off.

Holly: Holly has the speed, the mindset and the willingness to go and get the ball herself. She uses her strength to help her teammates when needed, and her speed out of a contest is blinding. Holly's leadership on the field definitely helped our team on a weekly basis.

Sophie: Sophie is a natural athlete, her speed and endurance and never say die attitude was a pleasure to witness on a weekly basis. Sophie's ability to read the play, run, and carry with ball in hand was great to see.

Emma: Our newest member of the team, was definitely a welcome addition. Emma showed great strength to the get the ball and her strong tackling created opportunity for our smaller players in the contest.

Sienna: Sienna was definitely our most enthusiastic member and was a delight to coach. Her hardness and strength showed her team first attitude. Sienna would always put the team first and her growth as a footballer was huge over the year.

Ruby S: Ruby had a great year. Her run and carry across the backline and her constant marshalling of the troops showed great leadership and maturity for her age. Her ability to read the play and spot teammates with her disposal was elite.

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Ruby H: Ruby was a strong and relentless figure mainly in our forward line. Her height and big kicking was always a target when we moved the ball forward. In years to come I expect to be seeing bags of goals written next to her name.

Abbi: Abbi is just ruthless at the contest, never giving up and always being the one to snatch the ball away from a pack. Her running and tackling are elite and her kicking has come a long way. Where ever Abbi was on the field I knew that more than likely she would be the one running away from the pack with ball in hand. Abi like Holly showed great leadership on a weekly basis and was a pleasure to coach.

Stella: Agility, strength, speed and endurance are all words that come to mind when describing Stella. Stella would always be bursting out of the pack or driving the ball long into the forward line.

Jordyn: The coach's daughter, Jordyn had a fantastic start to the season with her big crunching tackling and her strength around the packs and ability to get the quick handball out to her teammates. Jordyn showed great improvement over the year and was always there to help her teammates when they needed her toughness and strength.

Adam Taylor

Under 13 Girls Green

Under 14 Gold

What an absolute joy it has been to coach this team this season. Uncertain at the start whether we would have numbers to for a team, going into the season. We finally got 18 players together and finished the season with 20 and didn't they just do themselves proud! A team of varying abilities and personalities but they have forged a very strong bond of mateship and teamwork.

Teamwork was my mantra for the season. I used this a lot at the start of the season, and by the end it would be how I would judge the success of the season. From within that framework, I worked on individual development to improve not only skills but a better understanding of the game structures and the process of playing as an individual and in a team role. With an emphasis on, with effort will come reward. The mistakes are made to learn from and not to be a point of shame, less focus on the result and more on the process. With this all in mind, I believe that the season was a huge success.

The season started with us winning four in a row which put us in a strong position following the grading rounds. We then came up against some very physical teams with some results not necessarily going our way. Teams often take more out of a loss then a win and develop to become a better team, which is exactly what we did. During the home and away season we never lost two games in a row. We also found a way to beat the teams that we lost to, which is an outstanding achievement by a still developing team.

The season has been littered with outstanding brilliance, personal achievements and wonderful team performances against the odds including the personal development of the players on and off the field. I am very proud of how far this team has come and I will definitely look back in the future and say how lucky I was to be involved with such a wonderful group of young adults.

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I shall finish off by saying thank you to those who made my job so much easier by the support that they have given me over the season. Peter (Lofty) Loft, thank you for your support and backing of my vision of coaching has been second to none and always lending an ear to listen to my waffling about all things football. Stewart Parrott, thank you for stepping into the manager's role, after a brief conversation at the pre-season camp he was convinced to take on the role. All the work that Stewart did behind the scenes has made my job so much easier and allowed me to focus on getting the best out of the players. To all the parents who have volunteered their time to make Stew's job easier with all the game day roles and anything else that was required throughout the season. It was an awesome effort by all. To all of the team of Under 14 Gold, it has been my pleasure to coach, you are all legends. Finally to my family who endure my passion for coaching, thank you.

Go the Mighty Bears. See you all at pre-season.

Player Reports

Angus Proctor – Angus has come a long way in his last two seasons of footy. He is a player that can now play his role either in defence or attack. Very good at winning the contested ground ball and giving off a handpass and protecting his team mate. Always doing his best for his team.

Blake Robinson – Blake started the season very strong with some eye catching performances on the wing. He has played this position very well all season by being a link player out of defence or being in the centre corridor to receive the switch of play. Blake was also one of the three players to reach 100 games this season. Awesome effort Blake.

