



FULL TIME

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2023



President's report

At the end of another thrilling football season, it is time to reflect on the achievements, challenges, and progress made by our glorious football club. This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of our club's performance, both on and off the field, throughout the year. From exhilarating victories to unforeseen setbacks, we have navigated new requirements, competition, and experiences this year – always striving for excellence.

I want to start with the moment that, on personal reflection, made me most proud as President. This year, despite the significant changes to our representation in the State League competition, we once again secured the title of Club Champions. This means that as a club our teams secured the most points across all of state league and masters in Canberra. Many people say this is just due to the quantity of teams we have entered in state league, however I see it differently. As a club of players, coaches, and committee members we have created a community that thrives, that people seek out, and want to be a part of. More than that, this community strives to improve. It would not matter how many teams we entered if we did not also consistently win. We are competitive at every level and, as the State League 4 grand final can attest, we also strive for equity of competition across the club. We don't just enter a lot of teams – we also win a lot of games. Every person in the club has contributed to the accumulation of those points, and that is why we are Club Champions again in 2023.

The performance of our teams has been nothing short of exceptional. Our players have displayed remarkable skill, determination, and teamwork, resulting in numerous victories and memorable performances.

From the breathtaking comebacks to the dominant displays, our teams have consistently entertained and inspired fans throughout the year. None of this would be possible without the steadfast commitment of our coaches – to us and our club. This year we have also seen opportunities for team mixers and one-on-one development sessions. These were the brainchild of our Technical Director, Ash, and through her skills as coach and love for the game has seen other players flourish. We hope in the years to come we can continue to run these mixers and workshops for more players who are interested, and further develop not just our players but also our community and coaches through these programs.

In support of our coaching contingent, the committee continues to support our volunteer coaches through the funding of licences and development. Through the work of previous committees, we were able to fund two Coaching C licence courses for our coaches Ash and Charlotte, and a keeper coaching course for Maddie. The committee is now in the process of allocating further funding for a C licence course for more coaches, as well as a B licence course to support the growth and development of our NPL squad. This has been made possible mostly due to the excellent financial management of the 2023 Committee – particularly our Treasurer – as well as partial funding coaching grants being awarded by Capital Football to members of our football community.

Our football club has always recognised the importance of giving back to the community and seeking out ways to reach out and connect with those around us. Each year in collaboration with ANU FC we run the Summer 9s competition. This is a huge revenue raiser for us, as well as a great way for football lovers to continue to connect over the summer. We also continued our work with the Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services, providing a safe and comfortable space for young women to play football and join in with physical activities – something we aim to continue into 2024.



In an exciting development, we have been approached by the Walking Football Group to become associate members of our club, so they can continue to build their community under the umbrella of culture of diversity and inclusivity. Our club has made a positive impact on the lives of many. By fostering a sense of community and inclusivity, we aim to inspire the next generation of football enthusiasts and create a lasting legacy beyond the sport itself.

We have also had quite a bit of fun this year at annual events, plus a few extras to mark the Women's World Cup. Our season launch saw some of the most committed performances of impromptu karaoke to bless our ears and eyes, while the Trivia Night was a true battle of intellects. Not ones to keep the physical activity restrained to the pitch, a new Plank Off Champion was also crowned at the Trivia Night, with Jane Howell from State League 4 Runaways posting a whopping 7 minutes and 53 seconds hold – setting an ANUWFC record in the process! The Women's World Cup gave us an excuse to throw a party in support of women's football, with the added bonus of supporting the Matildas and screaming ourselves hoarse.

One of the key aspects of any successful football club is its financial stability. Throughout the year, our club has worked diligently to ensure sound financial management. Thanks to sponsorship deals, ticket sales, and merchandise revenue, volunteer fundraising from our membership, and the change to home and away fixtures reducing field hire costs, our club's financial performance has seen a dramatic improvement.

My sincere thanks to our sponsors who support us and make each year possible:

- **Hellenic Club in the City**, who host several our events, supply our Player of the Week \$50 vouchers, and cover a substantial amount of our alcohol tabs.
- **Capital Clinic Physio**, for taking time each week to attend to our injuries, helping to keep our club fit and healthy.
- **SR Sports and SISU**, who have come on as sponsors for our NPL squad this year, and made affordable merch and kits.
- **Capital Brewing**, for donating prizes and hosting our World Cup Matildas viewing parting.
- **Dowse Projects**, who sponsored our Match Centre to help alleviate running costs for the club.

I'd also like to give an incredibly special mention to, ANUWFC Royalty and Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to football in the Canberra region and advocacy for gender equity in sport, Heather Reid AM. Heather committed to annual funding of a bursary specifically to sponsor students or individuals who would otherwise be unable to afford to play football with the club. This year we were able to assist 11 players through the bursary, and as a club we look forward to supporting more players in the future, thanks to Heather.

And then there has been the fundraising! We introduced a canteen this year at South Oval, run with volunteer aid from our teams. It raised \$2000 after expenses, and we have plenty of dry goods stock ready for next year. Our choccy money efforts resulted in \$1100 profit, with a special mention to Taylor Hoadley from State League 1 for selling 9 boxes and taking in additional donations from her colleagues! The committee ran a bunnings snag fundraiser in November 2022, raising \$1791, and the

NPL squad ran another in February, raising a further \$2341. This brings our homegrown fundraising this year to \$7,232. I hope this inspires us all to continue to lend a few hours each year towards our fundraising initiatives. Each dollar helps keep this club thriving.

