



**2018 End of Season reports**

## President's Report



Well sitting in 30-degree heat at the start of September makes you feel like that the winter season has well and truly ended. 2018 has been a year of real change and development across the entire St Columbas club, with the addition of our advanced skills coached teams under the Churches and Hills District competitions, and the introduction of another senior team, we fielded 9 Junior teams and 3 Senior teams through the 2018 soccer season.

While not denying that there were clear and obvious "growing" pains through the course of the year, it should be a compliment to all involved that the result was that more of our children and senior members got to play competition soccer this year and we will hopefully be a better club for the experience.

The highlight for me through the course of the season was the continued strength and growth of our Senior Men's Raahague Cup squad. Hugely competitive in both grades with a growing and developing depth of players, the Reserve team were particularly impressive throughout a successful season, making it all the way to the Grand Final where they lost a close game to Premiers, Kings Old Boys.

I wish to thank my colleagues across the Management Committee for their ongoing engagement and involvement across our club again this year. The core people keep turning up year after year with the same intent and endeavours to do whatever is required to make this club function. I thank all parents and relatives who gave their time to our ongoing primary fundraising commitment – the Castle Hill Model Railway Exhibition – it was great to see some new faces and previously unknown abilities on the BBQ!

Special mention to Wilfred Riddles a Senior referee in the NSW Churches competition, and long-time St Columbas alumni, who seemed to become a fixture within the middle of any game on Excelsior 2 (whether allocated or not!) this year. The passion and commitment that Wilfred displays being involved in soccer as a referee, the support he provides to all teams within our club, and the enjoyment that he still derives from his engagement within soccer is obvious to see. We thank Wilfred for his involvement throughout the season.

2018 has been a huge step forward for our club. I look forward to 2019, learning from the good and the bad from this year, and making sure we continue to foster a club and an environment where people of all ages and abilities can come and enjoy playing soccer in the right spirit with positive support from those around them.

Wishing you all a safe and happy end to 2018, enjoy your summer, and hope that one day it may rain so that we can come back to play soccer on real grass in 2019!

Matthew Smith

St Columbas President 2018

# AT A GLANCE - Junior Development

- 2018 brought 5 additional teams to the club which is a very positive state.
- The new teams also provided extra staffing of the canteen during the season – Thank you to those parents
- The club can provide additional skills training for all players using the services of our Head Coach, George Fernandez
- Coaching clinics were organized for our players during school holidays
- 2019 will be an exciting year for further growth as we build on our team numbers
- Sponsorship dollars still need to be sourced for the club to continue with the development of our young players to improve their skills, to become better footballers as well as enjoy what they are doing every Saturday.
- Hope to see you all next season.
  
- Alan Spaul
- Junior Development



## AT A GLANCE - Under 6 Black

Our U6 team this year saw some younger siblings from the U8 team begin their soccer journey as well as some new faces to the club. The kids had a great season and it was amazing to watch them grow and develop throughout the season.

When an U6 team take to the field for their very first game you are never sure what to expect however I am very pleased to report that our first game actually resembled a game of soccer. Well done to the kids for picking this up so quickly – having older siblings definitely helped!

The season saw some challenges in that there was only a couple of games in which we could field a full team however the kids always had a positive attitude and got on with the job. The goalie position was the least favourite position for our team however due to the low numbers the team learnt how to play a floating goal keeper position – this help them keep involved in the game.

Levi was our key striker and have a very successful shooting strike rate at goals, Jin was our quiet achiever and was always getting involved in the play, Isaac was our ruthless defender and scoring the few goals each game, Thiago was never shy of going for the ball and would gladly take on players double his size, Mahit would enjoy kicking the ball around and Alanna would always be running with the pack and managed to get some lucky breaks and even got herself on the score sheet with her first goal.

Thanks to the parents, grandparents, relatives and friends that would come along and support the team week in and week out. We were always so lucky to having an encouraging and supportive sideline and we always enjoyed the extra support at our home games with the support of the U8s!

Thank you to the parents for helping out in training and on the match day. A big shout out to the Dads that were able to help with settling up the goal posts on the cold winters morning.

