

2014

MUWFC

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY
WOMEN'S FOOTBALL CLUB



THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Season's greetings to all MUWFC members and supporters...

I warmly welcome you all to the first edition of the Mugarsette since our AGM was held this November. It is imperative we acknowledge the work of all outgoing committee members as we welcome the new committee members who are already busy behind the scenes planning your 2014 season. **Thank you to former President Bronwyn McGorlick** who leaves behind some rather large boots to fill. **Emma Phillips, Cat O'Bryan, Louise Ainscough, Rio Coulson, LJ Kelly, Marcelle Fleming and Sonia Graham** will also be missed in their respective roles. The new committee are welcomed below.

This first edition of the Mugarsette has been difficult to put together due to the overwhelming amount of positive information we have to share with you. Firstly, I am personally ecstatic with our new coaching appointments. Having **Graham Burgen on board as our Director of Coaching** has already seen some enormous progress in all aspects of training at the club. **MUWFC are certainly leading the way forward in 2014.** Certainly some exciting times to come.

What a year 2013 was for the mighty MUWFC. As a club we led the way on and off field and were suitably recognised for this. Capping off a terrific season at the MUWFC, we were very pleasantly surprised at the recent VWFL Presentation Night dinner to be awarded **Best Conducted Club (off-field)**. The club were recognised for several key initiatives across the season including our **MUWFC Cheersquad program, Development squad, and creation of a draft Strategic Plan.**

Big **congratulations to Jane Wieselmann** for winning the VWFL Best and Fairest Runner-up Award for the Premier Reserves Division. The award caps off a successful season for the club's Premier Reserves side, and a very successful season for ruck and midfielder "Janeo" who also took out the club Best and Fairest award in the Reserves.

Well done also to premier division players **Lauren Spark and Emma Kearney** on finishing 3rd and 4th respectively in the

VWFL Premier Division "Helen Lambert" Best and Fairest vote-count. Both players had outstanding seasons this year that included representing Victoria in the National Championships in Cairns, plus being drafted by the Western Bulldogs in the inaugural AFL Women's Draft match on the MCG.

Congratulations to our very own Reserves coach, Laura Kane, who took out the Senior Coach of the Year at the North West Australian Football Coaches Association Awards Dinner. We are extremely proud of this achievement and thank Laura for her contributions to the MUWFC over season.

And last but certainly not least, **a big congratulations goes out to player and committee member, Jess "Ego" Egan, who has been awarded a VWFL life membership.** The award acknowledges an illustrious career both on and off the field for Ego, having represented her state three times, taking out the club Best and Fairest Award in 2004 and the honourable Mary Cenacchi Award for Best Club Person in 2005 & 2009 respectively and playing her 150th game for MUWFC in 2012. The award also recognises an outstanding level of individual service to the Victorian Women's Football League, and to women's football in general. We are all grateful to Ego for her work and proud of her.

Finally, I am honoured to represent such a progressive and passionate club as your President next year. Please feel free to approach me or any of the committee members if you have feedback or ideas on how we can continue to improve. Have a safe and festive Christmas and New Year, I will see you all soon!

Lauren Byrnes
MUWFC President



WE RECENTLY SAT DOWN AND HAD A CHAT WITH **GRAHAM BURGEN (BURGS)** ABOUT ACCEPTING THE ROLE OF DIRECTOR OF COACHING AT THE MUWFC FOR 2014-2015...



Burgs, you've landed the Director of Coaching role at the MUWFC (Mugars).

Can you tell us a bit about your coaching background?

I started coaching in the VAFA for Fitzroy FC. They were a spin-off of the Melbourne Uni Reds who were relocated to Brunswick St Oval and took on the name after they had lost their AFL licence. Fitzroy were struggling in F grade when I started, but we set about aligning them with a good junior club, introducing an Under 19 team to cement a pathway between the juniors and the seniors and changing their social culture to a winning culture. I had a lot of fun in my 5 years there and we were fortunate enough to win 3 Premierships and take them from F grade in 2001 to C grade, when I left in 2005. During this time I was also involved with the elite coaching program at Vic metro Under 16's where I coached for 4 years and we were successful in the national championships on 3 occasions. I then worked for the Brisbane Lions in the AFL as a recruiter before moving to Calder Cannons to run their Under 15 entry-level program, as well as coaching their Under 18 midfield. **I have been at the Calder Cannons for 5 years now, with 2 Premierships and approximately 30 boys drafted, so that has kept me busy, but it's been great fun.**

So, why women's footy?

