

PRESIDENT REPORT 2020



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What an incredible year it's been in so many ways and WOW is probably a great way to start this report! Who would have thought, back in January when reports were filtering through the media about this new COVID-19 threat that the world would be shut down and our lives and football be so severely impacted in the short term.

Thankfully Australia's response and Island status allowed us to come away relatively unscathed albeit with a season that started in July, ran through to the heat of November and involved hundreds of litres of antibacterial hand sanitisers and "social distancing".

Pandemic aside, it was another successful year at Noosa Lions FC with our Premier Men coming away Premiers again and maintaining an unbeaten streak with 14 wins, 4 draws and zero losses and a massive 44 goal difference, - 34 ahead of our closest rival. 4 years in a row - what an achievement!

Our over 35's also were back to their winning ways taking out the Premiership and our 3rd Division women and Men both taking out 2nd spot.

Not to be outdone, our juniors also had a cracking year, with two of our 15/16 and 18 Boys teams winning the Premiership and 2nd place, plus a Premiership for U13 (1) & U12 (2) Boys. The girls were well represented in teams and numbers with U16, U14 & 3 x U12 girls playing across the divisions and our Mini-roos continue to grow and develop every week and it's so great to see their happy smiling faces on the fields.

It is a true testament to our Technical Director, coaches and program that we have so much depth in our junior ranks which will eventually flow through to our Seniors and continue to grow a strong club into the future.

Despite Covid-19 restrictions our Saturday's were well attended, particularly Saturday night home games and for those that came down, everyone was always treated to a great atmosphere, some good food and exciting football. Covid-19 wasn't all bad news for us. There were some silver linings for us - firstly, the delayed start allowed our fields to get a bit more rest and secondly we were successful in obtaining some additional grant funding. This included finally getting a decent PA system. We can now pump all that great 80's music right across the grounds and get on the microphone to announce that "number 7 your hamburger, chips & gravy and curry is ready". A big thanks to the State Government for this funding and to Noosa Council for other Grant funding received throughout 2020.

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We must also say a massive thanks to our 2020 Sponsors this year. They stuck with us during the down time that Covid caused even when they may have been struggling themselves so a huge thanks to them for their continued support. We know how tough this year may have been for them and are truly grateful !

In my wrap up of this year, again it could not have been done without the hard work of our volunteer Committee - Bec, Sandra, Brian, Gell, Janine, Laura, Steve, Jamie, Chris, Nicky, Johnno, & Ellen, plus Kevin, Coaches and everyone else that put in their time and huge effort to make this year what it was! It might have been a disjointed start to the season but with a massive sprint to the finish line, we did achieve another fantastic and memorable season.

In closing, it has been an honour and privilege to be President of this club for the last 6 years and 2020 will be my last year. Reflecting back on what I wanted to achieve in my opening speech of 2015 it was:

- Professionalism
- Competitiveness
- Club Health (food & financially)
- Club Spirit & Pride

My personal mantra was always to be hands on and "Let's Get S**t done" without any personal agendas or egos, and I think now after 6 years, I can honestly say as my time as President and that as a TEAM we can be super proud of what we have achieved. Our numbers grew massively to be the biggest on the Coast, we made plenty of mistakes along the way, made decisions that were not always popular, took some risks, probably lost a few people that were not happy with our modern approach to turning the club around, but at the end of the day we always did everything with enthusiasm, passion, and the club's best interest at heart.



The constant by my side in these last 6 years has been Bec, Sandra, Brian and Gell who have all been incredible. I believe having a stable committee has helped us get us financially to the point where we could attract and entice our amazing Technical Director Kevin A'Herne-Evans back to Noosa Lions FC.

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Thank you, Kevin, for everything you have brought to this club over the last 4 years. Your passion and love for this club has been immense and we look forward to your continued input into the club as we start a new chapter at NLFC with the help of Craig Goodall in the Academy and other young players that you have helped mentor and train.

Thanks to everyone for their support as I say farewell as the longest serving, first female President of NLFC (MP) and for allowing me to be part of this amazing club!

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a great 2021.

#bestclubonthecoast #noosalionsfootballclub #farewell2020

Alinda van der Harst (Bryant)



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