



KILLARNEY VALE AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL CLUB INCORPORATED 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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2024 CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

	President Paul Forster	
Vice President Peter Harvey	Secretary Terry Ford	Treasurer Peter Kelleher
Ordinary Members		
Skye Bailey	Michael McLeod	Ashleigh Page
		Ben Simpson

2024 CLUB OFFICIALS

General Manager Garry Burkinshaw	Senior Football Operations Michael Smith	Junior Football Operations Claire Kelderman
Licensee & Bar Manager Murray Schubert	Groundsman Michael McLeod	Public Officer Peter Kelleher

2024 FOOTBALL OPERATIONS – SENIORS

<p>Men's Cup Coach Corey Shackleton</p> <p>Men's Cup Captain Josh Mifsud</p> <p>Women's Cup Coach Brad Edwards</p> <p>Women's Cup Team Manager Anne Bailey</p> <p>Men's Plate Coach Jimmy Newburn</p> <p>Men's Plate Captain Joe Crick</p> <p>Women's Plate Coach Courtney Barnett</p> <p>Match Day Manager Kylie Bryson</p>	<p>Men's Cup Assistant Coaches Pat Schell, Michael Smith, John Pidgeon</p> <p>Men's Cup Team Manager Mick Cartwright</p> <p>Women's Cup Captains Brooke Hoolihan & Kristen Kessler</p> <p>Men's Plate Assistant Coaches Craig Lloyd</p> <p>Men's Plate Team Manager Stuart Cameron</p> <p>Women's Plate Captain Taylah Hilditch</p> <p>Physiotherapist Sarah Rockoff (Coast Sport Physio)</p>
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2024 FOOTBALL OPERATIONS – JUNIORS

<p>Junior Football Coordinators Adam Demir & Rod McRobie</p> <p>U17 Youth Girls Coach Peter Harvey</p> <p>U15 Boys Coach (Joint with W/L) John Pidgeon</p> <p>U15 Youth Girls Coach Richard Noone</p> <p>U13 Boys Coach Corey Shackleton</p> <p>U13 Youth Girls Coach Shannon Kelderman</p> <p>U11 Boys Black Coach Chad Bush</p> <p>U11 Boys Red Coach Adam Cambourn</p> <p>U11 Youth Girls Coach Luke Kelly</p> <p>U9 Boys Black Coach Claire Kelderman</p> <p>U9 Boys Red Coach Josh Smith</p> <p>U9 Boys Grey Coach Cameron Thompson</p> <p>Auskick Coordinator Ben Howen</p>	<p>Canteen Manager Adrian 'AJ' Nigro</p> <p>U17 Youth Girls Manager Theresa Haggerty</p> <p>U15 Boys Manager Chris Lear</p> <p>U15 Youth Girls Manager Ryan Booth</p> <p>U13 Boys Manager Rod McRobie</p> <p>U13 Youth Girls Manager Todd Windley</p> <p>U11 Boys Black Manager Lisa Gordine</p> <p>U11 Boys Red Manager Daniel Neate</p> <p>U11 Youth Girls Manager Jake Goodway</p> <p>U9 Boys Black Manager Mitch Cornish</p> <p>U9 Boys Red Manager Stephen Kearney</p> <p>U9 Boys Grey Manager Sam Booby</p>
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PRESIDENTS REPORT

2024 was a significant year in respect of the operation and maintenance of Adelaide St Oval by the Club. The rain events coupled with use of the ground in those events saw the ground become unplayable for a two week minimum period where Club ground staff worked feverishly to get the ground back to semblance of play-ability. Congratulations to those staff that ultimately saw the ground become available to host finals both juniors and seniors. The events have led to a rethink in respect of ground availability and maintenance protocols and stay tuned a new policy for use of the ground in wet weather will be brought to you soon.

2024 was first with the Club for our General Manager Garry Burkinshaw and he is quickly getting a feel for Club administration transitioning from League administration. Garry over the first twelve months of his tenure has implemented policy, strategies programmes. You may be familiar with the Fill the Fence campaign and recently Social Media policy and committee monitoring has been set up. Off season ground usage managed by Garry has seen modified soccer competitions, Sydney Swans Academy and Swans Indigenous Academy hiring the ground. Also, a number of hall hirings have been accepted. All these adding to the Clubs income and in particular go towards maintenance costs. The Club has appointed Garry to continue in his role as General Manager into 2025.