Well I guess I left out that I looked after the Calder zone Youth Girls Program last year and have helped out with the Vic Metro girl's team over the last few years. This was through the likes of Andrew Jago and Paul Groves who coach with me at Calder but have doubled up at Vic Metro as Youth Girls coaches as well. I have tried to develop young female coaches by using them in our Under 15 and 16 programs at Calder. Alex Saundry, Taz Zammit and Alicia Eva have all been a part of our coaching development pathway there. I watched my first game of Women's footy last year while working with Melbourne Uni, and assisted in their midfield. **Women's footy gets talked about a lot, and some people have pretty big ideas. I have become involved because, to be honest, I hear the ideas, and the ideas are great, but they are a complete and utter fantasy unless we improve the quality of coaching in Women's footy. So that's my plan.**

How do you think you can make an impact at the MUGARS?

To impact the MUGARS should be relatively easy, with educating the coaches being my paramount concern. As Director of Coaching my role is to recruit coaches, develop them and introduce coaching plans and structures that can take the club forward. We have already begun this process we are taking 6 coaches to the AFL run National Coaching Conference in Adelaide in January 2014. I am also big on player development and feedback, and what I call 'selection integrity' – this simply means the best girls play.

It sounds like you want to impact women's footy in general, not just our club. Is that a fair comment?

Yeah, that's the big picture stuff. The Youth Girls get great coaching at State level and they develop enormously from ages 16-18 in an elite coaching environment. From then on, there appears to be a void. Women's footy is robbed of quality coaching. I don't want to sound disrespectful to other coaches of Women's Footy as there are some good coaches out there, but most have not been exposed to elite pathways. **Let's be honest, good coaches are in demand and local male footy clubs offer a lot more financial remuneration than women's footy can**, so at this stage I believe the answer is simple – clubs need to set up their own coaching development and educate their coaches so that they can develop their list more effectively. If the MUGARS do this, then girls will improve and the MUGARS will get a reputation for developing senior talent by further education. In turn, clubs will probably lose players to the MUGARS because those girls want to really develop their footy and know where to go to find good coaching. It'll mean other clubs will be forced to embark on their own coaching development strategy. But this is not about getting all the quality players to Melbourne Uni, in fact it's quite the opposite. This is about pushing the envelope in the education of women's coaching. It will also create a much more even spread of talent through the competition and hence a better standard of football. Seriously, if we believe by putting all the best players in the one club that we are improving women's footy, then it's time to have a look at where we are heading. I believe that time is now.

Where do you see the MUGARS in 5 years, and what about women's football in general?

I hope the MUGARS are seen as a club that has been at the forefront of developing the sport of women's football by coach and player education. If the MUGARS are successful at this, then a good key performance indicator would be to have 4 or 5 MUGARS coaches going on to coach senior women's footy at other women's clubs. In 5 years' time a more even talent spread and healthy competition can be achieved only by improving the quality of coaching across the board. If the MUGARS are at the forefront of this, they will surely play a lot of finals, and you have to be in them to win them.

2014 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Following the end of an action-packed season 2013, the Melbourne University Women's Football Club held its Annual General Meeting last month. The AGM saw through changes to the club constitution, as well as the ushering in a new team of committee members. The changing of the guard will see nine new committee members take on the ever-growing responsibility of internal club affairs. While rarely seen, the committee is a powerhouse of productivity that ensures the club runs smoothly for players, supporters and coaches. **The MUGARS would like to extend their thanks to the tireless efforts of the outgoing committee members**, in particular that of outgoing President of 12 years, **Bronwyn McGorlick**. Without your hard work this club would not be the proud club that it is today.

Your committee members for season 2014:

President - Lauren Byrnes
 Treasurer - Jess Egan
 Secretary - Jess Fewster
 Junior Coordinator - Bridget Barker
 Club Liaison Officer - Karina Russo
 Operations Manager - Lars Debus
 Communications - Christine Todd
 Sponsorship and Fundraising - Ash Bye
 Merchandising and Design - Xenia Alexander
 Social Club Coordinator - Steffi Tan

Please feel free to approach any of the above committee members at training, social events or contact them online. We are always on the lookout for volunteers, sponsorship opportunities, or even just a yarn over a parma at the Clyde.