A special thanks to Coach Rob for working with the kids each week at training and on match day. The kids thoroughly enjoyed their time and are very grateful for you running out with them on the field each week to help encourage and support them during the game.

We look forward to watching these kids grow and develop in the years to come. Well done team.

Alicia Lansom – U6 Manager

## AT A GLANCE - Under 8 – Orange



Very similar to our U/12s, despite the scores parents were brilliant.

We had a few problems to get the side together however with a bit of help from the club we we managed.

They had a slow start and had to get used to the size of the field and rules however, the boys adjusted well.

We had great individuals, such as Oliver, Carter and Pat with their happy go round. Jensen always there committed, Khalid enjoying everyone in sessions, Benji always the active one, Afoosh and Alejandro joining these boys. These guys lost a few games and won a few games, enough to get them through to the Pool B Final. Overall was an exceptional effort and special mention must also go to Domenic and Will in playing the final stage. This squad had very young and talented players which the objective was more individually then collectively due to development.

Would like to thank all the parents for their commitment and behaviour over the season, which was not easy due to the distances. Also a special thanks to Leticia in Managing the side which at times we didn't have enough players to play games.

Thank you U/8's for having a great season, making the Div. B Grand Final

George Fernandez

## AT A GLANCE - Under 8 – Black

The 2018 season saw the return and merging of a number of players from our under 7 teams of last year, with a few new players arriving on the pitch via siblings or friends.

Matt once again took up the role of Coach –assisted by Pete and Rob.

The Black Team was a mix of returning veterans in the shape of Abi, Jacob, Matthew, Clara, James, Josh, Rohan, Shreepratatham and Dominic. Our new recruits were Ian & Samuel.

While we can't lay claim to any phenomenal record-breaking success this season, we did have one win. A hard fought match at home against our Under 8 Orange Team.

The most heartening development of this year for me was the growth of players within the team, and the challenges set by coach Matt to see the team actually playing as a team – thinking of passing the ball, rather than just kicking it and understanding that it can take more than one player to tackle or stop the other team scoring goals. While not necessarily winning, the team showed impressive commitment and resilience, and did score a number of very impressive goals that showed some real promise of untapped potential still to be uncovered as a team next year. Although we are yet to find a boot that has a radar attached to it, as we may have scored a few more goals if a radar had been turned on.

It was a credit to the parents, grandparents, family and friends of our players that every week we had a great turn out to a) get our kids to games on time and b) provide some quality support and encouragement for our kids. Special mentions must go to Pete & Rob for stepping into fill the coaching role when Matt was away or required to referee.

Thanks for another great season and hope to see you all back next year.

Naomi Smith – Under 8 Manager

## AT A GLANCE - Under 9

From scratch to the sky!

That is in my opinion their limit, the sky!

George Fernandez managed to transform a bunch of kids into a competitive team of the Hills Football Association.

A bunch of kids, but very skilful ones. Skilful as individuals as they all come from Sydney Football Academy, but still a bunch as they haven't played together as a team before.

Even if they trained together at the academy it was a challenge to start as a team in a tough competition such as Division 1.

The beginning was promising, after winning 3 friendly games, the kids rather enthusiastic than organised managed to win 2, tie 3 and lose only 1 of the first 6 official games, the motivation and the individual skills helping them to keep up with the high level of the competition.

The next 6 games brought more confidence and experience to the team, with 3 wins, 1 tie and 2 loses and the team looked good.

On the other hand the overconfidence, the willing of winning it all and the individual game instead of the team game made us lose 3, tie 1 and win only 2 of the last 6 games.

It might look less or poor achievement, but if somebody asks me which of the three parts of the season I prefer most, I'd answer the last one.

The loses we suffered made us understand that only united we can win, and that the individual work, skills and effort is always rewarded and recognised as a team. In the last 2 games, with 2 wins, the most important ones, is where we finally reached the bond, the communication and the organisation required in a team sport such as soccer.

