

FOOTBALL SOUTH COAST

2023

SEASON IN REVIEW





Contents

	PAGE
Chairman's Report	3
FSC Board	8
CEO's Report	9
Council Members	12
Competition and Referee – Competition and Honour Roll	
Junior	
Head of Junior Council Report	13
Honour Roll	15
Men's	
Head of Men's Football Council Report	18
Honour Roll – Men's Premiership	20
Community League	
Head of Community League Football Council Report	21
Honour Roll – Community League	23
Women's	
Head of Women's Football Council Report	24
Honour Roll	27
Referee's	29
Football Development Report	32
Award Winners	
Men's Premiership	35
Community League	37
Women's	38
Life Members	40
FNSW State Award Recipient	41
Contribution to Football Recipients	42
FNSW Champion of Champions	44
Sponsors	45

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Pictured above – Clubs involved in the 2023 Grand Final Media Event



Pictured above – Players from the first Girls Only U6/U7 Competition

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Hi Everyone.

Last year at the 2023 Season launch event, I publicly announced that my term as Chair of Football South Coast would end in early 2024 after 20+ years.

So at the FSC Board of Directors Meeting conducted on 19th February 2024, my era as Chair finally came to an end. I have happily and hopefully successfully completed more than 20+ years as our Football Communities and Member Clubs Leader – 15 years of those recent years as Chair of the unified Football South Coast Association & 6 years previously as President of the Illawarra Football Association.

I can tell you that over so many years it has been all things to me {and my family at times} - emotional, intellectual, demanding, stressful, confrontational, satisfying, enjoyable, professional, and also very exciting with our successes, but that came with many hours of hard work by many people.

It has been great to see the outcomes of our strategies come to bare for the future over those past 15-years but it has always been hard to balance the needs and expectations of each one of our member clubs with their own special local challenges against the greater needs and responsibilities of growing our sport and meeting the expectations of our club's supporters and also maintain the low costs to professionally run our sport and our community responsibilities to the local communities where we all live.

Although it has always been challenging, I want to say that it has all always been worth it, rewarding and satisfying to be Chair of our sport and lead our member clubs.

People ask me what my greatest achievements have been as Chair of FSC. Clearly gaining the respect and trust from the whole of the football community back in 2006-2007, that had been a fragmented and disjointed sport to accept to become a unified Football South Coast Association was the key milestone point in my leadership journey but also for our Football history.

That was only achieved because of the hard work of a group of people who participated in the unification of football project and the football community's belief in a new future for our game and importantly for all of our children's playing hopes and dreams. That was a key strategic moment for Football back during 2005-2009 and I am so proud we all did the hard work back then to make unification happen.

I believe FSC, with 15-years of unification behind us, is witnessing a significant return on that unification investment that we all made together, back then in 2006.

Today that return on investment with unification, is seeing many benefits and outcomes spreading into football: like, a big surge in football registrations, particularly with female players but also with male registrations and older male & female competitions – which is unexpectedly growing across different areas and competitions. The number of out-of-area clubs wanting to join FSC competitions also demonstrates our successful competitions management and structure and we are seeing the greatest spread of professionalism in our game. This has been partly driven by the very high female participation registrations numbers at our clubs and an expanding focus on player and referee development programmes which has put more focus on the technical delivery of these programmes making participation more formal, professional and enjoyable.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT continued

FSC has also seen a high level of respect and trust professionally earned and gained from all levels of government, expanded our close relationships with the FNSW Executive Leadership and their Management Team, and also with the FA, and now we have closer open communication links with our State & Federal local MPs and our WCC Lord Mayor and the SCC and KCC Mayors and Councillors with our direct and open contacts with the local Media being more meaningful and relevant. FSC has also strengthened and expanded our relationships with the various Professional Businesses enabling greater Sponsorship partnerships with likeminded organisations that want to be associated with our large player bases and our community aligned programmes.

I think another key strategic decision and legacy, of course, is our Player Development Strategies with the expansion of both male and female players directly into NSW State Representative Competitions providing FSC with a “secondary step” for players towards State Representative Football.

Personally, having members approach me at grounds and recognise FSC's hard work and outcomes from our planning & strategies is so satisfying.