2014 COACHING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Melbourne University Women's Football Club is proud to announce the appointment of its senior coaching staff for season 2014-2015. The club has now moved to a 2-year coaching plan, enabling club development, stability for the playing group, and an opportunity for our coaches to really dig their heels into building the long-term success of the club.

To supplement this long-term vision, **all senior coaches will be attending a pre-season coaching conference in South Australia for their professional development**. In addition, Premier Division coach Mick Sandry is now well underway in achieving his Level 2 coaching accreditation with AFL Victoria, an advanced accreditation course for coaches looking to take their existing coaching knowledge to the next professional level. It is hoped that this investment in our coaches will pay huge dividends in the growth of the Melbourne University Women's Football Club and in the growth of women's football more generally.

The club is also pleased to introduce its first director of coaching, Graham Burgen (Burgs). Burgs will be responsible for the guidance and mentoring of all of our coaching staff within the club, and brings with him a vast wealth of football coaching experience.

Your coaching staff for season 2014-2015:

Graham Burgen: Director of Coaching.
 Michael Sandry: Head Coach & Premier (State) Division Coach
 Laura Kane: Premier Reserves Coach
 Bridget Barker: Youth Girls Head Coach
 Neil Barker: Youth Girls Assistant Coach
 Greg Nelson: Senior Assistant Coach
 Michael Louis-Gleeson: Line Coach
 Luke Champion: Strength and Conditioning Coach
 Kessia Ianzano: Sports Psychologist

VWFL HANDBALLS TO AFL VICTORIA

In what is expected to be a historic moment in the development of women's football across Victoria, **the VWFL and its clubs voted in favour of a change of management from the current VWFL structure to AFL Victoria.** This handover of the governance of senior women's football is expected to lead to a rapid expansion of women's football across metropolitan and regional Victoria. **The change will allow AFL Victoria to bring to the league its extensive expertise and resources, as well as invaluable support and guidance to the development of women's football.** An expected element of the league restructure will be the introduction of a female State league football competition, a first for Victorian women's football. At this moment in time the 2014 VWFL structure is being finalised by AFL Victoria, with a fixture release expected in late December/January. If you'd like to stay in the loop on the latest fixture developments, **follow the Melbourne University Women's Football Club on both Twitter and Facebook and we'll keep you posted.**

Facebook: Melbourne University Women's Football Club

Twitter: Melbourne Uni MUGARS

ELITE PLAYERS ACCEPTED INTO INAUGURAL AFL VICTORIA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The club would like to congratulate four of its very own on their selection to take part in the 2014 AFL Victoria VWFL Academy/TAC Club Talented Player Pathway Program. The inaugural AFL Victoria program is designed to take on board some of the VWFL's most accomplished players and see them through a grueling pre-season with their local TAC regions over the summer. The players will be training with the Calder Cannons, the Northern Knights and the Eastern Ranges.

The opportunity will enable some of the league's most elite players to take their game to an all-new level of professional development, enhancing their already strong skill and leadership qualities. Having only taken on board 14 recruits, to have had four of our players selected into the program is something the club and its players should be extraordinarily proud of. We

therefore **congratulate Nicola Stevens, Alicia Eva and Lauren Spark and wish them the very best over the summer.** Emma Kearney was also offered a place in the program but had to decline due to cricket commitments.

LEADING THE WAY INTO SEASON 2014



Hot off the back of a successful 2013 season, the MUGARS have returned this summer for a ripper preseason set to leave rival clubs quivering in their Asics. The girls fronted up early last month for the team's first training session at Elwood Beach, with the Melbourne coastline serving as the perfect backdrop to preparations for season 2014.

Pre-season training will be held at the following times and

locations: Monday 6-8pm: To be confirmed each week, but currently held at Elwood Beach and Princes Park intermittently. Wednesday: 6-8pm at Arden Street, North Melbourne. Please check in on our Facebook page for training ground updates during the preseason.