As always, this year we continued to work with ANU Sport and Capital Football to deliver the best season we could for our players, by securing funding and establish positive networks. I had the opportunity to meet with the new CEO of Capital Football and raise a number of issues and ideas brought forward by our community. We spoke about ways to better balance divisions both in size and skill, as well as how the accommodations and exceptions made for interstate clubs and ADFA can negatively impact on teams and resources of the division. We also spoke about initiatives for inclusivity and female representation in coaching and refereeing, fundraising initiatives for clubs, and the overall better scheduling and management of the season.

ANU Sport continues to be a great resource and partner to our club, helping ensure facilities and resources to get NPL off the ground and enable our club to grow. There have been some hiccups along the way managing the increased use of South Oval, however the financial savings moving to a home and away system have considerably outweighed the minor headaches. In particularly exciting news, we are expecting a redevelopment of Willows Oval over the summer, which will include a brand new surface that we hope will be much kinder on our joints!

Before I sign off, I must thank those who made all of the above possible:

- My Exec Team, for the never ending and often ill-timed tasks, questions, and request.
- The Committee, for the endless work and support. We say it every year, but it never gets less true: we would not be playing football if it wasn't for the Committee's hard work.
- Our Technical Director and Coaches, who work endlessly to develop and strength and our players and teams, and ensure you have the support you need to play.
- And the addition to our contingent, the Team Managers, who have made this year so much smoother in communications between the Committee and our 200+ players!

This end of season report highlights the achievements, challenges, and progress made by our football club throughout the year. From financial stability to on-field success, player development, community engagement, volunteer efforts, and infrastructure development, our club has demonstrated its dedication to excellence in all areas. As we look forward to the 2024 season, we remain committed to upholding the values that have shaped our club's identity and to further enhancing our position as a leading football club. With the continued support of our fans, sponsors, and stakeholders, we are confident that our football club will reach even greater heights in the future.



Chloe Gray
ANUWFC President
2023



Treasurer's report

At time of writing, we have just over \$100,000 in our bank account, which may sound like a lot but compared to some of the other clubs in Canberra, it's not much at all.

To break it down, the majority of our year is financially set by our profit from the Summer 9s competitions. We continue to run these because it is a staple in the club's success and vital to our ability to continue. Last year, we made around \$30,000 from Summer 9s and we are expected to make similar, if not more, this year. Our other main revenue sources are registration fees and a small amount from sponsorship.

Costs

Running a season isn't cheap. Our costs include affiliation fees to Capital Football, field hire, equipment, and referee payments. This season, registration prices increased in line with the changes Capital Football had set. Unfortunately, this is likely to happen again next season.

Field hire makes up a significant portion of our costs, totally just over \$14,000 this season. Other key expenses include stipends for coaches and the Technical Director, of \$5,800 merchandise, and equipment. This year, to abide by NPL requirements, we also had to have a physio, which cost \$4,400 for the season.

2023 season changes

In our recent years, our club has experienced a gradual decline financially. This year, we set out to combat this. One of the changes this year was an increase in sponsorship. I'd like to give a massive shoutout to Clare who managed all of ANUWFC's sponsorship so successfully. Our promotion to NPL was a great incentive to potential sponsors and allowed us to make over \$12,000 from sponsorship alone.



Another shoutout goes to our events coordinators. Historically our events have lost money, but our goal this year was to make them at least net-zero, which Bean, Ness, and Bree accomplished valiantly, and every event – including this one – made money for the club.

Chloe, and those who helped with the canteen, helped contribute to our coffers further. Having a home field gave us the opportunity to run a canteen, and the total net profit from it was \$1914.14.

2022-2023 comparison

Last year's financial report stated that the 2022 season came with a \$42,346 loss. While there are still a few bills and stipends to pay, at the end of this season, we will be sitting just under our opening balance. This is very good news and doesn't account for the money we're going to make from Summer 9s, which kicks off in a few weeks.

2023 has been a very strong year, and the work put in by this year's committee will hopefully continue to benefit the club under the next committee and later seasons.