Today Football South Coast – with unification as its ongoing core strategy as a strategic pillar - is continuing the delivery of those dreams for our children where we see clubs themselves also applying the unification strategy to secure their future and succession with unification of their clubs' juniors, seniors (men's, women's) and community teams into a One Club Strategy {Organisation}.

As a parting strategic vision may I say, that once clubs become unified from that 5yo up to Masters age groups, under the One Club Strategy, this will spearhead and fast-track football as the significant participation and influential demand sport in our society to the next level for Policy determination and strategy for sports infra-structure projects, government sports funding allocations. With football participation numbers exploding at local clubs at council grounds, the growth of football particularly with females playing football and also the “sleeper” in our game – many more and much older players (50yo's to over 70s) re-entering and playing football. It's a great problem for football to have – too much growth.

I accept that unification and strategic growth of football has been the significant generational change to our sport locally, and I am most proud of that legacy of my Leadership during my time in Football. This all occurred only with the help and support of all of my FSC Boards over all those 20+ years and the various FSC CEO's and all of those Management Teams and Staff. Together we all laid a strong foundation for the future of Football and are in a very strong position in delivering the next generation of those key Strategic Pillars for our game.

Achievements can be delivered but in my case, these only happened because of the Member Clubs and the relationships built together over 20+ years. The relationships with Member Clubs rewarded me and FSC with their respect, their trust in the leadership, their belief and knowledge that the leadership was consistent and reliable and that all of FSC team maintained a balanced focus on the best interests of all the clubs and the competitions.

This long-term confidence by member clubs, resulted in FSC being a financially sustainable, creditable, and professionally recognised sports organisation ready to meet the future demands of our community and this also rewarded FSC with a special trust and support at every annual meeting over the 15-years of football unification. Ultimately our member clubs and community knew that “we always did what we said we would do”.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT continued

Finally, as I say good-bye, I want to thank all of my current Board of Directors, my Deputy Chair Martin Rowney, and Independent Director - supporting the current Leadership Team - in Tracey Freeman.

Of course, none of the Board Strategies, Business Plans, Office Operations, Football Competitions, Financial Reporting & Management and Audits or the key interactions with Councils, Government & Departments and our Sponsors would have been possible or delivered without the amazing professional work and dedication of Ann-Marie Balliana my FSC CEO. Ann-Marie has been a great football partner, friend and intellectual provider of ideas and mainly a tireless executive leader for football in this region and let's not, for even one minute, think FSC's success and achievements are not directly attributed to this wonderfully motivated and passionate football person. Thank you Ann-Marie.

So thank you also so very much to everyone for the honour and privilege of having been your Chair and Football Leader over the last 20+ years. I am so humbled and grateful for your friendship, trust, relationship, and those very nice words of thanks from all of the well-wishers and to everyone, including those special VIP guests, MPs, Ministers, Lord Mayors and Mayors and our Life Members for attending tonight's FSC 2024 Season Launch and my Farewell from Chair of FSC Board of Directors.

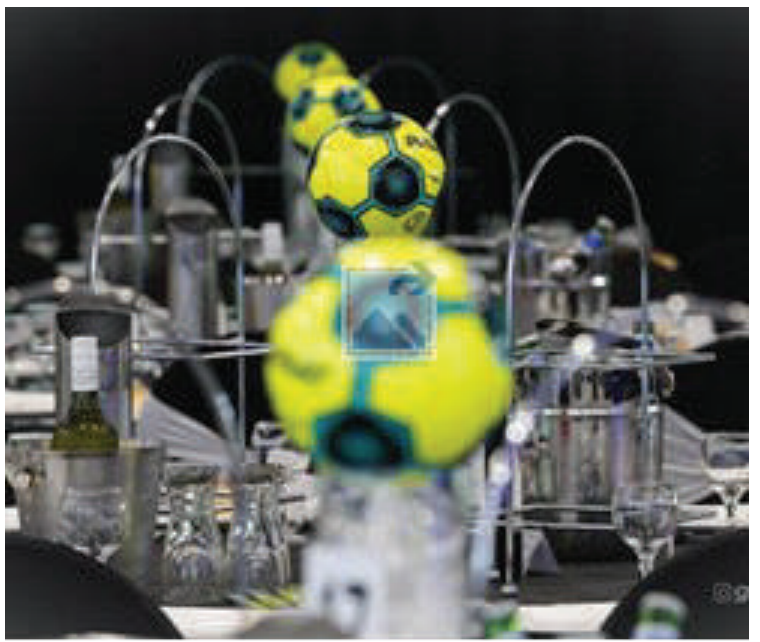
Now it is time to focus on the 2024 Football Season ahead and since 19th February 2024, this is where I will hand over to the newly elected FSC Board of Directors Leadership Team of; Martin Rowney (Chair) and Tracey Freeman (Deputy Chair), professionally supported by Ann-Marie Balliana CEO FSC and her Management Team and Staff.