Every player defined and consolidated his position on the field and developed at a personal level as well:

-Phoenix our big little goalkeeper saved the day and the team in uncounted and difficult occasions. Beautiful saves and skilled even with the ball on the feet.

-Will and Aidan as left and right defenders, strong in defence and fast in their runs on the side line, are maybe the kids who most improved their skills and game, being also ones of the most recent players who joined the club.

-Lachlan, also one of the latest kids in joining the team proved to be a versatile player able to cover positions such as centre back, midfielder and striker at a very high level. Good defence and important goals.

Zach brought experience and determination and Dominic the youngest of them all (still 7 years old at the time I'm writing this report) brought cheeky talent. They were both in charge of the hard work as left and right midfielders, both helping in defence, creating, assisting the strikers and scoring.

-Ben and Josh, or Josh and Ben the spinal cord of the team, the most experienced and strong players, Ben the captain and full centre back and Josh the pure striker. One the wall in defence the other one lethal in attack.

I can't highlight only one or two names, they all have been great and their role and contribution were key to the team. In my opinion the path is set, they proved to be a very competitive team from their very first season. Keep it up, the hard work will always pay off!

Last but not least, many thanks to George Fernandez for giving me the opportunity to coach the team, thanks to the team manager Rose Harrigan for the support, it's been a great first season for me and I hope for the kids and all of us as parents as well.

Eugen Scurtu - Coach

## COACHES REFLECTION - Under 10 – Orange (Echidnas)

The 2018 season saw some great young players come together and play some brilliant football. What made this team extra special was the determination, drive, commitment and respect they showed to all involved. From the very start, they bonded and worked together to show the true meaning of football.

As a coach, this makes me very proud and honoured to be part of this team. Respect was shown & earned by every player from our team. The skills which our players possessed was above and beyond their rival teams and this was reiterated by many coaches and parents watching them play this great game. It is never easy trying to coach a group of boys, but this group of boys showed exceptional talent. They were all able to communicate, pass, support, hold possession, manoeuvre the ball around their opponents with ease and finish the play.

I would also like to say a big thank you to Brett for managing the team. He was always forthcoming with information and details of up and coming events. It didn't matter what part of the world he was in, he still sent us the info. Absolute Champion. Also a big thank you to Annette for assisting in managing the team when Brett was away.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all the parents for their support and for allowing me the opportunity to coach their very talented and magnificent children. How proud you must all be.

Regards,

Hany Matfa

## AT A GLANCE - Under 10 – Black

The 2018 season started slowly suffering some big losses but as the season progressed the team also progressed with a great deal of enthusiasm from some players.

The side did struggle not having a full team due to absences and sickness, but the players always wanted to impress which I was very appreciative of.

Lily fractured her wrist during the early part of the season which did impact the team for some weeks until Cooper put his hand up to take on the job, thank you Cooper.

I shuffled the players positions a lot in the first half of the season trying to find the combinations that may provide a win for the team. Unfortunately this did not happen but we did get closer to the top teams in the latter stages.

Our defensive backs grew into a formidable combination. With the late season registration of Adeep he formed a partnership with Nicholas up front which will improve dramatically next season.

I would like to thank the players for their commitment during the season. Thank you to the parents who assisted with the goals when we played at our home field.

Near the end of the season I asked Dom Gillespie (Seans dad) if he would like to coach the team, he did and appeared to strike a good repour with the players. I have asked Sean to consider taking over the role for next year as I believe Sean will do a fine job.

I do hope everyone enjoys the "Off Season" and I look forward to seeing everyone return for 2019.

Coch Alan



## AT A GLANCE - Under 12

I must say that for a team to come second last on the ladder and practically last all season, it was a pleasure to coach these boys.

Started the season with 10 players and having to reach to our U/10s to help out on a few games (Always thankful to our U/10 players) and then Jason came into the picture and then Ben was our last piece to our puzzle.

We then had a few characters in the team, Damien, Brendan and Ben with all their smile and always happy approach, Nicholas very active in everything he done, Sebastian with his great attitude, then we had the quiet achievers like Lachlan, Jason and Joshua Thomas and we would go to the other extreme with the Alvarez Brothers and Liam chasing each other prior and even after the session. We also sang Happy birthday to everyone.