David Hill – David has had a very solid season. His attack on the ball has been his biggest area of improvement, which in turn has seen David win a lot of contested football. He has also spent time in the midfield and made the most of every chance he got. David has developed into a very handy utility type player over the season.

Elijah Harris-Loft – Another of our players to reach the hundred games club. Elijah has been as solid as a rock at fullback this season. He has improved his consistency with his ball use and with that rarely wastes the ball coming out of defence. Elijah, given the opportunity, loves coming into the forward line and kicking a cheeky goal. Elijah without a doubt gives it everything every time he runs out in a Kenmore jumper.

Felix Edensor – Felix has taken on his first year of competitive football with a wonderfully positive attitude and also the willingness to learn. Felix has come a long way with his skills and continued to improve every week. It has been a pleasure to have you involved this season, to be greeted with your smile and positive attitude every Tuesday and Thursday at training. Keep working hard mate.

Gian De Stefani – Gian has been a welcome addition to the team this season. After playing in a number of positions throughout the season, it has been off half back that Gian has definitely played his best football so far. Gian has defended well but has also given great run and drive out of half back. I am looking forward to developing this further in the future.

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Jack Riddell – Jack unfortunately suffered a leg injury early in the season which restricted him to only four games. He has come back late in the season to make some useful contributions as an extra tall forward. Jack makes a contest every time the ball comes his way and plays his part for the team. I am looking forward to working with Jack for a whole season and maximising his potential.

James Reichmann – James continues to improve with every season he plays. James can play at both ends of the field and works hard to make contests of everything. James has shown great improvement with his attack on the ball and plays his role for the team and has been one of the big improvers of the season.

Lachlan Bryant – Lachlan has been another player that has shown great improvement this season, especially in his marking and ball control skills. He played most of the season in the backline but a move forward late in the season has really seen Lachlan shine and play with great self-confidence. Lachlan is a pleasure to coach and is very eager to learn and improve, keep up the great work.

Luke Stephen – Luke has really come on a long way with his football this season in a number of aspects, giving him a very well rounded game. He can play as an inside midfielder winning the ball and forcing a contest or ready on the outside in good position to receive or defend. Luke usually has great efficiency with the ball in hand and makes the most of the football. He is very team oriented and always plays the role asked of him. Luke works hard to get the best out of his ability and has become an important part of the midfield group. Luke has had a consistent season and can be very proud of how much he has improved this season.

Matteo Thomas – Teo has been a very consistent performer this season. Teo shows great attack at the ball and is excellent in the close contests, where he is very good at drawing in the opposition and then feeding out the handball to his outside runners. Teo has been very solid in defence all season, a season you can be very proud of.

Mikiyas Simpson – Miki is such a naturally gifted player with skills both sides of his body. Miki has a great sense of space around him and how to use it to his advantage, especially when he has the football in his hands and gets to dangerous positions for his team mates to deliver to. Miki has greatly improved his over head marking, adding this to his excellent ground ball skills, he has become one of the best forwards in the competition. He continues to improve with every season, another solid contribution, well done.

Robert Brown – Robert has had a stella season and has become one of the dominant ruckman in the competition. His skills and speed around the game are second to none in this competition. The biggest area of improvement has been his ability to work extremely hard up and down the ground, consistently getting down back to help his team mates. Robert has a very penetrating run and carry game, adding that to a booming right kick, often turns defence into attack. As one of our co captains, Robert has let his actions do the talking and is constantly inspiring those around him. Another to join the 100 game club, congratulations on a great season.

Scott Rabie – Scott became a key component of our forward set up this season. Scott worked hard to become more mobile as a forward and in doing so, gave us a great marking option in the forward line and if

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he didn't mark it, he made a contest and brought the ball to ground for our small forwards to take advantage of. A very solid season from Scott.

Sophie David – Sophie came into our team late in the season and has relished the opportunity to challenge herself at a higher level. Sophie only knows one way to play footy, hard and straight at the ball. Sophie fitted in well with her team mates and was a great addition to the team.

Tarrant McLean – Tarrant has been a quiet achiever this season. After some impressive performances early in the season, Tarrant suffered an injury from a biking accident. Tarrant has slowly been regaining his confidence and was back to his hard attack on the ball by the end of the season. Tarrant can really bust open a contested ball by his attack.. He goes about his business with a minimal of fuss and has played his role for the team throughout the season.