In saying that, I want to close-off by saying the FSC Board of Directors, our CEO, the Football Council Members, our Management Team, and our staff are all here to work with you to ensure football continues to be a key part of your lives and our local community as we want to provide you all with a fantastic sports experience for all involved in our football game as a sport.

Best Wishes and thank you again - have a great 2024 Season ahead and please if you are happy to do so, come and say hello to me for a chat when you see me at the various grounds in the Illawarra.

Eddy De Gabriele

Departing - Chairman Football South Coast



Pictured above – Photo's from the 2023 FSC Season Launch held at The Fraternity Club



The 2023 FSC Board

Eddy De Gabriele
Chair
Independent Director



Martin Rowney
Deputy Chair
Independent Director



Tracey Freeman
Independent Director



Mike Dodd
Independent Director



Bruce Whalan
Independent Director



John Whiddett
Elected Director
Junior Council



Emi Skopal
Elected Director
Women's Council



Bob Hennessy
Elected Director
Men's Premiership Council



Alex Viselli
Elected Director
Community League Council



Rex Leighton
Director
Referee's Council



CEO's REPORT

How great was it to have a normal season! After 2 years of covid, and disruptions in 2022 with wet weather and the UCI Road World Championships, all competitions went ahead as scheduled and included final series.

Despite several disrupted years we experienced 6% growth in our winter registrations and summer football participation was also a record high.

Of course how can we ever forget the FIFA Women's World Cup being hosted in Australia and New Zealand. It was a great opportunity for the nation to embrace not only the Matildas, but football in general. The region embraced the event with live sites and club activations. This once in a lifetime event really shone the light on our beautiful game and this has expanded into increased grassroots participation and more significantly, increased infrastructure funding for much needed upgrades.

Some of our clubs benefited from more than \$550,000 in funding to improve local facilities and run programs to boost participation as part of the NSW Government Football Legacy Fund. The Fund aims to improve football facilities and support infrastructure, increase participation opportunities, and improve female player pathways and includes the following projects:

- Russell Vale FC – drainage
- Helensburgh Junior FC – amenities upgrade
- Balgownie Juniors FC – drainage
- Figtree FC – LED lights for Field 1
- Woonona Junior FC – amenities upgrade
- Bulli Junior Soccer Club - player shelters and shower upgrades
- Bulli Football Club - clubhouse extension, facilitate change rooms improvements and lighting
- Coledale Waves (via Wollongong City Council) – drainage
- Wollongong United FC – female friendly change rooms
- Figtree Football Club - Refurbish of amenity and upgrade for gender equity

Unanderra Junior FC and Russell Vale Junior FC were also successful in participation grants to implement football development programs.

Other key funding included Albion Park White Eagles and Albion Park Football Club receiving over \$300,000 to improve lighting at Terry Reserve.

There were some other key highlights and moments during the year. As a result of Ian McLennan Park being shortlisted as a Training Base Cup for the Women's World Cup, the receipt of funding (from the NSW Government, FIFA and Wollongong City Council) enabled the commencement of a building with two additional change rooms and a new space to facilitate courses, meetings and administration.

Funding was also received to completely refurbish the grass field with new irrigation, drainage and Santa Anna Couch.