Alexandra Serras

2023 Treasurer



2023 COMMITTEE

President: Chloe Gray

Vice President + Secretary: Alana Breed

Treasurer: Alexandra Serras

NPLW Coordinator: Alice McNeil

ANU Sport Liaison: Emma Stephens

Communications Coordinator: Clare Butterfield

Player Welfare Officer: Roxie Swart

**Events Coordinators: Aoibheann Maclochlainn,
Vanessa Sophocli, and Bree McFadyen**

Merchandise Coordinator: Claire Joseph

Registrar: Chelsea Rolls

General representative: Kristin McKinnon



2024 COMMITTEE

President: Josie Chantrell

Vice President: Sarah Callinan

Secretary: Lia Taylor

Treasurer: Farah Al Rushidi

ANU Sport Liaison: Nat Catzikiris

**Communications Coordinators: Kristin
McKinnon and Kirsten Little**

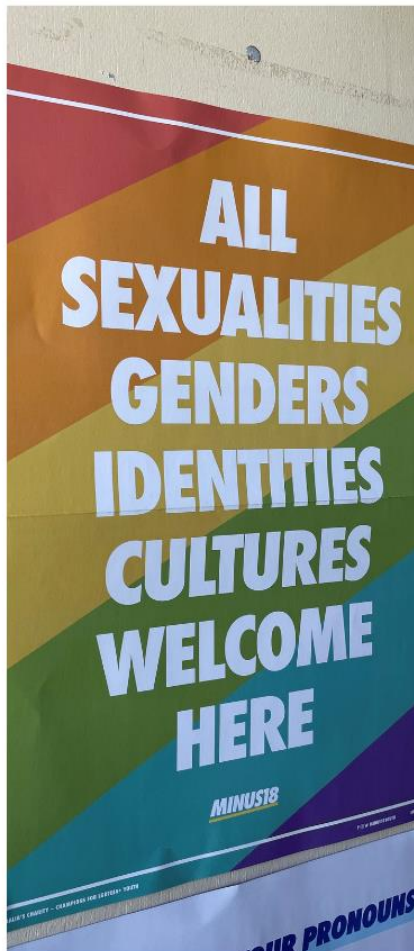
Player Welfare Officer: Jasmine Law

Events Coordinator: Charlotte Blundell

Merchandise Coordinator: Rose Hosking

Registrar: Rebecca Phillips

**General representatives: Bree McFadyen,
Dhigna Rubiano, and Linley Jenkins**







National Premier League

What a rollercoaster. Our first year back in NPL threw everything at us: devastating lows and dizzying highs throughout the season make it bittersweet to look back on in so many ways.

There were low points. The losses to Tuggeranong that dragged us back towards the relegation battle, and the emotionally charged 5-0 loss to CFC tested us. But the highs of wins at Tuggeranong early in the year, very solid home performances against Belconnen and Olympic, going away to WCW in a must win game and hammering them 3-0 in one of our best performances, to take us out of relegation threat, and following that up with the best performance of the season away at CFC to redeem ourselves more than made up for it, and ended the season on a high.

Bottom line, we achieved everything we set out to do this year. In finishing 6th, we stayed in the competition. In games against Belconnen, Canberra Croatia, and Canberra Olympic, we showed against the best teams that we are capable as a unit of matching any of them on our day. However, for all our successes, for all we achieved, and for all our vindication – that we do deserve to be at this level and do more than make up numbers – at least for me there will always be a sense of what if. Despite showing our ability to compete, we struggled at times to turn those performances into the points we deserved and were plagued by availability and injury issues throughout the year.

The thing I am most proud of is how the squad stepped up and reacted to these setbacks. This is what separated us from the teams around us and is what makes our club special. We have talented players, but so do other clubs.



We have talented coaches, but so do other clubs. But we have a squad, 33 of whom played first grade this season, who are above all great characters. They support each other, they respond to adversity with heart, they never give up, and when required they all showed they have the quality and personality to step up to the highest level.

Every single player who stepped on the field this year for ANUWFC NPLW, first grade or reserves, contributed to a historic season for the club and did themselves, and the club they represent, proud.

I couldn't be happier with, or prouder of, this team, and I can't wait to see how they go with a year more experience and full availability.

The sky is the limit.

Rob Illingworth | 2023 NPLW First Grade Coach
(NPL photos courtesy of Soccer Snaps by Sal)



State League 1 Tranquilisers

Dear Tranquilisers,

Thank you for believing in me. Going into this year, I knew it was going to be a tough one. Historically State League 1 has been dominated by our club, but as the club had stepped up to NPL so too did the players that had dominated this division. I had to build a brand-new team with a mixture of State League 2 and State League 3 players from previous years. We also welcomed a few new players to the club, and I hope they've had a great time and consider coming back next year.

Another challenge we faced was only having four other teams in the division. It made it hard to gain momentum in the season, as we were constantly interrupted with byes. We only had 15 regular season games.

With that being said, we clearly punched above our weight. My individual goals for this season were:

1. Develop and maintain a positive environment.
2. Developing players' talent and tactical understanding of the game.
3. Create a clear pathway for players to step up to NPL level.
4. Lend players to NPL should Capital Football allow the loaning of state league players.

I feel comfortable with having met these goals. However, I am always looking to do better, and I feel I could have collaborated with individual players a little more.

Our season

I want to touch on some of the challenges we faced and how we managed to overcome them. We suffered a lot of injuries throughout the season. Most of them were niggling that persisted, but a couple that put players out. Losing our most experienced centre back, Chloe, was a huge blow to the

team defensively. This happened when we had quite a few players on holiday, so I was limited in who could fill her spot. Up steps Taylar, who has the natural physicality and instinctively knew when to go in for a challenge on the ball. In a short amount of time Taylar became very important to our defensive structure. Taylar learned very quickly, with Alana's guidance, and when Bec got back from holiday Taylar worked very well with both Alana and Bec.