There have been, apart from training, a number of Club auspiced programmes like the talented player programme by invitation, Junior Skills Sessions and the Friday Night Kicks for the Auskickers and juniors.

In a major announcement the Club has been successful in securing AFL Women and Girls Chartered Club status. An achievement which will see doors open up in the area of grant funding available from AFL.

On the field the Club was successful in the juniors in that it had 260 registered players including Auskick making ours the biggest junior base on the Central Coast. Junior teams won two flags with our Under 11's winning in the last year of competition football in that age group. Our Under 15's, which was a joint venture with Wyong Lakes, also won the premiership and a number of other teams represented in Grand Finals. It is understood that the League will be implementing an expanded junior structure in 2025 with the Club being invited to nominate teams in U9, U10, U11, U12, U13, U15 and U17 both girls and boys.

There has been some movement in the junior management arena with a sub committee being formed with a view to sharing the large workload in that are across multiple members.

In the senior sphere, our Cup men were largely disappointing missing out on a finals appearance. Reports are that 2025 promises improvement with a fresh coaching approach with Corey Shackleton at the helm and a number of players from our 2022 Cup premiership side who missed this year, returning.

Our Reserve Grade men seem to be moving in a different direction having a mix of players heavily represented by youth with a large majority of former juniors starting to fill the senior ranks. A bigger influx in 2024 than seen previously.

Our women's Cup team on the other hand was far from disappointing. Having completed the regular season with losses to Cardiff and City our women went into finals on the third line of betting, but an outstanding finals campaign saw us victors in the prelim against City and triumphant in the Grand Final over Cardiff. Grit and determination won both days.

Congratulations 2024 Women's Cup Premiers. Congratulations also to Eliza Hand, League Best and Fairest.

Our women's reserve grade team had a very good year, also making finals for the first time and winning their first ever finals game over Port Stevens. Well done to Courtney Barnett and her team.

Again, I had the honour of announcing the President's Award recipient for 2024 and I had the honour of awarding it to Anne Bailey. Thank you, Anne, for your work behind the scenes supporting the women's team and game day taking on roles to support football operations.

In news regarding off field projects, in particular Club House maintenance upgrades. The Club is one of 5 across Australia that was successful in securing a Bunnings Home Ground Advantage Grant amounting to \$50,000. The grant is to go towards maintenance and refurbishment of the Club house and predominantly using Club volunteer labour for things like painting etc. Thank you, Peter Harvey, for your work on getting this across the line. If you would like to volunteer to assist let me know but will be promoting once details are finalised.

I would like to thank all the volunteers that contributed to the Clubs performances this year. When referring to "the Club" it is the collective, players, coaches, team managers, runners, water carriers, club umpires, supporters, canteen managers and helpers, bar managers and helpers, event managers and staff, facilities ground maintenance staff, Life Members, Board Members and other officials.

Also thank you to the Clubs sponsors in 2024 who support our great Club providing not only resources for our football departments and football development but are there building relationships and making the Club better for the contacts and relationships we have.

Paul Forster

"The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital."



The Bombers displayed great community support by bagging over 40 tonnes of sandbags

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

2024 saw a significant milestone for the club winning their first women's Premiership. After several near misses, the Bombers were finally able to get their hands on the Premiership trophy. Congratulations to Brad, Anne and his team.

Several challenges presented themselves during 2024, no more so than the wet weather through the middle of the season. Having acquired Adelaide St Oval on a Lease from council the club had control of the ground. As such the decision of whether to play on the ground during wet weather was left to the club and unfortunately the decision to play on occasions turned out to be the wrong move and resulted in the club having no option but to close the ground for both training and playing for effectively a month in the middle of the year. This created significant disruptions to all teams with alternate training and playing venues needing to be organised. Moving forward the days of playing no matter what are over and a more measured approach to deciding whether the ground is fit for play is to be taken.

The costs associated with maintaining the Oval are now the responsibility of the club and to prevent it becoming a millstone around the club's neck alternative revenue sources need to be found. In this regard the club was able to hire the ground out to third party users and we were pleased to have the likes of Sydney Swans Academy, both boys and first nations; Football Development League, JET AFL program, Pennant Hills AFC, Camden Cats AFC & Fit for Sport amongst others use the facility. We also introduced a "Fill the Fence" program which enabled business to purchase a sign that was displayed on the fence. All funds from this program go towards the maintenance of the oval. It was pleasing to note that we had 10 businesses join this program and we hope this will increase in 2025.