70% of the boys were 11 years old playing U/12s and they held their own really well. I hope that they enjoyed it as much as I did, will never forget this season. They also knew they were treated as the other squads and there was never an issue.

Would like to thank all the parents in believing despite the results and a special mention goes to Bruce for putting up with me, sometimes asking me things twice or even three times. He held the fortress with his wonderful approach yet effective.

Thank you guys for an unforgettable season

Thank you again

George Fernandez

## AT A GLANCE - Under 14

What a great season they had !!!! They were the show piece or the window to all the other younger players. The objective was to keep possession and showing their skill in the process in which they did. They done very well to reach the Final despite having about 80% of the players just 13 year old.

It was always challenging and exciting to train these boys, who they had a lot of sense of humour, able to express themselves, great attitude and always willing.

They had character and can't remember a poor session on their behalf.

Was hard to pick a player for the award as player of the year.

We would like to thank all these players for their effort during the season. Also thanking all the parents for assisting, showing their commitment and for supporting.

A huge thank you to Brendon for managing the side and showing his passion.

A huge thank you to William for coaching the side, he showed his passion to the game and able to mix their advanced skills and complement them in competition.

Thank you for a wonderful season

George Fernandez



## AT A GLANCE - Under 16

After a couple of seasons in the Granville District competition, the club joined the newly formed Hills District competition for the first time in 2018.

After a great start to the season in Division 2, the team was moved up to Division 1 after four weeks and the competition definitely stepped up. The boys adapted really well to the changes required with new formations used and skills acquired. Unfortunately, we missed the finals this season, but will be much better next season for the experience.

Each boy has contributed to the strong results each week and to the great season we have had, right from the keeper that kept us in games to the defence that was very tough to break down. An exciting and skilled midfield that have worked so hard on creating opportunities going forward, as well as helping out in defence when needed, and finally to the forward line that scored goals throughout the year. This season Josh was our top scorer.

We also had one of our boys, Ethan, who will this season represent the team, and club in the CFFA National Titles for his age group. We wish him good luck and hope he has great fun.

Thanks to all the boys for a great season and I hope to see you all back next season to build on the great efforts, skills and teamwork built up and take it to the next level.

Finally a big thank you to Peter the team manager, and the parents who without your help getting the nets up and down etc, the season would not have been as enjoyable.

Scott Moeser

Coach – 2018



## AT A GLANCE - Raahauge Cup

### Reserves Season Report

What can we say about 2018 – on the one hand it was an absolute success! We went from near the bottom of the ladder in 2017 to play off in the Grand Final at Marconi Stadium. But on the other hand, we lost the game and had to settle for being runner-up. On the day we felt that we had given our best and that Kings were the better team, but we also know that our side is full of improvement. We have had a great 2018 and are definitely looking to go one better in 2019!

Our success was built on a settled team throughout the season and I want to thank all of the players in the Reserves squad who backed up week in and week out. This helped our combination play and by the end of the season, we were playing football that was in a different class to what we were doing at the start of the season.

I also want to thank all of the boys in first grade who came early each week to help us out with running the line or being available for a 15 min run to help some of us who are more aerobically challenged. I also would like to mention Nick WB who won our best player award and Pat Taylor who won our players player award for their skill and hard work throughout the season.

We left the grand final pleased with our season, but with a sense that we some unfinished business to attend to in 2019. In the words of Ben Pullen (among others) "Up the Saints!"

## AT A GLANCE - Raahauge Cup

Our first grade squad endured what could only be summed up as a frustrating season this year. For the second year in a row, another injection of youth, meant we were confident about the season to come. However as it turned out a stop start fixture list and an inability to score goals made it very difficult to find any consistency and get positive results.

We commenced the season optimistically but a first up trip to Macarthur (a notoriously difficult road trip) got us off to a poor start! As it turned out we ended up playing the top 3 teams in the competition as our first three games and duly came away with 3 losses. Not how you want to start the season. By the completion of 6 rounds, we already had two byes and the only points picked up was from a draw with St Matthews in which we were totally dominant and should have had the win.