The inaugural season of the Women's Premier League kicked off with six clubs participating being Albion Park White Eagles, Bulli FC, Shellharbour JFC, Thirroul FC, UOW FC and Woonona FC. The introduction of a three tier competition across Youth Grade, Reserve Grade and First Grade was highly successful and participation across other clubs is the focus over coming seasons.

CEO REPORT CONTINUED

For the first time in the history of football in the Illawarra and South Coast, the region facilitated an all-girls competition for every junior grade and this was the result of clubs who have invested a lot of time and energy into growing the girls' game. This meant that young female footballers were out on the fields participating for the first time in an all girls u6/7 competition.

It was a year of change involving technology as well. DRIBL is an online Competition Management System that was introduced in 2023. The system provided increased automation and efficiency for FSC and importantly our clubs, which resulted in less workloads and burden on our volunteers.

Football South Coast was also successful in a grant for the use of Inspire FC which is an online coaching tool for grassroots coaches. This involved free membership and access for every Mini-Roo's, Junior and Youth coach and club coaching coordinators to online coaching. The app was successful to support coaches with delivery of training sessions and to provide content for coaches to continue their understanding and knowledge of coaching.

With the Women's World Cup it was important to capitalise on the increased focus and interest in football. As a result the following programs were rolled out:

- Girls Come and Try Sessions
- FSC Girls Mini World Cup
- Girls love football program as an Introductory program for older girls
- Women's Over 40 Summer Social competition

As a game for All Ages and All Abilities, Football South Coast is proud of the initiatives we have with other community partners to make football inclusive across all demographics.

Walking Football is one such initiative and in 2023 we partnered with the UOW to bring the first ever Walking Football Tournament to the region. Walking Football is a growing form of the sport and is supported by weekly games. In addition, our partnership continued with MCCI and the Disability Trust and will continue to grow in 2024.



Pictured above – Players from the Walk the Field tournament held at the University of Wollongong

CEO REPORT CONTINUED

It was also great to see many clubs embracing a unified model. Woonona Junior Football Club and Woonona FC formally merged under the one banner for 2024 and many other clubs are exploring opportunities to progress and further develop ensuring increased sustainability and efficiencies across their communities.

Congratulations to all league champions and Grand Finalists this season across all of our competitions. With Grand Finals being held after an absence across some competitions in previous years, the Grand Finals were held in great spirit.

Our region is incredibly lucky to have such committed volunteers to the game from across our clubs. As a sport that provides an immense service to our community, the dedication of our club volunteers is incredible and on behalf of the football family – thank you.

Football South Coast comprises of many individuals that are part of our organisation from the Board, Football Councils, Judiciary Panels and competition sub-committees. Our fantastic FSC Staff work with each of these stakeholders to deliver competitions and programs for players in this region and ensure that the largest community sport in this region provides the many social and economic benefits our sport provides.

I would also like to thank the FSC Board and our Football Councils for their support and assistance over the year in such challenging circumstances. There is so much work that goes behind the scenes for any sporting association, and football in the region is very lucky to have so many dedicated people involved.

In particular, a special mention to Eddy De Gabriele who stepped down as FSC Chair after 15 years in the role. Eddy has devoted 20+ years to football administration in the Illawarra and it was a pleasure to have worked with him over the last 13 years (10 years as CEO and 3 years as a board member prior to this). During my time as FSC CEO, Eddy has been a friend and mentor and has worked tirelessly for football in the region. Thank you for your service to football Eddy, your support and commitment is inspiring and I am sure we will see you around the grounds.

Ann-Marie Balliana
CEO, Football South Coast



COUNCIL MEMBERS

2023

JUNIOR COUNCIL

Head of Council: John Whiddett
Council Member: David Swan
Council Member: Giovanni Del Turco
Council Member: Danielle Foster
Council Member: Gareth Lucas
Council Member: Reg Moran
Council Member: Bryan Southall
Council Member: Sarah Wilson

MENS PREMIERSHIP COUNCIL

Head of Council: Bob Hennessy
Council Member: Dylan Arvela
Council Member: Gary Maidman
Council Member: Alan Maidman
Council Member: Steven Naylor
Council Member: Emilio Salucci

