



Brunswick Zebras FC

Annual Report 2019

Season 2019

President's Report 2019

2019 saw a surge of interest in the Club's senior teams. We now have 4 men's and 4 women's teams playing competitively every weekend. Our MiniRoos program is booming, as is Saturday Skills. We have lost a few junior teams at the start of the year. More effort and resources are being devoted to try to maintain squads in all age groups.

We need to thank our club sponsors Stomping Ground and welcome a new coffee sponsor "A Couple of Coins", and to all other sponsors that have supported the club and ensured we had decent coffee and beer at club events. I would also like to thank Melbourne Victory and their support, which has given our kids a chance to taste and participate in the big games. We have also signed a deal with Kappa for our strip and clothing, which is proving very popular.

We appreciate all the support that all our sponsors provide. We are always after more sponsors big and small to support our club. So I urge everyone at the club to keep an eye out for potential sponsors and supporters.

We have progressed our planning work for new change rooms and an upgrade of our pavilion at Sumner Park. We have master planning the improved facility with the assistance of Isabel Legge, who is both an architect and player/coach at the club. We have a substantial financial commitment from Moreland Council for 2020 -2021 and we are planning to commence work at the end of the 2020 season. Fingers cross that everything works out. The Club will be contributing a substantial amount of money to the renovation. These are savings from previous years.

The club this year decided to move from temporary liquor license to a renewable club license. The license is available for senior games only and events at the club. We need to ensure any alcohol consumption at the club is responsible.

I also want to recognise the invaluable work done by the current committee. Running a volunteer club of this size is not easy. I would also like to thanks coaches, team managers and volunteers that make it possible to field our teams every weekend during the football season.

The Board believes that as a community club Brunswick Zebras must continue to provide opportunities for all at modest costs. The club has invested in coach training and the coaching team is made up of both parents and a few non-parent coaches.

Our club has a strong mission to provide sport and community building in this area. We continue to promote the game and support children and their families in club activities. Our teams are competitive, grounds are improving and any potential conflict we deal with quickly.

Our financial situation is strong, especially when we look forward to contributing to major improvements in our facilities and grounds.

Carlo Carli

President Brunswick Zebras Football Club

Committee 2019

Office Bearers

Carlo Carli, President

Kevin Thomas, Secretary

Robert Barrese, Treasurer

Ordinary members

Mirella Matthews

Daniel Roca

Rob Colla

Bridget McPherson

Club Sponsors 2019

Many thanks to our Principal Club Sponsors:

- Stomping Ground
- Kappa
- Ausnet
- A Couple of Coins
- Pascoe Vale Sports

Club Profile 2019 (to 30 September 2019)

- 534 registered players.
- 89 Girls and women
- 294 Boys and men
- 151 Saturday Small SkillZ players (4—8 years) *[with more enrolling for term 4]*
- 229 Sunday MiniRoos (7-11 years)
- 30 Junior girls (12-18 years)
- 231 Junior boys (12-18 years) *[this includes some playing in MiniRoos teams]*
- 59 Open Age women
- 61 Open Age men
- 29 Teams
- 17 Sunday MiniRoos teams (7-11)
- 3 junior boys' teams U12-18 *(this includes 2 x U12 Brunswick Zebras classified as Mini Roos)*
- 1 junior girls' team U12-18
- 4 open age men's teams
- 4 open age women's teams
- 71 Coaches and volunteers

Our [State League 3 Women](#) won their competition for 2019 and have been promoted to State League 3.

Our [Senior Men's Reserves](#) and [Metro Men 9](#) teams finished runners up for 2019.

Coaches Team Managers and Volunteers

Once again, the committee would like to thank everyone who have put in many long hours to making Brunswick Zebras such a successful community club, we would not be able to function without all the Coaches, Team Managers, Committee members and all the extra people who have helped us get to where we are.

An approximate idea of time spent by those who volunteer are: coaches average 8 hours per week, team managers 6 hours per week and Committee members collectively average 60+ hours per week. These estimates are only for the 'good' or 'ordinary' week where nothing goes wrong and there is no special event to organise!

Saturday SkillZ

I proudly present this report for the Brunswick Zebras 'Saturday Skillz' program, designed for children aged between 4 and 8 years and all abilities. This well-structured program is an excellent introduction to football for young children who are either unsure or very excited to play the sport. We provide experienced and qualified coaches to help our young footballers play and understand more about the World Game.