A mid season revival was called for, and a fixture in the State Cup against a Premier League heavyweight (1-0) win followed by a friendly verses another Premier League team (2- 0 win and a round 7 victory (3-0) win meant we finally had some confidence. As the second round started against the top 3 teams we pulled together another two wins and a narrow loss. Suddenly we were thinking anything could be possible. Unfortunately this was not to be. We again dropped points to those teams around us who we were battling with for that vital fourth spot in the semi finals and finished the season in 6<sup>th</sup> position.

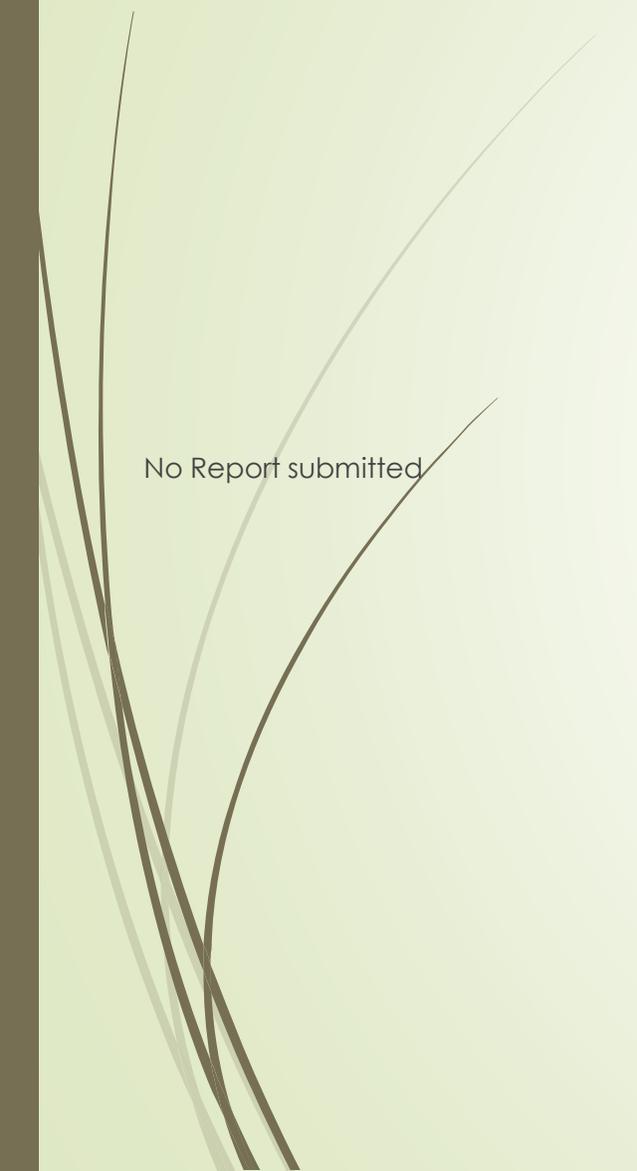
Overall despite the disappointment of where we finished, there are certainly some promising signs for the future of the team. If we can rectify our issues in front of goals (only 24 goals scored), get a good turn out to training and develop our combinations more, I believe we can certainly look forward to a return to the finals in the 2019 season.

Congratulations to Evan Adair who received our MVP award, and Brendan Decker who was voted the Players Player. Both had excellent seasons and thoroughly deserved these awards. Thanks also must go to Grant Pullen and Adam Goldsmith who coached and managed the team admirably – it is much appreciated.

Cameron Woodward

1<sup>st</sup> grade Captain

## AT A GLANCE - Sydney Cup



No Report submitted

**Unfortunately the Club was not able to secure a Team or Club sponsor this year.**

If you can assist with this important aspect to successfully operate the Club;

Please contact **Alan Spaul** for further information on **0404 242 001**

### **Annual General Meeting**

**To be held on 9<sup>th</sup> October @ 7:30 PM**

Please contact our Secretary – **Kim Sydenham** for further information on 0410 444 863