Another injury challenge was in our midfield, with Julia suffering persistent niggles that ended up ruling her out for the last few games of the season. Julia was excellent at providing support and energy for the attack. This time Indi stepped up to provide creativity and support for our attack. Placing Indi in a pseudo #10 role was the answer (I got this idea from a move Char and Chloe did during our game against Wagga in Wagga). Indi is incredibly good at winning the ball, and having her further up the field gave us better attacking opportunities.

Ash C earned golden boot in our team, and as Captain led the team in moments of triumph and consoled them in our toughest defeats. By far the biggest triumph this season was our semi-final win against Wagga. We knew early on that finishing fourth would have us playing a semi-final against Wagga. So, while myself and a few of our team went to watch the semi-final and the final of the Women's World Cup, I could not stop thinking about our upcoming game against Wagga and neither could Ash.

Through talking about it we produced a plan: we would change the formation and tactics. This was a huge gamble, as we had no time to train a new formation and run through our new game plan. Luckily, we had a night game against UC on the Tuesday before the semi-final, and I decided we would assess the new plan. We lost that game, but I saw enough to make my decision.

The semi-final arrived and so did Wagga. They looked confident, but so did my team. Olivia had an outstanding game, and so did the team. Ash C scored the only goal in that game, and I could not be prouder of the shift everyone put in.

We made it to the grand final. Our opponents were UC, and I decided we would stick with the new game plan. Taylar scored a free kick in the first half, and the game plan was working. However, UC scored off a free kick in the second half, and we unfortunately went down in penalties. But I could not care less. This team, after countless setbacks, showed everyone the true meaning of resolve. A rough season can often serve as a crucible for a team revealing its character and determination. In the case of this team, their response to adversity was nothing short of remarkable. This team serves as a powerful reminder that in sports and in life, it is not the absence of challenges that defines us but our response to them.

I am immensely proud of all of you.

Will Heggblum | 2023 Coach

Thumbs up



State League 2 Carrots

A fantastic season for ANUWFC State League 2 Carrots as they finished the season placing 3rd and just narrowly missing out on the grand final after a tough defeat against a very good side in Wagga.

The team this season was brand new and most of the players had not played with each other before. The start of the season was dedicated in getting the players united and adopting a style of play that would get the players to play very fun and beautiful football.

It was great to see the team adapt to each other quickly throughout the season and come up with big wins against BellaMonaro and Majura FC. Another metric of good performance this season was that the team received multiple praises from spectators and the opponents each Sunday.

It was also positive to see the team finish with a strong goal difference and that the players enjoyed their time together throughout the season.

A special shout out to all the families, partners, friends, and ANUWFC supporters that came to our matches and give the players a boost of confidence.

As the head coach, I had a brilliant time with my players and I felt supported and respected throughout the season, and as a team, it was great to see us enjoy ourselves with each other outside of the field whether it was watching the world cup games or having a schooner at the pub. Up the carrots!

Sureiyan Hamond | 2023 Coach



State League 3

The season kicked off brightly with a visit to the hills to play Cooma. A 2-nil victory and lunch at the local pub it was terrific way to start. The second game against UC was there for us to win, but unfortunately a 1-1 draw was all we could muster, even though we dominated most of the game.

Our games from this point on were against the more well-established teams. The third round was played in atrocious torrential rain conditions, which led to the game being abandoned after to 70th minute due to player safety reasons. At this point we were 1 nil down, so the score stood.

Our heaviest defeats came in rounds 6 (6-1) and 7 (4-1). Even during these games and rest of the round we were competitive and for the best part outplaying our opposition. The team's Achilles heel was the halftime break, after which the intensity dropped, and the more experienced teams took advantage of that.

The second half of the season had an identical start to the first with a win over Cooma (3-1) and a draw with UC (1-1). Our biggest defeat came in round 15 (4-0) to the team who beat us (6-1) in round 6. On this occasion we were reduced to ten players mid-way through the first half. A top effort against the team who went on to win SLW3 finals. Similarly, we were reduced to ten players for a period the game before and only lost 2-0.

The second half of the season resulted in 1 win and 3 draws. This was in some ways attributable to having stable lineups and players in their more suited roles after uni break and a return from injuries.

On a personal note, to round of the report, as former player I know how difficult it is to keep training and turning up each week to play when games do not go your way. I thank you all for your efforts, commitment, spirit, and support by hanging in there to see out the season.

It has been a pleasure to coach you.

Sid Miller | 2023 Coach





AWARD WINNERS

NPLW 1st grade

Player's Player: Ailish McDonagh
Coach's Player: Edith Fordyce-Croker
Best Newcomer: Isabella Hopkins

NPLW Reserve grade

Player's Player: Sofia Furlanetto
Coach's Player: Millie Moody
Most Improved: Aoibheann Maclochlainn

State League 1 Tranquilisers

Player's Player: Julia Hogan
Coach's Player: Ashleigh Cook
Most Improved: Taylor Hoadley

State League 2 Carrots

Player's Player: Hannah Coppell
Coach's Player: Eloise Taylor
Most Improved: Meg Wilson

State League 3

Player's Player: Georgia Moffitt
Coach's Player: Olivia Hedley
Most Improved: Emma Fitzgerald

State League 4 Strollers

Player's Player: Suzanne Bridgman
Coach's Player: Dhigna Rubiano
Unsung Hero: Meaghan Gidley