The off season also saw significant works undertaken to improve the playing surface as well as the oval surrounds utilizing funds received from a grant. We thank Ryan Stanton for coordinating these works.

At the beginning of the season the Board implemented a number of processes around the appointment of roles for both senior and juniors. Whilst not all processes worked the club will continue to work towards best practices. One of the appointments which was a success was that of a "Coaching Coordinator" with Corey Shackleton appointed to that role. His role was to liaise with Junior and Senior coaches to offer assistance and guidance as required. Throughout the season Corey held meetings, sent messages and assisted at training which was well received.

Corey was also instrumental in driving several other initiatives throughout the season which included: Bombers Brekky & Bootcamp, Junior AFL Clinic, Junior Skills Sessions and Friday Night Kicks. As well as coaching the senior Men's team, Corey was also involved in coaching with the JET AFL program, Sydney Swans Academy and Central Coast Academy of Sport. We thank Corey for the time and commitment he dedicates to the club.

The club held a number of social and fundraising events during the year which included Season Launch, Mingara Raffles IPOD Shuffle, Mother's Day, Past Players Day, Sponsors Day, Ladies Day, Western Night, Ping Pong Night, Golf Day, Trivia Night, AFL Grand Final Day and Presentation Nights. These nights are not only important to the club in relation to fundraising but also great social activities. A special mention to the Ladies Day who this year coincided the event to raise money for the "We Care Connect" Charity and it was pleasing to note that the Day raised \$2,400.00 which Hunter Financial doubled effectively meaning \$4,800.00 was donated to the Charity. Well done to everyone who was involved in organizing these events.

On the Community front Killarney Vale were again to the fore assisting with the SES Wyong Unit in filling sandbags in readiness for the expected deluge. It was encouraging the see Men, Women, Boys and Girls all working together for which they bagged 40 tonnes of sandbags. The club also assisted Mingara in setting up and packing down marquees for their Relay for Life event. It was these community involvements which saw Killarney Vale finish runner up in the Leagues Spirit of AFL Award.

This year club participated in the AFL Indigenous Round, and we were blessed that two of our own impressive young leaders Brooke Turner and Taya White designed the guernsey which was unveiled at the Season Launch with Taya outlining the meaning of the design. The guernsey was worn by all four senior sides during the season after the original matchday having to be moved due to the wet weather.

This year AFL NSW/ACT introduced their Hall of Fame which saw 100 people inducted including Killarney Vale’s Ian Granland, Jarrad McVeigh and Mark McVeigh. We congratulate them on being inaugural inductees.

On the subject of awards Killarney Vale were also well presented at the Central Coast Sports Awards with Eliza Hand a finalist in the Community Sportsperson of the Year Award (she won this award in 2023), Holly Bryson a finalist in Young Coach/Official of the Year and the Women’s Cup Team in the Team of the Year category. The winners of these awards will be announced on 3 December 2024.

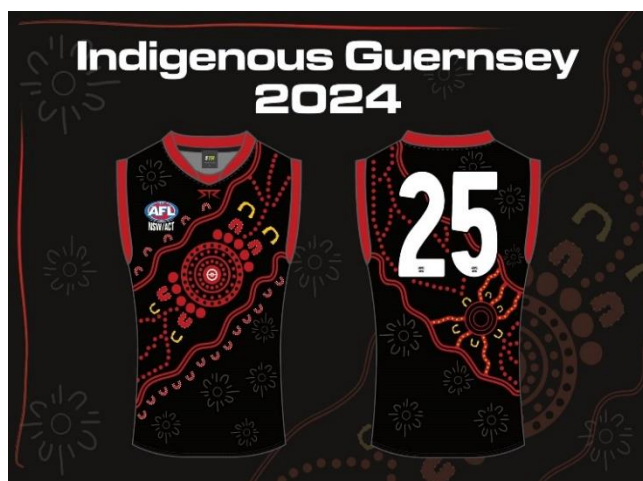
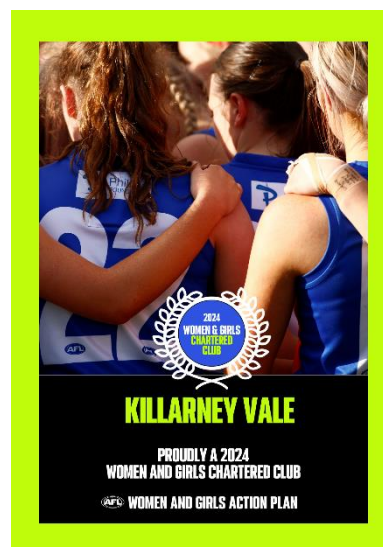
A significant recent development was the recognition of Killarney Vale as an AFL Women & Girls Chartered Club. This Charter is a commitment from Community Clubs to champion women and girls guided by four principals: opportunity, visibility, access and investment. Killarney Vale have an excellent female program and is committed to continuing to create a welcoming, safe and inclusive environment for all.