Thomas Parrott – Tom is a player that learns fast and can adapt his game accordingly. Tom works hard on his skills at training and can often be seen early at training to get more practice, especially his kicking. Tom has become a permanent addition to our midfield group this season and has provided us with great drive through the middle of the ground. Tom loves to run and carry the ball which can really open up the game around the contests and then move the ball forward skilfully. Tom's understanding of the game has been his biggest area of improvement and with this I can only see his game getting stronger.

Trent Semiao – Trent is a no nonsense type of player, see ball, get ball. Trent has given the midfield group some muscle this season and loves getting in and winning the contested ball. Trent can also when required play a role down back and gives great drive from the half back line. Trent is quickly picking up the finer points of Australian Rules which has seen him play some outstanding football this season. It has been great to see his development over the season and this was rewarded with representative honours. I look forward to helping Trent develop his game further in the future, awesome season.

Zac Allen – Zac is a pleasure to coach and is a very polite and courteous young man. He is always learning and wanting to improve his game. As part of our ruck combination with Rob this season, together they have formed a ruck double, the envy of most teams we were up against. I think Zac's true strength lies in his ability to play in multiple key positions and play the role the team needs. He is another of our players that likes to run and carry the ball which then gets us in great attacking positions, which makes him a real game breaker. Zac has an instinctive nature to protect all his team mates and always put the team above himself. He has also been named emergency for the representative team, Zac can be very proud of his contribution to the team.

William Parkinson – Will has had a fantastic season after a bit of a slow start. He has played the majority of the season down in the back half either at centre half back or full back. He has been as solid as a rock for us back there, notably his intercept marking, contested or uncontested. When Will cannot effect the mark, he does the team rule to punch and defend first. Will has played a quarter back style role, being the architect of a lot of our attacking moves from half back. Late in the season has seen Will play some cameos in the midfield with some great work at the contested ball, forcing a lot of turnovers through his fierce tackling. Will absorbs all information we pass on to him and learns his craft from both negative and

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positive situations and applies this to make himself a better player. A great season bookended by an emergency position in the representative team. Well done on a fantastic season.

Brad Stephen

Under 14 Gold Coach

Under 14 Green

What a great season the boys had.

With some new Ipswich based recruits and some Kenmore 'veterans' returning we were all unsure as to how long it would take for the boys to bond together. To their credit I think they had bonded after the first training session as we rolled into round 1 with a huge win. You would have thought they had been playing together for years.

They had a great season taking on the Redcliffe's and Wynnum's (who should really be in div 2...) and taking it right to them. It proved to the boys they had what it takes to be a consistent and competitive team.

A special thanks to our manager Mark (who's got the hardest job) and his assistant Demi who always organised the boys prior to the game ensuring they signed the team sheets. Thanks to the assistant coaches Lucas and Brett and to all the parents who helped out on matchday running messages, waving flags, running water and running the boundary.

A big thanks also goes to Hayden's mum Juanita who took all those photos and videos at every game then painstakingly uploaded them.

To the Ipswich based parents who had to travel the most thank you for bringing the boys to training and the games. I know there were some early starts!

Lastly to all the boys. Well done and hope to see you all back in 2020!

Player Reports

A quick synopsis of each player below. Total career games next to name.

Charlie Pingel (98): Captain for the season. Cemented himself in the centre but played both forward and back as well. Charlies size and core strength meant he proved a challenge for the oppo to tackle.

Bailey Warner (116): Vice-captain. Solid season by Bailey at full back rotating through midfield. Always up for a 'scrap' he always went hard at the ball.

Aidan Treacy (127): A move into the mid field this year. Aidan is a strong marker who can kick with both feet. Can 'roost' the ball a fair distance as well.

Josh Whitehead (54): Josh has a bit of 'Dusty' in him with a good fend off and a great set of hands. Season was cut short when he broke his hand

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Ben Murphy (114): As always Ben is not afraid to stick his head over the ball. Best tackler in the team and was always amongst our best players.

Jai Dorloff (126): Breakout season for Jai. Has developed into a versatile player that can play in different positions as required.

Jackson Schofield-East (105): Jacko has a bit of mongrel in him and played predominately in a roving forward role. You could count on Jacko to snap a couple of goals, Jake Stringer style.

Lachlan Rawson (65): A reliable backman this year with good speed and a nice drop punt.