WOMEN'S COUNCIL

Head of Council: Emi Skopal
Council Member: Jasmine Cario
Council Member: Sandy Depers
Council Member: Brad Walter
Council Member: Hayley Walkinshaw
Council Member: Kendal Williams

COMMUNITY LEAGUE COUNCIL

Head of Council: Alex Viselli
Council Member: Danny Gades
Council Member: Rob Belsito
Council Member: Adrian Arciuli
Council Member: Roger Carter
Council Member: Matt Dawson
Council Member: Sam Wadhwa

REFEREE COUNCIL

Head of Council: Rex Leighton
Council Member: Leigh Blanch
Council Member: Paul Flemming
Council Member: Phil Torpy
Council Member: Robert Robertson

2024

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Council Member: Kevin Wiseman

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Council Member: Bec Djokic
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Council Member: Brad Walter
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Council Member: Rob Belsito
Council Member: Adrian Arciuli
Council Member: Roger Carter
Council Member: Matt Dawson

REFEREE COUNCIL

Head of Council: Tony Bosevski
Council Member: Lottie Cabassi Power
Council Member: Paul Flemming
Council Member: Phil Holt
Council Member: Brodie Merchant
Council Member: Matt Staples
Council Member: Phil Torpy

JUNIOR COMPETITION

HEAD OF COUNCIL REPORT

2023 football season was basically uninterrupted for the first time in 4 years, being able to complete 18 rounds, semi-final series and Champion of Champions.

Club volunteers rarely receive recognition for their tireless work, the Junior Council I would like to sincerely thank the club volunteers for their service to football.

South Coast United and Gerringong hosted the grand finals which ran very smoothly. Thank you to the club committees and volunteers along with the Junior Council who gave their time to make the weekend a successful event.

To the FNSW State Cup & Champion of Champion winners Shellharbour U18 girls & Balgownie U14 boys, congratulations on your success.

Congratulations to all the League Champions & Grand Final winners.

The Junior Council would like to sincerely thank the IMB Bank, Junior Football competition sponsor for your continued support.

The continued support of the Football South Coast team our competition has continued to grow and overall 2023 was a successful season.

Myself and fellow Junior Councillors would like to thank David Ware, Junior Competition Manager for his coordination and skilful management of the competitions.

JOHN WHIDDETT

HEAD OF JUNIOR COUNCIL



Pictured above – Club players from Shellharbour, Fernhill, Kiama and Unanderra participating in the FSC Mini World Cup



Pictured above – Players from Figtree FC participating in School Holiday programs.



Pictured above – the 2023 Registration Launch Media Event

HONOUR ROLL - JUNIOR COMPETITION

Age	Div	League	Grand	Age	Div	League	Grand
		Champion	Champion			Champion	Champion
12	1	Balgownie	Bulli	14	4	Oak Flats	Oak Flats
12	2	Gerringong	Albion Park	14G	1	University	University
12	3	Unanderra	Unanderra	15	1	Shellharbour	Cringila
12	4	Bulli	Bulli	15	2	Figtree	Figtree
12G	1	Shellharbour Sapphire	Shellharbour Sapphire	15	3	Unanderra	Gerringong
12G	2	Albion Park	Helensburgh	16	1	Cringila	Bulli
13	1	Balgownie	Figtree	16	2	Coedale	Bulli
13	2	Helensburgh	Helensburgh	16	3	Balgownie	Lakeside
13	3	Albion Park	Albion Park	16G	1	University	Shellharbour
13	4	Russell Vale	Thirroul	16G	2	Unanderra	Unanderra
13G	1	Bulli	Balgownie Black	17	1	Helensburgh Black	Helensburgh Black
14	1	Balgownie	Balgownie	18	1	Figtree	Figtree
14	2	Shellharbour	Lakeside	18	2	Fernhill	Fernhill
14	3	Kiama	Kiama				



Pictured above – Helensburgh—U12 Grand Final Winners



Pictured above – Players from Albion Park FC getting into the World Cup Spirit



Pictured above – Bulli—U12 Grand Final Winners



Pictured above – Thirroul Thunder—U13.4 Grand Final Winners



Pictured above – Unanderra —U16 Grand Final Winners

MENS PREMIERSHIP COMPETITION

HEAD OF COUNCIL REPORT

Finally after 3 years of disruptions we were able to complete the 2023 season smoothly without any significant weather or pandemic related disruptions.

