



# Zebra News

## Issue 18 2019



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SEPTEMBER 2019

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Congratulations to our VACC sponsored Under 19's who played off in the Grand Final on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September. This year the Under 19's have been nothing but exemplary, they are an amazing group of young men a credit to themselves and their parents. Although the result was not as we hoped at the end of the game, the club is enormously proud of their achievements this year. The Under 19's have been a shining light for the future of the Zebras.

Thank you to the Committee, Supporters, Seniors, Reserves, Vets and Under 19 players who contributed to 2019. To the football department, Justin Scicluna, Manny DeBono, Matt Peterson, Scott Savage, Leigh Fisher and Michael Creak, your assistants, team managers, runners and our trainers Erin, Courtney and Emily your efforts and commitment don't go unnoticed. We are looking towards an exciting 2020 on and off the field. As a committee we have worked tirelessly to stabilize and manage the financial viability of the club and have set plans in place for the years to come. Some areas of the club still need work and with a new committee and all positions becoming vacant at the AGM in early October I hope that the new committee can continue to build on the areas that I see as imperative to us moving forward i.e. Sponsorship, Media and Marketing, Membership, Events, Fundraising. I would welcome anyone to contact me who has some expertise in these areas.

In 2019 we have been fortunate to receive two grants from Vic Health and Sport and Recreation Victoria, for specific programs "This Girl Can" and "Senior Women's Team" for 2020. It is very exciting to think we will possibly field a women's team in 2020.

**Gayle Wood/President/Secretary**

### SENIOR COACHES REPORT

If we were to sum up the 2019 season and categorise it, we would label it as a character-building year for the Forest Hill Football Netball Club. As a club we were thrown some curve balls both on and off the field, but we were able to use these adversities and turn them into something positive. The acquisition of Brendan Mason and his support with developing our club culture, values and brand was a massive success and sets a platform for us to continue to build into the future.

This season saw us play 77 different players through both the seniors and reserves and 31 players through the senior team. It was the youngest senior list in many years, which in itself is another positive moving towards 2020. Some of the highlights from this year were the win up at Coldstream which was a great indicator that this group of young men could match it with the best sides in the competition, our near win against the undefeated East Burwood in round 10 and seeing Ben Rudd who is 17 years old debut for the seniors and play three games over the course of the year.

A big thank you goes out to all the playing group for their support over the course of the season, the coaching staff for their continual input, the small committee for their tireless work, the training staff for keeping the boys fit and healthy and to all the supporters who show up each week to support this great football club. Moving forward the club is placed in a very healthy position and as a match-committee, recruiting has already commenced with the signing of two players. 2020 shapes as being an exciting year for the Forest Hill Football Netball Club, but for now enjoy the break a head and ready yourselves to tackle pre-season in November.

**Justin Scicluna – Senior Coach**

### UNDER 19'S REPORT

WOW, what a season we have had. Finishing the Home and Away season in 2<sup>nd</sup> spot with 15 wins/3 losses. Going into our first finals campaign we had the belief of what we could achieve.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> semifinal we came up against ladder leaders Silvan who we had only beaten by 9 points 4 weeks earlier. On a pretty blustery day, we were right with it at the change but lapsed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter to allow them to jump us. To our credit we fought it out in the last and went down by 18 points. From that loss and having the double chance we meet Kilsyth in the Preliminary Final. In similar conditions to the previous week we didn't start very well being 2 goals down a ¼ time and the loss of our ruckman and captain Joel due a broken collar bone wasn't helping us.

From this the boys rallied together to keep Kilsyth to only 4 points for the remaining 3 quarters while we kicked away advancing us into the Grand Final. We got another shot against Silvan and this time we were wanting to reverse the result. For the first half things were pretty tight with the both teams showing how much they wanted it. We managed to go into the half 3 points up due to hard work from our midfield. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter unfortunately we managed to lapse again, and Silvan took advantage of it. To our boys' credit they showed fight and spirit and fought out the game right to the end going down by 20 points. Let me just say from what all our supporters saw on this day the club has a very bright future going forward and look out for us in 2020 because we are coming.

Lastly to the club on behalf of myself and players we want to thank you for being right behind us.

**Scott Savage – Under 19's Coach**

**RESERVES COACHES REPORT**

Matthew Peterson has resigned his position at the Zebras, and we are currently advertising for a new development coach.

On behalf of everyone at the Zebras I would like to thank Matt for his commitment and success at Forest Hill Football Club and wish him every success in his new position at Upper Ferntree Gully as their Under 19 Coach.

Matt is a Premiership Coach at the Zebras and will always be a part of the Zebra Community.

**VETS REPORT**

2019 was a very long and difficult year for the Forest Hill Vets over 35s. We came up against some very good teams this year, including newbies to the EFL Vets competition in Noble Park, North Croydon MLOC and Coldstream, as well as the regular contenders in North Ringwood, South Croydon and Scoresby.