Declan Ryan (47): Best in the team at getting under the oppo's skin. Great wingman who always had a smile on his face.

Hayden Smith (89): Fantastic year in ruck. Smithy would just run and run all game. Always gave 100%.

Cormac Williamson (69): Good strong bodied player who floated between half forward and half back and did his job well. Has great pace.

Linc Bentley (96): Has a certain presence about him. Confident player with a nice kick who has had a breakout year. Very good understanding of the game.

Ben Figallo (93): Our new gun full forward. Explosive pace with a nice kick. Amassed plenty of goals before breaking his wrist midway through the season.

Lucas Yeo (12): Already has some finesse about his footy. A good runner who could play back for forward.

Lachlan Bailey (16): A great team man. Lachie was the go to player, particularly in the last game, where he spoke to the boys in the changeroom about his motivation to win.

Bryce Meloury (12): Could play almost in every position. Good gutsy player who has great ground ball skills.

Jayden Jager (16): Quick runner who improved greatly through the year. Not afraid to bust through a pack with ball in hand.

Liam Clarke (67): Great set of hands who floated between ruck and the forward line. Became a good target for our mids.

Robert Wilkinson (13): Quickest player on the team. Played on the wing and just ran and ran. Explosive paste and not afraid at taking the oppo on.

Xavier O'Donnell (73): One the tall players with a great reach. Utilised predominately in the forward but also as a backup ruckman. Breakout game against Coorparoo with some great contested marks.

Zac Rogers (23): Zac found his spot playing in the forward pocket. Another big improver during the season had some great games. Super quick handball skills.

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Cameron Brady (16): Settled well into the forward line. Quick of the mark with some sublime ball skills.

Flynn Richards (11): First year player who quickly settled into the pace of the game. Laid what was probably the best tackle of the season.

Teddy Ryan (0): Mature age recruit who wasn't good enough to get a game. Tried his best. Was a decent enough boundary umpire though.

Andrew Treacy

Under 14 Green Coach

Under 16 Gold

What started out as a large Division 3 and morphed into a smaller Division 2 competition presented the Kenmore Bears Under 16 team a very real opportunity to take their game to another level. At times this was a large task, at other times the boys did it with ease. I'm pretty sure that if I asked the boys in February would they be playing in a Division 2 Grand Final in September they would have laughed. Well they did play in a Division 2 Grand Final and they deserved to be there!

I am aware most players participate with the goal of winning a premiership and to that end we fell short. Maybe we played our grand final the week before against Park Ridge? That game was a wonderful display of determination and will to win and most of the team really threw their bodies into it. The win was well earned and was the icing on our cake for a tremendous year. Unfortunately, we sustained many soft tissue injuries that just didn't get time to heal before the Grand Final. Nonetheless the win over Park Ridge validated our place in the Grand Final having achieved victories over every other team in our division during the year. The boys certainly deserved their shot at the premiership.

Our first game was a practice match against Calamvale in extreme heat. Our last regular season game of the year was against Calamvale in gale force winds. Both games were wins for Kenmore with more wins than losses in between. As stated on Sunday we had a tremendous range of abilities, experience, athleticism and commitment to training. This proved challenging at times but when 15 boys made the trip to Park Ridge at the back end of the mid-year break, something changed. The 15 boys nearly toppled a full-strength Park Ridge and from that game onwards the boys played as a team that believed they could win every game. It really was a case study in the value of a team recognising that every player has something to offer and embracing it to maximise the team output.

I really am very proud of how the boys pulled together as a unit in the back half of the season. I do wonder how much more we might have improved with a greater commitment to training, both attendance and application. I did say many times "you can't train like a mug and play like a pro." Footy is no different to any pursuit and you will only get out what you are prepared to put in. It is the same with your schoolwork, your employment, relationships and even your mates. Immerse yourself in it, honour yourself and your team-mates with some effort and application and you will experience and enjoy outcomes so good you couldn't imagine them possible. Who will ever forget the victories against Mt Gravatt and Park Ridge? The excitement and the pride expressed by the boys and their supporters on those days was fantastic. They

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were wonderful team wins and performances that the whole team should be proud of and remember fondly.

Unfortunately, injuries are part of footy, but they dealt us a harsh blow with three boys suffering season ending injuries early and mid-way through the season. Caleb, Dylan and Aidan were sorely missed and happily they all seem to be recovering well with Dylan to have scans this week. I hope they all find full health soon and are able to return to the footy field next year.