I want to thank and acknowledge our FSC Board and particularly Bruce Whalan who has continued to support us on the Men's Premiership Council this year, creating a strong linkage between our board and the council.

I'd also like to thank members of the Men's Premiership Council who continue to give of their time to ensure the smooth and fair running of our competitions. It is a credit to the passion and commitment of this team.

Thanks to Ann-Marie Balliana and the FSC Office team ... and particularly to Bobby Mazeveski for the commitment he continues to show to providing an extremely professional level of support to our men's competitions.

Thankyou as always goes to our valued sponsors especially the Fraternity Club as the competition naming rights partner. The support of our sponsors is critical in the sustainability of our Men's Premiership Leagues.

But most importantly, and as I always like to do, I want to thank the many club volunteers ... and their partners. Your ongoing commitment to our sport and the great personal and community outcomes it can generate are the only reason we are able to maintain these competitions which were the foundation of association football in our region starting in 1903.

Congratulations to all of our winners this season. It was a well contested grand final series with, as per last year, a number of our premiership winning sides losing in their attempts to win on the big day. I particularly want to acknowledge the winners of our Club Championships, Albion Park White Eagles in the Premier League and Gerringong Breakers (incredibly in their first year) in the District League. Winning this award demonstrates depth in the club and in its support in their respective communities.

Season 2024 is underway and we see a reshaped Shellharbour FC, now working closely with their junior base, back in the Premier League. Our competitions continue to organically expand geographically too as we welcome Shoalhaven FC into our District League. This has been a long term plan for the Shoalhaven Association and they come well prepared to compete strongly in our leagues.

I am encouraged too by the new energy we are seeing in our referees leadership under Tony Bosevski as the new council head and it promises to deliver growth in our referee numbers in the seasons ahead. The Men's Football Community owe a great debt to Rex Leighton and Robert Robertson who have stepped aside from refereeing administration after decades of dedicated commitment. Phil Torpy continues as a member of the rejuvenated council which is further evidence of his long term passion in support of our referees.

Yours in Sport
Bob Hennessy
Head of the Men's Premiership Football Council



Pictured above – Gerringong Youth Grade celebrating during their Grand Final game against Thirroul



Pictured above – Players from Fernhill Foxes celebrating a goal in the Grand Final

HONOUR ROLL – Men’s Premiership Competitions

FRATERNITY CLUB PREMIER LEAGUE

First Grade

League Champions – Albion Park White Eagles

Runner Up – Cringila Lions

Grand Final Winners – Coniston FC

Grand Final Runner Up – Cringila Lions

Second Grade

League Champions – Bulli FC

Runner Up – Tarrawanna Blueys

Grand Final Winners – Tarrawanna Blueys

Grand Final Runner Up – Helensburgh Thistle

Youth Grade

League Champions – Wollongong United

Runner Up – Corrimal Rangers

Grand Final Winners – Wollongong United FC

Grand Final Runner Up – Cringila Lions

Club Champion

Albion Park White Eagles

FRATERNITY CLUB DISTRICT LEAGUE

First Grade

League Champions – Shellharbour FC

Runner Up – Fernhill Foxes

Grand Final Winners – Fernhill Foxes

Grand Final Runner Up – Shellharbour FC

Second Grade

League Champions – Gerringong Breakers

Runner Up – University FC

Grand Final Winners – Oak Flats Falcons

Grand Final Runner Up – Gerringong Breakers

Youth Grade

League Champions – Thirroul Thunder

Runner Up – Gerringong Breakers

Grand Final Winners – Gerringong Breakers

Grand Final Runner Up – Thirroul Thunder

Club Champion

Gerringong Breakers



Pictured above – Players from Coniston FC celebrating their Grand Final win against Cringila Lions FC

COMMUNITY LEAGUE COMPETITION

HEAD OF COUNCIL REPORT

Welcome to the 2024 season.

After a rough couple of years it was fantastic to get back to normality and get a full season of football in 2023.