State League 4 Runaways

MVP: Sarah Callinan
Coach's Award: Sarah Creighton
Rising Star: Lia Taylor

State League 5 Braids

Player's Player: Nevinka Perera
Coach's Player: Raya Atreya
Most Improved: Viyan Khalaf

State League 5 Scooters

Player's Player: Natasha Malan
Coach's Player: Emily Thornton
Most Improved: Manny Salazar

State League 6 Sharkies

Player's Player: Maddie Vaughan
Coach's Player: Zoe Clarke
Golden Ball: Hannah Bulie

State League 6 Hungry Kartapillars

Player's Player: Samantha Sylvivris
Coach's Player: Claudia Avila
Most Improved: Claudia Hunt

Royal Heart Awards

Player: Clare Butterfield
Coach: Charlotte Wen
Committee Member: Chloe Gray



State League 4 Strollers

“Premiers and champions” has a really nice ring to it. It just rolls off the tongue. So too does “Minor premiers, major good sports”.

This season saw the triumphant return of three players – all former stars of premier league – and who slotted back in as if no time had passed.

As a non-training team, the opening rounds of the season generally act as pre-season, however the Strollers’ 2023 campaign kicked off strongly, with scores more akin to squash than football. It took until Round 5 for the team to concede a goal, and at that point they’d scored a whopping 33 goals for. Eager to improve on their semi-final exit last season, the Strollers continued building big scores, fast becoming the team to be feared.

Always ones to share, nine different players scored throughout the season, and several others were very close. Particular mention must go to Sarah (22 goals), Holly (14), and Lauren D (9) – their ability to strike the ball on target and at the right time is 11/10. The other attackers supported splendidly, with too many assists to keep track of.

The strength of the Strollers’ backline was a testament to [REDACTED] years playing, and teams struggled to break through the backline brick wall. Whether it was a belting clearance kick, a turn and run up the line, or a one-two out of danger, the backline protected the goal like it was sacred.

Connecting the two was the confident, composed, and only sometimes chaotic midfield. From the centre mids out to the wings, the Strollers dominated midfield possession all season.

The scoring bonanza calmed a bit by the end of the season, with our illustrious Strollers only seeing game margins of 5-1 and sometimes even 4-0! What didn't calm down, however, was the team's passion for the game, support of each other, sense of humor, and genuine pleasure at having a run around each weekend.

The Strollers finished the season as minor premiers (again) and managed to get through the semi-final in regular time, setting up a Div 4 Derby against the Runaways. The teams were evenly matched, taking it to extra time and a penalty shootout. Experience prevailed and the Strollers lifted the cup after a mammoth season.

Well done all!

BY THE NUMBERS

Matches won: 13

Matches drawn: 1

Matches lost: 2

Goals for: 75

Goals against: 13





State League 4 Runaways

A crafting team with a football problem. This season saw us bring our craftiness to ANUWFC, both on and off the field. The offseason challenge of making corner flags for the club (note: sewing machines love to eat Lycra), was followed by the return of the preseason South Coast Vinnies Fashion Parade. With prep done and the exciting build-up of the impending Women's World Cup, we quickly established ourselves as leaders of our comp, averaging around four goals a game.

The Lanyon road-trip was a torrid affair and saw our first loss of the season. For the Yass road-trip, we made sure we were better prepared. A birthday cake later, some crochet gifts (cupcake and lemon from memory), and we came home with a bag of goals (7-0 win!).

The usual mid-season stuff-a-round of byes and reschedules (no matches for a month), coupled with 'the Curse of Willows Synthetic' saw us lose momentum and players (Gigi – snapped wrist), and drop out of the top four. Luckily there were some other games going on around the country and across the Tasman Sea to keep us inspired.

With the thrill of the Women's World Cup on home soil and a team trip to the Final in Sydney, we turned our season around and secured third place with a spot in the semis against Lanyon – a team we hadn't beat all season. Inspired by the Matildas (too inspired for my liking), we played a thrilling 0-0 draw that saw us shatter Lanyon's dreams 4-3 in the following penalty shootout.

This set up an all-ANUWFC derby for the final against the Strollers. This was another nailbiter, that saw us comeback from an odd handball call by launching a great counterattack from our defence that saw Josie square up a ball for Ro to waltz over the line in front of her ecstatic mum. With the game locked at 1-1, the Strollers, with over a century more combined experience than us, unfortunately prevailed 5-4 in the resulting penalty shootout.

You cannot have a great team without awesome people, and for that I feel honoured to be part of Runaways. We still have unfinished business within our division, so bring on the 2024 campaign!

Simon Whiting | 2023 Coach



State League 5 Braids

With a lot of players moving interstate or into new teams, we picked up 11 new players through trials. It was great to see a lot of new friendships formed through the trials. The players voted Bree as our Captain, and we were set for the season. Well, down only a team name.

We had a low start to the season. But seeing a girl with braids play exceptionally well and a belief all girls with braids play well, players took notice and The Braids were on!

Straight afterwards started our undefeated streak in May and June. We made a run up the table, only broken by the eventual champions.

Mid-semester break was a tough one for us, with so many interstate players. Not only for our team but for the other teams we helped fill in for. Players did very well though with 5-7 players each week backing up after a game beforehand.