An example of this commitment that during 2024 the club established a family room at Adelaide St Oval. The club believes that with a number of young families around the club it needs to accommodate their needs. Whilst this program requires some refinement it is definitely a step in the right direction.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has been involved with Killarney Vale AFC throughout 2024. The club is a volunteer run club and without this support would not be able to operate and be the success it is.

Look forward to seeing you all in 2025.

Garry Burkinshaw



Indigenous Guernsey 2024

Artwork created and told by Brooke Turner & Taya White

The Indigenous Guernsey created for the Killarney Vale Football Club holds profound symbolism. It weaves together the rich tapestry of community and comradeship.

The interconnected dots forming a walking path depict the unity of players and communities converging at Killarney Vale Football Club. In the background, a symbol of people gathering signifies the harmonious meeting of men and women, reinforcing the inclusivity of the club.

At the heart of the guernsey, a central circle represents the beloved game that unites the entire club. The Guernsey's stripe from shoulder to hip mirror the borders of creek surrounding the field, reflecting the significance of Tumbi Creek in the clubs identity. The 18 people that run adjacent lead to the strip represent the players that take the field each game. On the back of the guernsey a symbol emerges as a meeting place, complimented by dot paths leading towards Killarney Vale, epitomising the clubs commitment to being a gathering point for all.

We are honoured to craft this indigenous Guernsey for the Killarney Vale Football Club, as it not only celebrates the rich tapestry of community and tradition, but also symbolises the clubs commitment to unity, inclusivity, and the shared love for the game that brings us all together.

SENIOR FOOTBALL OPERATIONS REPORT

The 2024 season was a mixed bag for the club on the field. Whilst The club came away with one premiership with our women's cup team taking the major prize on their fourth attempt. Our cup men's team failed to make finals as did our men's plate team, but our plate women's team made the finals for the very first time.

A huge congratulations to our cup women's team for their premiership win and of course to the coach Brad Edwards the season wasn't always plain sailing for the girls with them finishing the Home and Away season in second place and taking on unfamiliar grand final opponents Cardiff in the big dance the game was a tight tussle but ultimately our girls prevailed and their accuracy on goal proved the difference. Young Brooke Turner was a judged best on ground for the day.

Our plate women led by new coach. Courtney Barnett had a stellar season wherever they made the finals for the very first time and had some amazing results throughout the season. The group of these girls and the squad has been unbelievable and I'm sure they'll be contending for flags in the very near future.

Our plate men's team narrowly missed making the finals, but their numbers were huge with often players unfortunately missing out on games. That is a great problem to have as a football club and similar to the plate women I expect even more growth in 2025 a huge thanks to Jimmy Newburn for taking on the coaching role again in 2024 and for all of his efforts for the Footy club during the year.

Our cup men's team once again led by Corey Shackleton had a big preseason and prepared well but that effort and excitement unfortunately didn't translate on the field. A few factors compounding this was one the weather where we just couldn't get a break and really able to train on the field or play in conditions that did not resemble a mud pit.. although they missed out on the finals, they had impressive games against teams that made the finals and on the scoreboard the games were close but we just couldn't deliver a winning punch. I have no doubt next year the boys will be back in the thick of it contending for another flag.

Off the field, our social events were well represented by our players with a huge thanks to our organisers of those events and I hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

We also implemented a game day manager role which was led by Kylie Bryson who did an amazing job and her efforts throughout the year. Muchly appreciated by myself and club.

The AFLHCC awards night saw many Killarney Vale players nominated for awards or winning awards. We had multiple players selected in team of the year sides for each competition. We also had Kristen Kessler when female representative player of the year. Crystal Browne winning the women's cup leading goal kicker award and who could forget Eliza Hand going back to back and winning the women's cup best and fairest medal.