Our numbers dropped off from last year and we struggled to put a full team on the park on several occasions, averaging less than 19 players per game. Every one of the regular players gave it their all, week in week out, but disappointingly we just didn't have enough regular players (or commitment from those bit-part players) to be competitive on the scoreboard. Unfortunately, a much sought-after win eluded us all year, however we celebrated quite a few milestone games this year: Jason Harrak and Gary Kemper – 25 games; Shawn Flynn, Dan Flintrop and Pierre Drijfhout – 50 games; Dave "Danger" Franklin – 75 games; and Greg "Chief" Mitchell – 125 games (a Forest Hill Vets games record). Leigh "Fish" Fisher took out the Best and Fairest, ahead of runner-up Gary Kemper, with Mick Bennett in 3<sup>rd</sup> place; Coach's Award went to Andrew "Sando" Sanderson.

The team would like to thank Fish for coaching us over the last three years – with his tremendous passion for the game and a lifetime of footy knowledge, he's taught us a lot. Fish has stepped down as Coach, so the Vets are seeking a new Coach for Season 2020; if you know anyone who would be interested in the job, please get in touch with the club. Thanks also to our Trainer, Erin Hickey; Goal Umpire and Wednesday night cook, Cam Grant; Ian Wood for doing the scoreboard at our home games; our major sponsor, North Ringwood Fencing (Pierre Drijfhout); and to all the regular players who stuck with us all year – a Big Thanks!!

Let's all work on recruiting over the off season, so we can go into pre-season training in January with good numbers and a brighter looking year ahead.

**Chief (Team Manager)**

**FOREST HILL JUNIORS REPORT**

It's a wrap on another successful season in the Junior ranks. Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August saw our U16 girls go into a Preliminary final v Norwood and they play their absolute best, in what was a thrilling game. Unfortunately, the girls lost by only 3 points. Well done to Gary, Paul and the girls. Our boys' teams have finished for the season, with finals not going our way at all. The 15D boys finished the season strongly but were beaten by a bigger Coldstream in a first semi-final to end their season. The U12D and U14C boys both lost their semi's but did get the second chance in Preliminaries. Unfortunately, the 12's went down to Bayswater by 63, and the 14's to Ferntree Gully by 34.

The U14 girls and U9's didn't compete in finals, but we saw these 2 groups develop and improve in a huge way throughout the year and had a lot of fun along the way. Congratulations to all of the Junior Coaches and Officials for another great year, and to our kids who upheld the values of the Forest Hill Football Club, to the highest degree. Their behavior on and off the field has been fantastic to say the least. The Juniors intend to field U9, U10, U13, U15 and U17 boys, and U14, U18 girls teams in 2020, so if you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a Zebra next season, don't hesitate to get in touch at [foresthilljnr@efl.org.au](mailto:foresthilljnr@efl.org.au)

**Dom Sherlock FHJFC President**

**FOREST HILL WHITE NETBALL**

It was a mixed season for Forest Hill White who after an injury ravaged start in Division 2 were moved to Division 3. The first half of the season saw some close matches including losses by 1, 3 and 4 goals as well as a draw, but no wins coming their way. The girls had a great second half of the season storming home to win 5 of their last 7 matches, going down narrowly in the other 2. Unfortunately, the tough start to the season meant they couldn't make up the points to make the top 4 but took the scalp of eventual top place finishers Croydon North along the way to finish 7th.

**FOREST HILL ZEBRAS NETBALL**

I feel like we had a hard season overall. Started out in the wrong division with a whole new team. Moved down to section 5 after round 5 and finally won a game. After that we started to gel and work well together as a team and finishing off with some wins towards the end of the season. By the end of the season we were happy with the result as it was the first time, we all played together and formed new friendships along the way.

**EVENTS****Presentation Night**

**Thursday 26th September  
2019**

**Dorset Gardens Hotel**

**335 Dorset Road Croydon**

**7.00pm for 7.30pm start**

**Major Raffle \$5 per ticket**

Tickets are still available for our amazing Noosa travel package, over \$3,500 worth of travel, accommodation, meals, transfers etc. etc. kindly donated by Matt and Marg Blair. If you would like to purchase any tickets, please see Ross Kainey or phone 0457 828574 or [foresthill@efl.org.au](mailto:foresthill@efl.org.au)



**Congratulations** to our past Zebra family Jason and Michelle Eardley & their boys Connor & Ben who played in the Red Hill u/19s premiership last weekend.



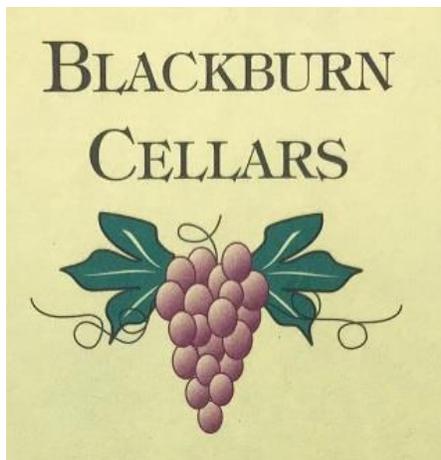
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