There were many highlights to our season:

- Getting a last second goal in our game vs Monaro with the last kick of the game.
- Trying to break the Willows curse. We didn't do it, but it was always fun trying. We never got a win on that field, which was surprising as we out-played multiple teams.
- Our 2 smallest players, Nevinka and Viyan, bouncing off players and regularly getting back up like they were made of rubber.
- Competing against the top teams.

On a personal note, the camaraderie was great on the team. It became a team that went to gigs together. Hopefully those players going to Swift concerts get to catch up.

Suban Rubasingham | 2023 Coach



State League 5 Scooters

What an amazing year of football it has been: record viewership and attendances of the Women's World Cup, kudos to Spain winning the competition for the first time ever, the Matildas making the semi-finals and doing the whole nation proud and of course, the Scooters overcoming challenges throughout the entire 2023 season and playing beautiful football together, having fun through every win and loss, all while enjoying the collective experience and camaraderie of being a team.

The Scooters overcame broken bones, unexpected absences, expected absences leading to low numbers, the Willows curse, and physical and frankly mean opposition week in and week out. Through it all though, the Scooters rallied, picking each other up and always playing for each other no matter how hard we got hit.

Unfortunately, word limits necessitate a short list of shout outs. Firstly, I would like to shout out our co-captains, Caitlyn 'Frenchie' Cutler (ask her how she got that nickname) and Gini 'Did you know her name is short for Virginia?' Deakin. As a leadership team, they have been extremely supportive to each other, the team, and to myself. Both on and off the field, they led the team confidently and with kindness. I knew I could always ask them for help whenever I needed, and I really appreciated their support and advice throughout the season.

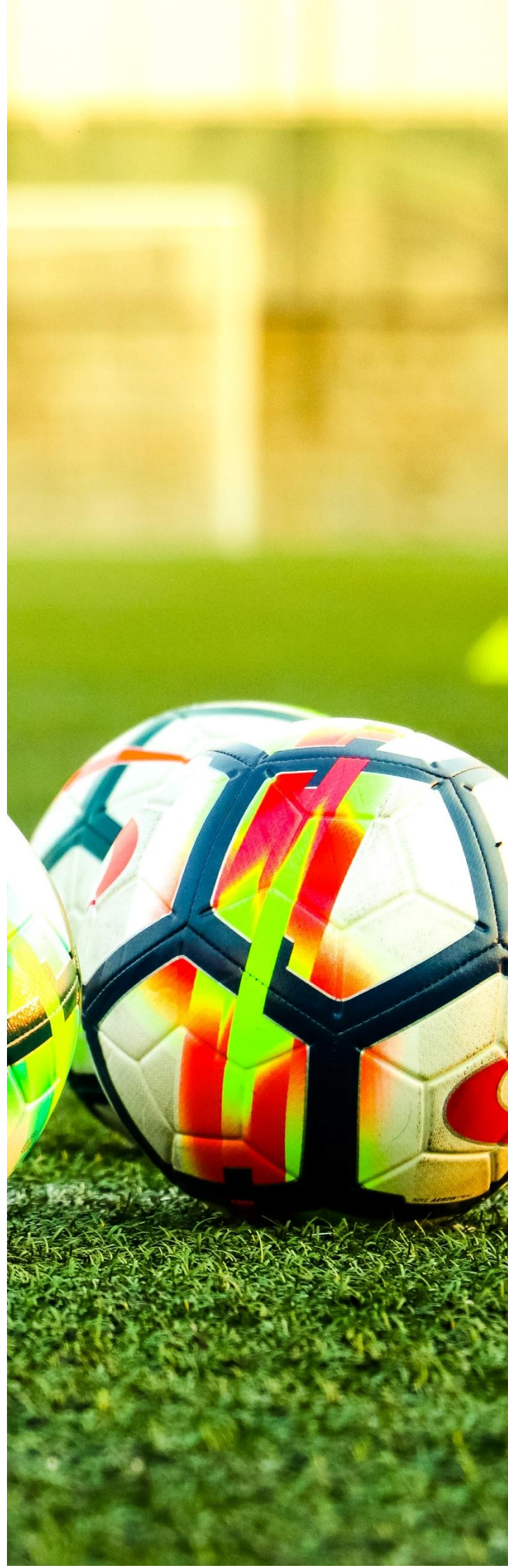
Next shout outs go to Rose, our top scorer with 10 and Tash, our top assist provider with 10 assists. Back-to-back seasons with double digit goals for Rose is an incredible feat, but frankly that's not even the most impressive thing I've seen from Rose this season. How many players can literally run a half-marathon in the morning and then go on to play a game of football? Despite being new to the team, Tash quickly took the responsibility of taking our set pieces and her corners were a particularly deadly weapon for us.

Our goal of the season must go to Charlotte, with her absolute belter of a first time volley of a cleared corner from outside the box, blasting in past the Weston Molonglo keeper. Top bins.

Final shout out goes to Ally, who was just really incredible in helping myself and the Scooters throughout the season. Whether it was her jumping into goals during trainings, running the lines at games, or providing advice for drills and in games, Ally with her expertise and passion for football was absolutely invaluable to us and I am incredibly thankful for her.