Finally, I would just like to thank a few people for their efforts in 2024 and helping me along the way. Thanks to Garry Burkinshaw for his help and work with our football club thank you to Kylie Bryson intaking on a difficult role and fulfilling it with ease. Thanks to Peter Kelleher for your guidance and being there whenever needed and thank you to Corey Shackleton for your 1000 phone calls and text messages during. The Year.

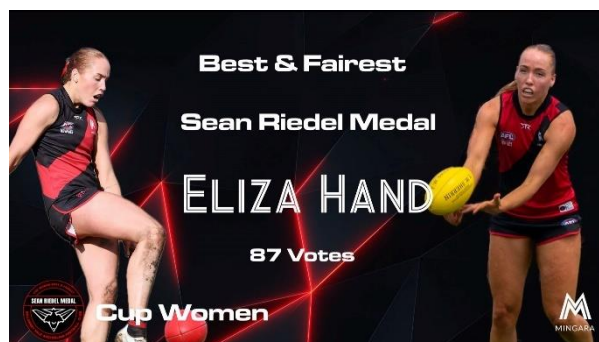
Go bombers

Mick Smith

2024 SENIOR CLUB AWARDS	
Club Person of The Year (Kelleher Family Shield)	Ryan Mahalm
President’s Award	Anne Bailey
Senior Player of the Year	Taya White
Rookie of the Year – Male (Amidy/Shackleton Award)	Zane McLaren
Rookie of the Year – Female (Karen Reid Shield)	Leah Murphy

Award	Cup Men	Cup Women	Plate Men	Plate Women
Best & Fairest	Josh Mifsud	Eliza Hand	Hugh Wells	Maeve Doherty
Best & Fairest – R/Up	Luke Flack	Bethany Wood	Jake Castlenuovo	Courtney Lenihan
Players Player	Luke Flack	Brooke Turner	Hugh Wells	Maeve Doherty
Coach’s Award	Hayden Mahalm	Megan Jenkins	Jesse Horsfield	Charlee Druett
Most Consistent	Matt Hall	Kristen Kessler	Joe Crick	Teneale toker
Leading Goalkicker	Brandon Lloyd	Crystal Browne	Matt Weaver	Georgia Butler
Most Improved	Jed Hagley	N/A	Marty Dawson	Sophie Schwarz
Best Defensive Player	N/A	Sarah Murphy	N/A	N/A
Best in Finals	N/A	Brooke Turner	N/A	Emilie Flack

2024 SENIOR LEAGUE AWARDS	
Cup Women’s Best & Fairest	Eliza Hand
Men’s Cup Team of the Year	Luke Flack, Josh Mifsud, Brandon Lloyd
Women’s Cup Team of the Year	Crystal Browne, Holly Gibbons, Eliza Hand, Kristen Kessler, Brooke Turner, Mia Wilson
Women’s Plate Team of the Year	Courtney Barnett (Coach), Georgia Butler, Vanessa Segarino, Sarah Woolford
Cup Women’s Leading Goalkicker	Crystal Browne
Women’s Representative Player of the Year	Kristen Kessler
Men’s Representative Best on Ground (Andrew Scott Memorial Trophy)	Luke Flack
Club Person of the Year Nominee	Kylie Bryson
AFL NSW/ACT Coach of the Year Nominee	Corey Shackleton
Spirit of AFL - Runner Up	Killarney Vale
Men’s Representative Team	Ryan Arther, Luke Flack, Brandon Lloyd, Hayden Mahalm
Women’s Representative Team	Eliza Hand, Kristen Kessler, Brooke Turner, Mia Wilson, Bethany Wood & Peter Kelleher (Asst Coach)



JUNIOR FOOTBALL OPERATIONS REPORT

2024 saw another successful junior season for the Killarney Vale AFC.

211 players pulled on a Bombers guernsey this year made up of 108 boys, 92 girls and 11 boys on permit from Wyong Lakes. In addition to this we had 49 boys and girls participate in the Auskick program.

The club fielded 11 sides, 6 boys (U9's x3, U11's x 2, U13's x1), 4 Youth Girls (U11, U13, U15 & U17) and a joint U15 boys side with Wyong Lakes.

6 sides made the finals (U9's don't have finals), 5 sides made the Grand Final with the U11 Black Boys and U15's Boys sides claiming the Premiership.

The Bombers also ran a successful Auskick program under the leadership of Ben Howen. 49 boys and girls participated in the program which was run on Sunday mornings.

The 2024 program culminated with the Auskickers getting the opportunity to play at half time of the final round Cup Women's match.