As with most youth sporting clubs, they function purely on volunteer support. Thank you to Brent and Cam for their support this year as they rotated through helping with coaching and running. Their experience and all the work they had put into the boys in previous years made it easy for me to take over the reins this year and somewhat ride on their coattails. It really was a team effort. The captain of our team was Mel who works tirelessly to make sure all the i's are dotted and t's are crossed for all our games and everything that happens in between. Thank you, Mel, for being the glue that keeps everything together. Thank you to all the parents that helped out with game day duties and for your support and encouragement during the season....and for giving me space after the Friday night Sherwood game ☺. As I said to the boys, it is just a game, you can only do your best and ultimately, we are hopefully participating because we enjoy playing footy. Thanks also to Rod Lake and the Kenmore Bears committee. We do have a great club with great people and great facilities.

I know it's a footy club and a football report but thanks and congratulations to the boys for how they matured as individuals and as a team as the season progressed. It really was a privilege to see that side of the boys and sharing in their increased self-belief and confidence was as much a thrill as watching their victories on the scoreboard. I learned as much from you as you learned from me. Some boys played their first game ever this year and some played their 150th. If you love the game keep playing and keep learning. I wish you all the best in your future endeavours both in the sporting arena and out of it.

Thanks fellas.

1. Ben Walter: Ben was another important member of our tightknit back line always keen for a contest. There were some wonderful tackles during the year and many honest defensive efforts to thwart opposition attacks. Ben's worked hard on his kicking, earning him some cameo roles in the forward line. Best of luck to Ben and I hope he sticks with his footy.

2. Jack Brennan: Jack has been a valuable contributor to the team. Unfortunately he sustained a few nasty injuries during the year but whenever he is on the field he proved to be a very dangerous and elusive forward. This was evidenced by the number of games where he kicked multiple goals with clever reading of the play and skill execution.

3. Rory Smith: It's amazing how far Rory Smith has come in two years of playing football. He put in a lot of work on his own over the summer and proved to be a very reliable defender. It's a testament to his training and his work ethic how far and how valuable his contribution has been to the team. Best of luck with your footy going forward Rorz

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5. **Clay Napier:** Clays performances got better and better as the year went on and he was a valued member of our strong tightknit back six. He also performed well when asked to move up onto the wing and use the space. Well done Clay

6. **Jai Dekker:** “Mr Consistency” in the engine room! Jai’s athleticism combined with his determination to win the football resulted in him having another tremendous year. There weren’t too many breaks for the midfield this year and Jai tirelessly pursued the football for the duration of each and every game. Take a well earned break over summer Jai!

7. **Eli Silva:** Eli was always one step ahead of his opponent when getting front and square. He practiced it well at training and he performed it well in games. Eli always brought energy to the games and a few good jokes to training. It was great to see him believe in himself on the footy field and immerse himself in contests that he most often won.

8. **Caleb Whitehead:** Caleb was always the last one to get up from a contest as he was always at the bottom of the pack fighting hard for the ball. Unfortunately, his season was cut short with a nasty neck injury and wasn’t able to play for the rest of the season. Thanks to Caleb for his inspirational play in the first few rounds and I hope he returns to the footy field soon.

Aidan Treacy: Aidan was another 14 year old who played up with us when he could to bolster our U16 squad. Aidan has developed since playing with the 16s and has taken that back to his U14 team and helped them improve. He is more than ready for a very successful U16 season. We look forward to seeing Aidan play again next year.

9. **Nathan Parry:** Nathan played all year at centre half forward and I always knew he would work hard from the first bounce until the final siren. I asked him to be a mobile forward and he certainly covered a lot of ground in every game. It was great to see his efforts at training rewarded with lots of strong games. His marking and kicking improved significantly and I hope he sticks with his footy in the future.

10. **Ethan Appleby:** EJ tirelessly rucked for much of the year. He always wanted to improve his game and was keen to learn more ways to make it easier for the midfielders. EJ had many weapons one being his laser-like knee. EJ was another one of our leaders who stood up this year and showed a lot of maturity. Thanks for your help and support.

