

OFC Presidents Report 2017

2017 has been a tremendous year for the mighty Osborne Cats! Our club had four teams playing finals including three teams finishing on top of the ladder. We also had great numbers participating in the Auskick program. At season end our mighty football club has won two premierships, HFNL football club championship, Best & Fairest in first grade – Jamie Parr, Best & Fairest in second grade – Michael Gleeson, two rising star nominees – George & Izaak, AFL service medal- Stuart Sly, record gate takings and an excellent playing surface...what a year it has been!

Our First Grade and U14's won the HFNL premierships defeating Jindera and Holbrook respectively. Presentation night was made extra special when the First grade and U14's showed off their premiership medals...a repeat of 2012. Dadio and his team went one better than 2016...coming home with the premiership cup. Rav's team with only one new recruit, a few junior players who had experienced some excellent coaching in the seconds in 2016 and a solid preseason were able to go through the season with only one loss and then storm into the last game of the year to win the coveted 14 HFL premiership cup. Our U17's team worked hard all year and played some fantastic football with only just enough players to finish the year on top of the ladder. With limited numbers James coached the boys during the season to play consistent 'hard at the ball' footy. Sadly during the finals they were unable to match the opposition sides and look to improve next season. Dougo's seconds were hunted all year as the team to beat only coming up short in the finals series, one win then one loss. The quality of football and the spirit in which it was played this year was exemplary. I would like to thank all our coaches, assistant, managers and trainers for the hard work, dedication and passion shown again this year.

I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment of three committee members who have done a marvellous job again this year – Brent, Spud and Stephen. I would personally like to thank them for their guidance and wisdom during the year, in particular Brent in his first year as secretary. I also thank our other committee members – Andrew, Ants, Hayden, Darren, Rodney, Jai and Fran for the time and energy they give to our club. Without the committees hard work behind the scenes our club could not enjoy such successful seasons.

Special mention to our amazing Ladies Auxiliary – Carol, Robyn, Sue, Debbie and team for the work they do at functions and in our canteen every week. I have appreciated the inclusion of Dim Sims to the menu this year. Congratulations to the Osborne Netball Club who also enjoyed a successful season with all three junior grades finishing top two and playing finals. The 12&Unders played a fantastic game to win the 2017 premiership with the 14&Unders trying hard to win the grand final but were unable to match their strong opposition on the day.

Our AFL NSW/ACT club volunteer award winner for 2017 is Shannon Bahr. Shannon compiles the rosters, coordinates volunteers for the Albury Gold Cup and is the treasurer of the Osborne Recreation Ground as well as helps out whenever needed...a very deserving winner.

On the financial front our club remains well positioned with a strong balance sheet. Full credit to everyone involved in fundraising activities during the year - crutching, share farming, Henty field days and grain drive. Rodney does a marvellous job with the grain drive and we will be looking to everyone for your support again this harvest.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers in any way to support our great club – umpires, trainers, match day officials, bar staff, cooks, social committee, gate attendants, photographers, social media commentators, cleaning crews, water boys, grounds staff and maintenance workers for all the big and little tasks they do in a voluntary capacity for our club...we would not be a successful club without everyone's hard work. Thank you to my wonderful wife Liza and family who I support me everyday.

Next year will see the Osborne players sporting a new jumper which will involve arranging sponsorship. I would like to thank all our sponsors for their ongoing financial support. Thank you to Heidi Gooden who does all the hard work behind the scenes to secure sponsorship for our club and remember if you know of any businesses looking to sponsor an organisation let us know.

The OFC crier is in need of a new publisher...a huge thank you to Jane Hunter who has risen to the challenge and met the game day deadlines each week to produce the premier crier of the HFNL. We all love catching up on the news and it is a great way to promote our sponsors.

To summarise some of our 2017 club highlights were:

Ladies day

Old boys game V Under 17's

300 Club Day

Auskick Grandparents Day

MND fundraiser

Masquerade Ball

Hayden playing 300 games

Reunion for three premierships teams – 2007 (Reserves), 1997 (U14's) & 1987 (U17's)

Sponsors Day

Winning the Joss grant which will enable us to upgrade our interchange facilities

Under 14's Best & Fairest award inaugural season

Junior Presentation FUN day

Senior Presentation night

Daniher Drive morning tea

Tiger mascot grand final day

In the words of the 2017 Azzi Medallist it is the Osborne community who work together to make playing football fun and make everyone feel part of one big family. Let's keep working together and looking after each other to ensure our ongoing success as a club and a community.

Looking forward to another successful 2018 season both on and off the field.

Jason Gooden
OFC President