Apart from the playing the game the highlight for the Auskickers was getting to run through a guard of honour made up of the senior men's players. There were plenty of "high fives" being handed out.

A big then you to Ben and his team for running a magnificent Auskick program this year.

A big thank you to the Coaches, Team Managers, Medical Officers, Volunteers, Club Umpires, Parents, Families, Supporters and Players for your support in making 2024 the season it was.

2024 JUNIOR CLUB AWARDS	
Junior Club Person of The Year <i>(pictured below left)</i>	Ben Howen
Junior Player of the Year – Male <i>(pictured below middle)</i>	Max Pidgeon
Junior Player of the Year – Female <i>(pictured below right)</i>	Lucinda Watson
Rising Star - Male	Leo Hudson
Rising Star - Female	Milla Stewart
Team of the Year	U15 Boys

Award	U17 Youth Girls	U15 Youth Girls	U13 Youth Girls	U11 Youth Girls
Best & Fairest	Leah Murphy	Sienna Kennedy-Wilkie	Elisha Windley	Milla Stewart
Best & Fairest – R/Up	Lucinda Watson	Briannah Tandy	Olivia Parker	Stella Goodway
Most Improved	Brooklyn Laing	Emily Lator	Callie Ede	Adelaide Kelly
Coach’s Award	Leah Murphy	Charlotte Tandy	Zeva Kelderman	Isabelle Sugui
Bomber Award	Hollie Flack	Scarlett Booth	Jedda Webb	Laila Webb



Award	U15 Boys	U13 Boys	U11 Boys - Black	U11 Boys - Red
Best & Fairest	Max Pidgeon & Isaac Lear	Flynn Shackleton	Cooper Daley	Leo Hudson
Best & Fairest – R/Up	Harvey Demir	Tyler Barrett & Peter Harvey	Charlie Pidgeon & Aiden Jichi	Lenny Brown
Most Improved	N/A	Deacon Pettit	Caleb Archer	Rawson Blackwood
Coach’s Award	Callum Sneddon	Eli Laing	Parker Davies	Ollie Glascott
Bomber Award	N/A	Flynn Bray	Taj Parker	Ashton Richards
Most Consistent	Hayden Raveneau	N/A	N/A	N/A
Most Courageous	Cooper Lott	N/A	N/A	N/A
Best in Finals	Phoenix Jones	N/A	N/A	N/A

Award	U9 Mixed - Black	U9 Mixed - Red	U9 Mixed - Grey
Best & Fairest	Lucas Albert	Hutch MacKenzie	Finn Banks
Best & Fairest – R/Up	N/A	Fletcher Daley	Vander Walters
Most Improved	Daniel Albert	Liam Kearney	Dominic Bolton
Coach’s Award	N/A	Hudson Smith	Xavier Edgerton
Bomber Award	N/A	Jake White	Arlo Wagner

2024 JUNIOR LEAGUE AWARDS	
U13 Youth Girls Best & Fairest	Elisha Windley
Achievement Awards	Emmerson Squires (U17YG), Ethan Reeves (U15B), Lila Cutugno (U15YG), Kade Davidson (U13B), Ruby Betland (U15YG), Justin Bush (U11B-Black), Flint Kirkpartick (U11B – Red); Sophie Diaz (U11YG), Zaelia King (U9M – Black), Reuben Eastaugh (U9M – Red), Sebastian Collins (U9M – Grey)



SENIOR MENS COACH REPORT

Firstly, a huge congratulations to our Women's team on their Premiership! You've set the standard for excellence over the years, and this season you achieved the reward you so richly deserved. A big shout-out also goes to the Women's Plate team for making the finals and securing an impressive win in your first final. It's fair to say our women truly led the way on the field in 2024.

A sincere thank you to our sponsors—your contributions are the lifeblood of our club. Without your support, we wouldn't have the facilities, equipment, or environment needed to make footy happen. To our incredible coaching and support staff, your tireless efforts behind the scenes keep us moving forward. You are the backbone of this club, and we are so grateful for all you do.

As much as we appreciate the fantastic people and support around us, 2024 proved to be a season of highs and lows. For the Men's Cup, we fought hard but couldn't quite convert our efforts into consistent results. The first nine games were a rollercoaster:

- 2 wins
- 5 losses by less than 2 goals
- 2 losses by less than 4 goals

Those narrow defeats were tough to take, but we played with heart and spirit every week—something we can build on as we move forward.