Four years ago, dedicated committee member and now Secretary of the club, Keven Thomas, and experienced coaching co-ordinator Robbie Peters devised a plan to increase player participation within Brunswick and its surrounding suburbs. This plan included a structured program for experienced coaches to implement in a well organised clinic. Over the course of four years, the efforts of all the staff, including volunteers, coaching staff, committee members and the wider Brunswick community facilitated the growth of this program and over time the numbers of participation grew exponentially. The program to increase from just under 25 participants to approximately 150 to and more! We never thought we would have the issue of capping the program due to too many participants. We believed it was necessary to invest in top quality equipment, kits and signage as it provides our young players a standard of a professionalism within a football club aiding them through their discovery and skill acquisition phase.

Our program regularly receives plenty of positive feedback from the parents as the children seem to love their experience on the Saturday mornings. They are exceptionally pleased with our efforts providing the children with a genuine professional experience at such a young age in which helps the development of young children's professional attitude towards sport.

The program has been an integral part for club being able to feed our 'MiniRoos' system. We've had many girls and boys over the past years join teams in our club, transitioning from the Saturday Skillz program to participating in season games with a suitable MiniRoos team. It is a growing trend in which gives us as a community football club much pride and joy to observe and be part of this transition and we hope to see this for many more years to come.

We would like to also thank Robyn Thomas for her enormous efforts in ensuring the program run so efficiently as she does plenty of behind the scenes work which is recognised by the members of our close-knit community club.

Stefan Lazarevic

Brunswick Zebras Football Club - Saturday SkillZ Program



MiniRoos Report 2019

The Brunswick Zebras MiniRoos program in 2019 had another successful year. This year, we fielded a record 19 teams, including four Under 8 teams, four Under 9 teams, six Under 10 teams, three Under 11 teams and two Under 12 teams. This required an army of parent coaches and team managers who did an amazing job training and organising over 220 kids, 90 more than last year.

Balfe Park, our home ground hosted 171 games. Another record for Brunswick Zebras FC! Because of the significant increase in the number of teams, we had the training spread over four different grounds: Balfe Park, Sumner Park, Clifton Hill Synthetics and McAlister Oval. MiniRoos teams were given priority access by the club for early training times but ground availability continued being an issue especially at McAlister Oval where our Under 11 and Under 12 teams had to share the ground with adult footy players.

We have had a number of returning players and a steady feed of new players into the MiniRoos from the growing Saturday SkillZ program. This year we have introduced several new processes to make sure that our pre-season intake is organised for a successful season. Coaches had the opportunity to attend FV training, communication materials were developed for new members, new goals were purchased for Balfe Park and additional training equipment was sourced for all teams. We also introduced lines marking at Balfe Park, thank you to Alex Hall, Anthony Frato, Caitlin Hodnett, Dave Herman, Katherine Heneghan and Stefan Pietsch for taking turns for line marking.

Coaches and Team Managers

We would like to say a big thank you to the parents who undertook the roles of coaches and team managers, both new and experienced, we could not have got through this year without you.

Under 8 coaches: Saul Mullen, Ben Bainbridge, Supreeth Naik, John Giles and Steve Bosidis.

Under 9 coaches: Adrian Portelli, Michael Caswell, Daniel Castro, Vlad Morote, David Stockman and Adam Mornement.

Under 10 coaches: Andreas Rojas, Andrea Rizzi, David Scammell, Katrina Ngui, Alex Hall, Chris Pezzimenti, Xavier Saldoni, Peter Matthews, Adam Perri, Willie Coogan and Gus Ortega-Montiel.

Under 11 coaches: Ben Schneiders, Ian Mackie, Vincenzo Papasergi, Leonardo D'Amico, James Tayton and Gareth Williams.

Under 12 coaches: Anthony Perkins and Luke Flood.

Under 8 team managers: Anders Kruse, Matt Cugley, Matt Willis and Allison Bosidis.

Under 9 team managers: Kelvin Butler, Simon Le Nepveu, Geoff Fraser and Francisca Hoffmann.

Under 10 team managers: David Herman, Katherine Heneghan, Natalie Phillips, Wendy Winnall, Mohammed Merhi, Nick Parr, Belinda Pagliaro and Michelle Srhoj.

Under 11 team managers: Fleur Mackie, Rachel Kronic, Nancy Cotella, Gavan Hunter and Karyn Gellie.

Under 12 team managers: Yanni Schifferle Wolf, Amber Pezzimenti and Kerrie O'Brien.

The Teams and the Season

What a year! We had teams play at Joeys, Wallabies and Kangaroos levels. It was great to see this many kids in the traditional Juventus coloured uniforms have an opportunity to develop skills in soccer and team play. Many coaches remarked on player development over the season. There were wins, there were losses but most importantly the kids experienced the highs and the lows in a supported environment. Thank you to all the parents who got the players to various locations and stood in all weather conditions to cheer the players on.

2020 Outlook

The current trajectory of growth in player registrations promises to continue in 2020. We will start off the year with a vision of growth and sustainability. Keep a look out for news on the start of the season!!

Mirela Matthews
Mini Roos Co-ordinator

Junior Girls

2019 saw less females participating in soccer, something we are hoping to change for Season 2020. This year, we only had one female team, the Under 15/16 girls. The girls had a good season and finished 8th out of 10 teams in the North West B Division, a result which didn't reflect on the level of their playing. The players stepped up to the plate to play competitively in a 16B division, with girls' range in age from 12 to 16.

Season highlights included wins against Watsonia and Eltham where the girls performed really well and showed tremendous teamwork, as well a win against a fierce Sydenham. They also had a nail-biting game under lights at Sumner against Keilor.

The team was well rounded, and had a solid midfield which lead the team. Polly and Riley were the team's co-captains, to go along co-team managers and co-coaches. The team showed strength and determination throughout the season which puts them in good stead for a stellar 2020 season.

We also welcomed Fitzroy Lions Under 16's from Atherton Estate for their inaugural season in the competition, followed by a welcome lunch in the Sumner Clubrooms. Medals were provided to the best and fairest from each team.



Junior Boys

2019 saw a change to the format of the Under 12 teams, in line with the MiniRoos structure. We have reported on these two teams as part of the MiniRoos report for this year.

The Under 15A were again in the top grade this season and Luis had the team fit and organised. During pre-season, we lost a few players but gained a couple of players from the Under 14's and Under 13's. After a tough start to the season, 2019 team ended up in 7th place, not a bad result for a tough season.

Luis once more proved a dedicated and passionate manager, always present at training and always prepared to start on time. Lazarus was the leading goal scorer with 17 goals and Best and Fairest.

Senior Women

The women's state teams increased their numbers from 4 teams for the 2019 season; one State 3, two State 4 teams and a state 5 team.

The State 3 team topped their league and will be promoted to State 2 in 2020. All of the three other teams finished strongly in the second half of the season. The State 5 team struggled with numbers, but the club made the decision that all players would get a game. The State 4 north and State 5 team all had strong support from the U16 team through-out the season.

The retention rate of players from the previous season was high, with all but 1 player returning from State 3 and 60% of players returning for the other teams. The Sate 4 East team selected to train separately. The new system of a single point of entry into the club worked well for new players, reducing the confusion of what team you would be playing for. The North teams received a large number of enquiries, with approximately 50% attending training and we gained new players to replace those we lost, and enough for a reduced squad 4th team. There was a lot of movement of players which made it difficult to run a structured pre-season. However, the pre-season trainings addressed our playing style, formation and some tactics. We were able to create a good basis of play for the season, which we were able to build on through-out the season.

The appointment of George Pecchair as coach of the State 5 team created confidence in the playing group, they had a coach for the season, and encouraged more participating in trainings for the Squad overall. The ability for the coaches to work as a team strengthened the comradery between the three north teams and helped with the integration/movement of players across the teams throughout the season. This is always difficult with the FV ruling of maximum number of games played. The ability for the coaches to work together, and demonstrate complete support in one and other was key to the success of all teams through-out the season and this was reflected in the on field performance of the players and the results. Especially for the State 3 team finishing first.

During the season, attendance at training remained steady for the North squad, with numbers dropping off in the middle of the season when players were away and the weather got colder. Monday trainings were run as a recovery session, focusing on muscle movement and skills based activities, with Wednesday training focusing on game play, problem solving, formation and tactics. This session often saw the three North teams work individually on specific problems observed in the previous game and solutions for the next game.

Most of the players from the North Squad attended the end of season presentation night with most players expressing their pleasure with playing at Brunswick and many have indicated their intention of returning in 2020.

Senior Men

We are pleased to confirm the reappointment of Chris "Dixie" Smith as Senior Coach for next Season 2020, which will be his third season at the helm for us. We are working our way through the process for the appointment of other coaches and assistants for the Senior Teams at the time of writing these notes, and our further advices will follow soon.

Performance on Field

Brunswick Zebras fielded 4 Senior teams in Season 2019 with 66 registered players.

Our State League Senior team was pitted against some very strong opposition throughout the season, the majority of whom either remunerate all or most of their players. We were therefore up against the odds most weeks. It was therefore incredibly satisfying that we gave a good account of ourselves in all but one or two fixtures throughout the year, and started and finished a comfortable mid-table position with an almost identical win/loss ratio to the previous season. We have progressively given opportunities to a number of our younger players over the last two years so we believe we are well placed to meet the challenge of what promises to be another strong competition following the reconfiguration of the State Leagues.

Our State League Reserves had yet another extremely good year, finishing second in their division for the third year running. This result was tinged with a little regret in that we led the competition for most of the year, and pretty much fell over in the last few rounds due to a lack of player availability. That said, we once again demonstrated our overall depth within our Senior Group, with its foundations built on our policy of encouraging the club's junior players ongoing participation with the club. The challenge will be to go one place better in 2020 and pick up that elusive divisional trophy.

Our Sunday Metro Men teams – with a 4th Senior Men side fielded for the first time in 2019 – both had outstanding seasons. Our Division 4 side just missed out on promotion finishing 3rd, and our new 4th team securing promotion and a runner up flag for their division in their first year.

Club Contribution

- Minor Club Sponsor: The Royal Derby Hotel
- Major Club Sponsor: Stomping Ground Brewery
- Volunteers: Senior Men's teams provided volunteer assistance throughout the year
- Match Day Volunteers: Senior Men's teams continue to provide volunteers for canteen duty on and barbecue on Match Days
- Pitch Marking at Sumner Park: Weekly line-marking is carried out by Dylan Dalla-Via
- Canteen takings: These were very strong in 2019 with decent crowds in attendance at several Saturday and Sunday fixtures throughout the season

Season 2020

With no new crop of Junior players coming through, next season will be one of consolidation across all four teams. Our player numbers and strength are good and we aim to achieve an improved showing across all competitions.

Coaches Training Courses

Training was offered to our MiniRoos coaches this year, many came along to learn new skills, it definitely paid off with the many kids in our program having a great time this year thanks to the coaches' dedicated efforts. Training will once again be offered to all coaches in 2020.

Goalkeeper training

Goal keeper training was offered to all goal keepers within Brunswick Zebras throughout the season, it was great to see so many attend. This is also planned for 2020.

Presentation Day

Our Presentation Day held in the middle of September. The kids were so excited to come along and receive their medals. We also awarded some Club Awards, mentioned below.



Ground Maintenance and Improvements

Once again, both Sumner Park and Balfe Park will be the subject of general maintenance work on the grounds. This is very much needed after such an intense year, with more rain than we've had in years. Many can attest to the massive strain sustained by our grounds with all our training and weekly games. We will continue to work with Moreland Council in the hope that the grounds can be much improved for 2020 and beyond.

Girls Participation Initiatives

Throughout the 2019 year the Brunswick Zebras has explored ways to increase girl's participation. In August the club hosted a Women's forum attended by Karen Pearce (Football Victoria Manager, Women and Girls) as well as many members currently involved in female soccer. The night covered many topics but none more so than strategies to increase and retain girls' participation at the club. Later in August the club launched its women's strategy with a lunch and many invited guests including Tim Reid and Peter Khalil. The strategy confirms the club's commitment to 50/50 equality in girls and boys playing numbers as well as laying out a blueprint for achieving this goal.

The club was able to secure grants of around \$8,000 from various government sources such as VicHealth to be used to conduct events that attract female participants. To this end the club, after making contact with many local primary schools has successfully staged introductory soccer clinics for grade 5 and 6 girls at Brunswick South and Our Lady Help of Christians, around 65 students in all. The grant money has been used to pay for coaches to run the clinics. Other schools have indicated their interest in having girls' clinics in term 1 of 2020. The exciting aspect of this is that the club is beginning to establish relationships with local schools which will hopefully become long term and result in greater awareness of our club and increased girls' involvement in sporting activity overall.

Soccer Mums

Football Victoria currently offer a program called Soccer Mums. If there are mum's who would like to get involved for 2020 (and perhaps someone to co-ordinate), please let Robyn know @ brunswickzebrasfc@gmail.com. More information about the program can be found [here](#).

Club Award Winners 2019

Citation	Name
Bruno Saico Award (Best and Fairest Senior Player U18-Seniors)	Rachel Young
Pierre Venditti Golden Boot Award (Highest Female Goal Scorer)	Sarah Schuer
Pierre Venditti Golden Boot Award (Highest Male Goal Scorer)	Lazarus Archimandritis
Melissa Barbieri Medal - Goalkeeper of the Year	Madeleine Vlahiotis
Best and Fairest Junior Female Player	Polly Stokes
Best and Fairest Junior Male Player	Lazarus Archimandritis
Coach of the Year (Female Teams)	Rob Colla
Coach of the Year (Male Teams)	Daniel Roca
Team Manager of the Year (Female Teams)	Dragan Todorovic
Team Manager of the Year (Male Teams)	Angelo Tenace
D'Intino Award (Best Club Person)	Julijana Todorovic