From the summer heat of trials in February through the torrid rain and cold of the Canberra winter and to the onset of Spring, a football season can be long and grueling. With aforementioned broken bones, bloodied knees, and plenty of bruises, football can be a painful, physical challenge. With unlucky bounces of the ball and last-minute goals conceded, football can be absolutely cruel. So why play football? Simple, because you get to be part of teams like the Scooters.

Marcus Alim | 2023 Coach





State League 6 Sharkies

What a season. I could really dive in and blubber on about this team for hours, but I will do my best to keep things concise.

We had most of our Sharkies from last year return for this season, and I could see that they were all fired up and ready to build upon the high bar we set as runners-up last year. To fill in our gaps, we had the pleasure of welcoming some jawsome new Sharkies to our pod: Emily, Ally, Alisha, Caro, and Stas. We knew that they would each bring some-fin special to this team and we were very excited to have them join!

This team had a splashing season, and the chemistry was off the charts from the start. You would only need to watch the Sharkies play once to see that this team had the ability to execute the most effective possession-style football that the Division 6 competition had ever seen. If the Sharkies had the ball, you, as the opponent, would have reason to be very very scared (as shown by some of our smashing wins: R7: 10-1, R9: 9-0, R17: 9-0), because they were ruthless predators. Our forwards were unstoppable, and our midfield was technical and intelligent. Our backline was composed and initiated many fantastic plays, whilst also being impenetrable. The Sharkies scored a whopping 64 goals this season across 13 different goal scorers! This team held possession and created plays just like the Spanish national team — experts have informed me that you wouldn't really be able to tell the difference between the two.

Though the Sharkies played amazfinly throughout the season, it was definitely not without its challenges. Unfortunately, we were hit with several injuries as the season went on. First and most devastatingly, Grace went down with a broken ankle which meant that she was out for the rest of the season. Then, it was Ally and Caro's sprained ankles, and then it was Emily's dislocated knee towards the end. During these periods, we were grateful to be able to borrow some amazing fill-ins and thankfully, all injuries have mostly recovered since/are recovering well.

The Sharkies finished second on the ladder and were able to secure a spot in the semi-finals by winning all but four of their regular season games. Of these games, we lost twice to Belwest and another, we had drawn with Belwest (1-1). It was clear that Belwest were going to be very tough opponents if we were to come up against them again. We won our semi-final comfortably by 3-0 and, as expected, we were to face Belwest in the grand final. We knew that Belwest would be coming at us with a vengeance after we knocked them out in the semi-final last year, so nerves were high, but we focused on playing the best football we could as a team. The grand final was an incredibly hard-fought battle, with the score remaining at 0-0 for most of the game. The Sharkies were dominant and had Belwest pinned back. We took shot after shot, however, they were proving hard to break down. Unfortunately for us, an unlucky slip meant that Belwest were given the opportunity to take the lead through a penalty; however, they missed! The close call fired us up, and with around half an hour left to play, Iris made a fantastic run to slot in a cross from Stas through the keeper's legs. The game ends — the Sharkies win 1-0 and are crowned as the Division 6 champions! They absolutely deserved it, and I could not be any prouder of this team!

I would like to say a huge thank you to the committee for all the time and energy they invested into the club, its coaches, and the players. This season couldn't have run as smoothly as it did without all their outstanding work. In particular, the Sharkies and I would like to thank Karta and the Kartapillars for having been such great training companions and opponents throughout the year — they were great fun and always kept us on our toes. The Sharkies and I would also like to thank the incredible fill-ins from Div 5 who helped us this season: Caity, Liv, Gini, Raya, Maddie, Bree, and Bec. They played incredibly with us and will always and forever be honorary Sharkies.

To the Sharkies: You are all fin-tastic and my love for each of you extends greater and deeper than all the oceans combined. For those who are moving on to bigger and greater things, I wish you all the best and hope to cross paths with you again soon! For those returning to play football, I can't wait to see all the amazing things you do on the pitch next season!

Char Wen | 2023 Coach





State League & Hungry Kartapillars

It has been an incredible year of soccer. Coming to a field of players buzzing with excitement to kick the ball around is something I'm going to miss. With everyone so keen to learn, coaching was an absolute joy. Luckily for the team, summer soccer is almost here. Otherwise, ANU Sport would soon see their fields being infested with the Kartapillars (Good luck trying to get us off the field Emma!).

If you can't tell, we are a chaotic team, full of enthusiasm and entertainment. I take no credit for it; it all goes to the players. If you do ever end up walking past the Kartapillars during training, you might hear an odd individual screaming at her own players trying to win the ball. You'll see two players skipping the warmup drills by avoiding eye contact with their coach. You'll hear a player mumbling to herself in Spanish, and if you're extremely lucky you might see Isabelle Lo rock up. As you can tell, I run a tight ship. But in all honesty, I can't imagine coaching a better bunch of players.

Coming back to the season, player development has been off the charts. The repetitive and strenuous drills have paid off. Every player carries the ball with a lot more confidence. Watching the Matildas on telly with the team helped all of us understand the game better too.

It usually takes two seasons or more to have a team with new players to start ticking together, but we got around each other quickly. We have pushed each other to improve and are a solid team. Every player knows each other's strengths and weaknesses. We cover for each other when we lose the ball, and attack together with excellent link up play.