TEAM 2014 RECRUITING

Do you have anyone who might be interested in playing women's football in 2014? Let us know, or get in contact with them and encourage them to come down for a run with us! Know some juniors interested? Feel free to pass on the contact details for our juniors coach, Bridget Barker: Bridgetb90@gmail.com. For anyone else interested or considering what playing senior AFL football, feel free to pass on the contact details for club secretary Jessica Fewster: mugars@hotmail.com.

JUNIORS' UPDATE FROM JUNIORS' COACH BRIDGET BARKER

2014 should see the start of many new, and a few old and improved projects for the Junior MUGARS (I'm counting myself as old and improving). Recruitment is already in motion with the exciting news that we will be continuing to grow our relationship with Brunswick Secondary College. It is hoped that this will be a long-standing relationship with the school. **We also hope that our relationship with Brunswick Secondary will set up a model for further engagement and help us secure support from other schools around the local area.** As always, we still want and need you all to keep getting the word out to friends and family that we would love any cousin, sister, friend, or daughter to come down and give junior football a go.

Our relationship with North Melbourne Football Club's community program The Huddle will continue to expand, as we continue our involvement with their highly successful girls academy program. Senior MUWFC player Emma Kearney will be continuing her great work with the Academy in 2014, a contribution that we are eternally thankful for. There are also plans to develop greater involvement with the local Auskick program at North Melbourne. With young girls now streaming into Auskick programs at record levels, it is our aim at the Melbourne University Women's Football Club to help keep those girls interested in the game, and helping them make the transition to Junior Girls football.

The club as a whole is moving in a new and exciting direction with regards to coaching in 2014. **The club has appointed a director of coaching in Graham Burgen.** As 'Burgs' outlines in his

article in this edition of the Mugarsette – **the coaching program is going to be innovative in improving both coaching and player education. The program will ensure that everyone can continue to learn and improve on their football knowledge and skills as much as possible.** This will also see a lot of continuity between the seniors and juniors, on and off the field, making that transition a lot more fluid for the top aged girls when they finish their junior careers. Finally I'd like to say a large thank you to Emma Phillips, who stepped down as Junior Co-ordinator at the end of this year. Emma, thanks for all of your hard work. Even though you won't be in an official role with the junior's next year, we all hope to see you around the junior scene, as I'm sure we will!

To the parents of our junior players. I'll be sending out a calendar of dates to you soon, as junior-preseason is slowly creeping up on us. As always, **any juniors are welcome (and encouraged) to join in senior pre-season trainings and activities** (details for these training sessions can be found in this newsletter).

Feel free to contact me if you have any queries.

Bridget Barker (Youth Girls coach and Junior Co-ordinator)

Email: bridgetb90@hotmail.com

DEVELOPING A THIRDS TEAM AT MUWFC

The 2013 season saw the introduction of an MUWFC Development team, an intra-club thirds playing group that saw an influx of fresh blood into the team and enabled the development of new players. The team was an enormous success for the club. **Building on this, the Melbourne University Women's Football Club are making preparations for the further development of an MUWFC third team for the 2014 season.**

We have been active in looking for a thirds coach, and are currently factoring the team into our club budget and club plans for 2014. **We are awaiting confirmation from AFL Victoria in regards their desire to develop this new division of players across all VWFL teams,** and hope to hear of their decision soon. We look forward to communicating a positive development soon!

SPORTING SUCCESS BEYOND THE GOALPOSTS

Following on from their selection into the squad in October, MUWFC players **Emma Kearney** and **Julie Hunter** have been slogging it out for the Commonwealth Bank VicSpirit women's cricket team over the break. The team is the state's elite women's cricket squad. Both girls have performed extremely well for their state and have helped their team sit equal first on the ladder with the NSW Breakers. **We wish them all the best for the rest of the season.**



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon 16th December –

Training Melbourne Uni Sports Centre – meet at the hockey pitch. This will be our last session for 2013.

Wed 18th December –

Christmas BBQ break at Burg's house. See and RSVP Facebook post by Mick (12 December) for address and further details.

Mon 20th January –

First Training session for 2014
Arden Street 6:00pm

Sun 19th January –

Women's Ashes 1st ODI at the MCG

14-16th February –

Preseason Camp at The Summit Adventure Camp