11. **Myles Brown:** What a revelation Myles was in defence he asked to be put there in the first game and stayed there all year and perform tremendously well. Being in the backline may not be as fun as kicking goals but miles was Mr Dependable in defence. He also quickly turned defence into attack using both runs out of defence and long accurate kicks. Great season Myles

12. **William Buchanan:** Will was our “General” of the half back line. His maturity on the field was of great value to the team as was his ability to read the play. Will was very good at using his voice constructively on the field which when coupled with his ability to read the play and give an honest contest made him a valued member of the team.

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13. **Lachlan Smith:** Another member of the engine room. Well done on a consistent season Zosh. I know the midfield didn't get much of a rest but that gave you a lesson in persistence and resilience. Well done on getting to nearly every training. This was evidenced in the further development of your skills.

14. **Oli Fortescue:** Ten years of footy under the belt for Oli this year and his footy improved as his confidence grew. Oli was always prepared to put his head over the ball and always competed hard for the ball. He played in a number of positions and was always willing to do whatever was asked of him on game day.

15. **Lachie Warren:** played most of his season across half forward but came into his own on the half-back line. There he was able to enjoy some space as well as being the harasser rather than the harassed. Lachie has been playing footy for ten years and tallied up over 150 games. Congratulations on the milestone Lachie.

16. **Alexander Charlton:** Alex has come a long way in two years to the point of playing many games in the midfield. His work ethic both at training and in games is fantastic and has helped him improve his football dramatically in just two years. Keep going with your footy Alex.

18. **Isaac Lihou:** Isaac played most of the season as a backman. He always attacked the footy hard and body lined the ball even when he knew contact was coming. Isaac has been a consistent contributor to the backline this season and always gave an honest effort. Thanks Isaac.

19. **Rory Marsden:** It was great to welcome Rory Marsden back after a few years out of the game. As his confidence grew so did his impact on the game. He was very effective for us on the wing and his marking got stronger and stronger as the year progressed. Congratulations Rory and I hope you stick with your footy.

21. **Dylan Ebertson:** Unfortunately Dylan's season was cut short by a serious injury. That injury didn't stop him warming up for the Sherwood night game which is an indicator of his commitment to the team. The weeks prior he had been playing some of the best footy of his Bears career. His run off the bank flank was integral to us moving it in forward effectively. Thanks to Dylan for his continued support of the team even when unable to play.

Charlie Pingel: Charlie played enough games with us during the year to qualify for finals and he certainly bolstered our midfield. It's not easy coming into a team later in the season but Charlie did everything he could to help our team achieve success in the finals. Clearly he watches a lot of footy and used this knowledge to position himself around the ground to constantly enter the contest and win the ball. Thanks Charlie

22. **Charles Connell:** Who could forget some of Charles's cameo performances. Undoubtedly he earned the goal of the year for an outstanding display or determination and commitment down the wing/flank of Akuna oval. The talent is there for many repeat displays. Just focus on competing for the football and trying to win it Charles and you will have many more entries on your highlights reel.

2019 TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

24. **Ryan Wilson-Mitchell:** Ryan was new to both the game and the club this year and improved tremendously he trained hard and put gold book end of the season a goal in the first game of the regular season games can while and Gould in the last game of the season against Calamvale. Well done Ryan on all your efforts to make training and improve your game. You've come a long way.

25. **Aidan Webb:** We never underestimated Aidan's value as a key forward but he performed equally as well when asked to move into the centre. His work ethic in the preseason and at training was rewarded with many great performances in games until his season was cut short by injury. We certainly missed Aidan in our team and very much appreciated his support for the boys whilst he recovered from his injury. I know Aidan has a lot of successful and enjoyable football ahead of him.

26. **Lucas Rose:** It was Lucas's first year at the club and we certainly enjoyed having him as part of the team. When he played down forward he was hard to defend when he led hard. Keep leading hard and body lining the ball Lucas and you will really enjoy your footy. If you make a commitment to win the ball most opponents will stand back and watch! I know you had some distance to cover to attend trainings so thanks for your efforts to get there.

27. **Austin McCue:** Aussie was another significant contributor to the team with his rucking ability and work with miles in the back line. Aussie was asked to play a number of roles meaning he found himself all around the ground at certain times in the year. Aussie is his own biggest critic and his desire for a strong second half of the season was realised with his hard work and determination. Well done Aussie on a good year.

Julian Smith

Under 16 Coach

Fun fact to finish off the season: as a club we bought 153 pairs of fresh footy socks & 145 pairs of green shorts! That's a lot of fancy pants!

2019 TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

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