I'm extremely proud of all the players. I can't wait for next season to start and see the team back together. I want to thank the committee, the coaches, and my team for making the 2023 season a wonderful one.

Karta Anand | 2023 Coach

SQUAD LISTS

NPLW squad

Abby Iglesias
Ailish McDonagh
Alexandra Serras
Alice Johansson Cranfield
Alice McNeill
Anna Berrell
Annie Grove
Aoibheann MacLochlainn
Callie Forest
Chelsea Rolls
Claire Joseph
Edith Fordyce-Crocker
Emma Douglas-Oliveira
Georgie McArdle
Grace Davey
Holly Eaglesham
Isabella Tobiano
Izzy Hopkins
Jasmine Law
Juliet Williams
Lauren Tindale
Lil Azara
Linley Jenkins
Millie Moody
Pascale La Hei
Rebecca McKenzie
Roxie Swart
Saskia Newman
Shayma Taweel
Sheridan McElligott
Simarpreet Gill
Sofia Chaverra
Sofia Furlanetto
Sophie McGlynn
Tiana Malnar
Vanessa Sophocli

SL 1 Tranquilisers

Ashleigh Cook
Ashleigh Fiene
Chloe Gray
Indi Grace
Olivia Kent
Vanessa Ritchie
Margaux Sieb
Gemma Saliba
Elise Palethorpe
Alana Breed
Bella Sedley
Charlotte Wen
Jihyun Park
Julia Hogan
Lena Christopherson
Mia Hughes
Rebecca Faurby
Taylar Hoadley
Vienna Barker

SL2 Carrots

Sophie Rhodda
Meg Wilson
Danielle Kallenborn
Maya Hopman
Hannah Coppell
Esperance Anderson
Amber Lennox
Julia Manning
Kate Hargreaves
Ashleigh Thomson
Bronte Garcia
Mia Garland
Charlotte Barry
Maika van der Eng
Sukreeti Vasal Anand
Leila Craemer-Banks
Francesca Harkin
Eloise Taylor
Maddison Cox
Ally Hay

SQUAD LISTS

State League 3

Bella Logan
Caiti Kaufmann
Cat Schranz
Charlotte McKenna
Chloe Conway
Dorcas Bugeme Ankonkwa
Emma Fitzgerald
Emma Stannard
Genevieve Newey
Georgia Moffitt
Isha Singhal
Isobel Sambridge
Kayla Cook
Lauren Mitchell
Molly Lilley
Nivea Kadke
Olivia Hedley
Penny Holloway
Scout Hollyman
Zahara Walker-Smith

SL4 Strollers

Merissa van Setten
Cecilia Tran
Holly Burke
Suzanne Bridgman
Lauren Spring
Dhigna Rubiano
Carrie Westphal
Kate Stork
Sarah Everett
Stephanie Lum
Jacqui Pham
Leah Dwyer
Lauren Davy
Lara Martin
Meaghan Gidley
Clare Butterfield
Kat Ribbons

SL4 Runaways

Sarah Creighton
Bridget San Miguel
Gigi Wong
Sarah Callinan
Lia Taylor
Rin Rin Ly
Amber Sequeira
Natalya Catzikiris
Jane Howell
Rebecca Phillips
Rose Hosking
Caitlin Hosking
Kristin McKinnon
Laura Trobbiani
Roisin Lafferty
Josie Chantrell

SL5 Scooters

Beth Miles
Caitlyn Cutler
Charlotte Mclaughlin
Claire Stephens
Connor McRae
Elise Proux
Emily Braun
Emily Thornton
Gini Deakin
Kirsten Little
Manny Salazar
Natasha Malan
Olivia Robbins
Penny Hall
Rhiannon Walker
Rose Thompson
Saffron Lowe
Sarah Roisin
Sophie Taylor
Zoe Behrendt

SQUAD LISTS

SL5 Braids

Amelia Berthold
Ava Buchen
Bree McFadyen
Charlotte Blundell
Ellora Siva
Emily Teoh
Georgie Baker
Laura Santana
Lea Hartley
Madeline Forner
Madison Lyster
Nevinka Perera
Nicole Nicholson
Raya Atreya
Rebecca Smith
Roxana Sadeghpour
Samantha Mien
Viyan Khalaf

SL6 Sharkies

Alannah Amet
Hannah Bulie
Iris Cavalerie-Johnson
Zoe Clarke
Alisha Dilanchian
Emily Foster
Grace Harvey
Isabelle Jones
Anastasia Likouresis
Caroline Little
Seh Meh
Francesca Moor
Jahnavi Samprathi
Emma Scott
Emma Stephens
Maddie Vaughan
Aisha Wood-Amin

SL6 Kartapillars

Annabelle Nshuti
August Bratovic
Bek Turner
Briana Pelayo
Claudia Avila
Claudia Hunt
Farah A Rushdi
Isabelle Low
Isobel Crnkovic
Isobel Bender
Jesika Cane
Josephine Crnkovic
Kristine Pan
Rowan McGinness
Sam Sylivris
Skye Kim



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& Masters League Women's**

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CHAMPIONS**

ANUW FC