While the Men's Cup faced challenges, our Plate team showed immense grit and determination. Despite injuries, ground closures, and player availability issues, the team battled hard and narrowly missed the finals. Their resilience and commitment were a credit to the group.

This year, 48 players wore the Men's Cup jumper, including 14 players making their Cup debuts. To put the season's challenges into perspective, by the end of the year, 24 of our 38-man Cup squad were unavailable. While this tested us in many ways, it also gave younger players valuable experience and highlighted the depth and promise within our club.

Off the field, there was much to celebrate. The Port Macquarie preseason trip set the tone for the year, giving new players a chance to bond and showcasing some exciting football. The Preseason Camp was another highlight—tough and demanding, but full of moments that brought the group closer together. These experiences build the camaraderie needed to tackle adversity and forge stronger connections as a team.

Our commitment to the community was another proud achievement. Whether it was helping with SES sandbagging efforts—moving an incredible 40 tonnes of sandbags—or volunteering at club events, our players and supporters showed their dedication to something bigger than football. It's moments like these that remind us what makes this club special.

The men's commitment to the club was on full display in other ways too. From the preseason working bee to re-erecting the boundary fence, running the Junior Finals day, and stepping up to handle ground rolling while Mick McLeod was away, the effort and teamwork were inspiring. It's this kind of culture that strengthens us as a group and as a club.

We talk a lot about being 'good people' and while the football results weren't what we hoped for in 2024, we proved without a doubt that we are a group full of good people—on and off the field.

Let's carry that spirit into 2025.

Corey Shackleton

SENIOR WOMENS COACH REPORT

Looking back on the season that was...

We had a preseason full of education around how we wanted to play which meant a lot of change for the girls, but they were willing to adapt and work very hard, which is all you can ask for as a coach.

The numbers at training across the entire season, from the first session of summer to the run into finals was nothing short of excellent.

The preseason was topped off by some good quality practice matches, a preseason camp of sorts (this was a first for many, and a great success), and a trip away to Port Macquarie that was a great chance for the team to bond.

Plenty of things to feel good about before heading into our season.

The season itself.

We started our year playing some incredible footy, with the girls applying what they learnt over the summer and having some really good wins. Despite the weather being incredibly wet, with rain nearly every game for the first 6 weeks, the girls were slick with their skills and could really see the game plan working.

Middle to the end of the regular season was filled with challenges, not being able to train because of the condition of the ground, and other teams lifting their game giving us a few loses, which made for a really fun and even competition.

We continued to build and believe in each other and managed to finish 2nd on the ladder at the end of the regular season.

Into the finals we go.

The first challenge was Newcastle in a preliminary final. They are an incredible team and play their best at this time of year. It was a true battle and we managed to get our nose in front and hold on with just a couple of minutes left in that game. It was a massive achievement by the girls, this being the first time they had beaten Newcastle in any final series ever.

Into a grand final,

And up against the number 1 team, and arguably the in form team of the season so far, Cardiff. We knew this game was going to be tough. Cardiff got off to a great start putting us on the back foot early, but we stuck to our guns and was up for the fight. We had another close victory and got across the line in a nail bitter. The girls were epic that day.

My review of the season is that the girls need further education and knowledge of the game, which will come from:

- conversations / diagrams / getting questions from and reviewing the girls.
- watching film of us and AFLW
- specific drills explaining finer details
- encouragement to let their strengths shine and to be great players, a lot of players let little mistakes control their mind.

- put time/practice in the right areas to improve:
 - our game style / structures for offence and defence
 - fitness / conditioning / strength / flexibility
 - all footy scenarios. Eg 1 on 1 contests
 - line group specifics
 - And many more; and
- giving them all the information, and then for them to process that and take what they need from it.

Brad Edwards



GRAND FINAL




Sat Sept 7
Newcastle No.1 Oval
1:15pm

TEAM SELECTION
BLACK DIAMOND CUP WOMEN

BACK		HALF BACK	
SKYE BAILEY	12	HOLLI GIBBONS	10
SARAH MURPHY	11	BROOKE HOOLIHAN	18
		MEGAN JENKINS	23
RUCK		CENTRE	
ELIZA HAND	7	EMILY CROOKES	32
DIXIE BUTLER	1	BETHANY WOOD	3
BROOKE TURNER	17	HOLLY BRYSON	31
FORWARD		HALF FORWARD	
CRYSTAL BROWNE	5	JACQUELINE GREEN	51
SASHA EDWARDS	2	MIA WILSON	30
		TAYA WHITE	25
INTERCHANGE		INTERCHANGE	
KRISTEN KESSLER	13	ZOE NAVLOR	15
LEAH MURPHY	47	CAITLIN PRESTON	63
JAZMYN BENDER	26	NIKITA CARTER	8
COACH			
BRAD EDWARDS			