I would like to thank all our community league members whether you are players, coaches, volunteers or team managers, for your great work and dedication.

I would also like to thank our team referees for outstanding service throughout 2023.

A massive thank you to our great FSC staff for their continued support in helping the Community League Football Council run a great community competition.

Last but not least, a note of thanks to the Community League Football Council on there unbelievable team work that makes my job very enjoyable and easy. As always, they make sure we are pushing the boundaries to improve from year to year.

Special Mention to Martin Rowney for his support and guidance as our independent director assigned to our Council.

A massive thank you to Danny Gades who has decided to have a break this year from the Council. For those who are not aware he has been part of Council for over 12 years and Head of Council for many of those years. He has been a great mentor to me personally and will be missed.

So with that being said, I wish all competitions and clubs in our association a fun filled year in 2024. With playing sport there are always ups and downs throughout the season, but as long as you enjoy and have fun, that's all that matters.

Yours in Sport

Alex Viselli

Head of the Community League Football Council



Pictured above – Members of the 2023 Community League Football Council with the FSC CEO



Pictured above – Dandaloo FC players celebrating a goal during the season



Pictured above – Figtree FC celebrating a goal at Ian McLennan Park

HONOUR ROLL – Men’s Community League Competitions

Competition	League Champion	League Runner Up	Grand Champion	Grand Final Runner up
All Age Div 1 FG	Shoalhaven	Hill Top	Shoalhaven	Hill Top
All Age Div 1 SG	Shoalhaven	Dandaloo	Oak Flats Kraken	Dandaloo
All Age Div 2 FG	Uni Bomb Brewers	Figtree Heat	Uni Bomb Brewers	Figtree Heat
All Age Div 2 SG	Helensburgh	Uni Wolves White	Uni Wolves White	IFS Wolves
All Age Div 3	Albion Park SC	Coledale	Gerringong	Coledale
Masters Div 1	Northern FC	Coledale White	Coledale White	Northern FC
Masters Div 2	Burgh Hogs	Albion Park City	Albion Park City	Kiama Quarriers
Masters Div 3	Fernhill IFS	Albion Park City	Albion Park City	Fernhill IFS
Masters O45	Ground Hogs	Port Pumas	Ground Hogs	Coledale

Club Champion

All Age Div 1	Shoalhaven
All Age Div 2	Helensburgh

Peter Webster Cup

All Age	Shoalhaven
Masters	Northern FC



Pictured above – Shoalhaven FC were the 2023 Grand Final and League Champions in the Division 1 All Age Community League competition earning the right to promotion into the Men’s Premiership District League competition

WOMEN'S COMPETITION

HEAD OF COUNCIL REPORT

What a year 2023 was for women's football, a Women's World Cup on home soil was the biggest event to take place in Australia since the Sydney 2000 Olympics. Closer to home, we launched our inaugural Women's Premier League after various feedback from clubs that a more structured, competitive league was required. This saw a Community League structure retained with three divisions, and for the first year we saw two divisions in the O30s competition. Women's football in this region is going from strength to strength and we have no doubt we will continue to grow in 2024.

This year saw the Women's Charity Round support Oz Harvest. Oz Harvest Wollongong has been delivering food to people since 2020 and their vans have diverted nearly 780,000kgs from landfill and delivered more than 15,000 meals to people in need in Wollongong. The Football South Coast Women's Competition chose this charity in order to directly support those in need in our local region. We are very grateful to our clubs who helped fund nearly 1300 meals for those in need.

The pre-season cups were all completed in 2023. Congratulations to Shoalhaven FC for taking out the Bonnie Lassie Cup and Oak Flats Kraken for winning the Bonnie Lassie Plate. The Julie Porter Cup was contested for the second year with a slight change in format as each Women's Premier League Club competed with a mix of their players across all three grades. Congratulations to UOWFC for taking home the silverware.

Every division competed for a final series berth this year, a much needed end to the season after a few years of disrupted competition. Congratulations to all clubs who made the finals, and those who took home the silverware.

A number of our Premier League clubs also competed in the new (re-imaged) FNSW Sapphire Cup which was open to all teams to enter across the state. