



President's Report, 2017 Season

Dear Members,

With the 2018 season on our doorstep, I would like to reflect on the 2017 year.

The PP&OA were very pleased how the season progressed with match days running smoothly incorporating some interesting guests, but more importantly, there were many new players and officials returning to the fold enjoying the facilities and atmosphere that we are extremely proud of.

We continued on with our community work, with the number of visits to retirement villages and nursing homes reaching above double figures. Our organisation also gave financial support to the GFC 'Our Ambition' project, to Encompass in support of football at the grass roots, and also to pancreatic cancer research on behalf of Bruce and Ian Nankervis, whose brother John passed away from this insidious disease in 2015.

During last season the GFC organised a "walk through" of the new facilities at the ground, where current players and officials volunteered their time to take groups for a tour, culminating in snacks and refreshments in our rooms. All participants commented on what an enjoyable night it was.

In January this year the GFC decided to put on a football clinic for all children and grandchildren of past players. Gary Ablett (Jnr), Sam Simpson, Jed Bews, Kate Darby and Elise Coventry took the kids through their paces, and the look on the parents/grandparents faces watching their offspring grace the hallowed turf said it all. Again snacks and refreshments were provided capping off a night to remember.

A special thanks to Sarah Albon for co-ordinating these two wonderful events. As well as Sarah, I would like to thank Kelly Wainwright, Karen Grigg and the departing Rebecca Hill for their friendly positive "can do" approach.

With 9 home games at GMHBA Stadium this year I would ask members endeavouring to attend home games to book seating in advance to avoid disappointment, and to make Eric's job a little easier.

Finally I would like to thank the committee for their enthusiasm and hard work. Tim McGrath and Peter Menzies did not re-nominate for the 2018 season, and I thank them both for their hard work and efforts.

A life member, Peter in particular has served the Association for over 30 years with more than half of these as Secretary. Peter has gone through the hard and good times and has been a major force in us being in the healthy position we enjoy at present.

Marty Christensen has taken over as Secretary, and we welcome Neville Bruns as a new committee member. I'm sure these appointments will ensure we stay strong and healthy for the future.

All the best for 2018 and keep your eyes on emails and newsletters for upcoming events,

Ray Card
President, Geelong Past Players & Officials Association