TREASURERS REPORT

The weather in 2024 was not conducive for football! A combination of poor decision making around closure of the Ground, as well as some bad luck weatherwise once play had begun hurt the club in terms of results and finances. Unfortunately, our teams were without training facilities for a large part of the season due to the state of the playing surface. A huge thank you to Club Legend Michael McLeod and Life Member John Carpenter for the remedial work to get us back on Adelaide Street where we could host a Junior Finals Day. The Management of the Adelaide Street ground remains a challenge. The rain also kept supporters away, and our draw did not favour us in terms of hosting crowds and as a result bar and canteen sales were down.

Firstly, a huge congratulations to our Women's Cup team. Well done to Brad, Brooke and Kess and your team, and to Eliza Hand on her second consecutive AFLHCC Women's Cup Best and Fairest.

In pleasing news, player registration payments were at a record high. Aside from that, sales in all categories were down on last year, although our club functions were a success. Our members and community raised and donated \$2400 to the *We Care Connect* Charity which was doubled by Hunter Financial. Thank you to the organisers of this year's Ladies Day. Once again, our community supported the NSW State Emergency Services with Sandbags for flood mitigation, and I was please to see our continued support for the *Relay for Life* with our Partner Mingara Club. Terry Ford got the Golf Day back on track. It was a fun day for all and we also did some fundraising.

Despite all of our challenges The Club once again made a modest profit.

The club was successful in being awarded the Bunnings Home Ground Advantage grant that amounts to \$50,000 of improvement on the Clubroom facilities. As usual though, we must rely upon the generosity of our KV community to assist with the work involved.

Thank you to all of our Volunteers, and also our Sponsors for your continued support. Without you this club would not exist. In particular, thank you to John Acton at Mortgage Choice Tumbi Umbi – our long-time Major Women's Sponsor, The Mingara Club, Gage Roads Brewing and Frontrunner. My personal thanks to Ben Simpson for his very welcomed work on the Board and the Books, and of course to our Auditor Warwick Jackson of Fox Group.

The financial Statements for 2024 will be provided at the Annual General meeting.

Yours in Sport

PK

Thanks Killarney Vale AFC!

You donated \$2,400.00!

From the top to the bottom of our hearts, such a big thank you to YOU for your beautiful generosity and for donating to the I Care, You Care, We Care Giving Week.

Thanks to the mind-blowing support of HUNTER FINANCIAL, we have a goal to raise enough funds to support 1,000 children. We'd love it if you help to spread the word, share our posts on social media and encourage any family, friends or colleagues to make a donation too.

Your donation will help provide clothing, blankets and nursery items to support the growing number of disadvantaged families asking for essentials - we anticipate we will be asked to support over 9,000 children this year. Your donation will go towards providing:

- Over 7,800 clothing items a month to keep children warm & dressed with dignity
- Over 1,250 items of linen, doonas, towels a month to children who desperately need them
- Over 250 packets of nappies & tins of formula a month
- Over 200 toiletry items to keep children washed & clean.

Thank you so much for your generosity - and for changing the story on poverty for generations to come.

The We Care Connect & Hunter Financial teams :)

THE YEAR IN PICTURES



Taya White represented the Swans Academy, Allies U17 & Sydney Swans VFLW



Volunteers are the life blood of our club. Here are a few U17's girls helping out with senior timekeeping



Former Bombers winning on the NRLW National stage. Well done Joc (pic) & Jasmin



Plenty of social events at the club this year with the Western Night a highlight along with Ipod Shuffle, Ping Pong, Ladies Day, Past Players Day, Junior Trivia Night, Sponsors Day, AFL Grand Final Day, Anzac Day & our Corporate Golf Day.



Auskickers playing at half time of the seniors. Gotta love that!!!



Great to see a Swans Legend pop into the club.



The Big Wet, caused plenty of problems in 2024!!!



Nothing like a camp to get the season started



Plenty of activities for the juniors during the year including AFL Clinic, Bomber Brekky, Junior Skills Sessions and Friday Night Kicks.



2024 CLUB PARTNERS

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MINGARA



MINOR PARTNERS



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Train insane or remain the same



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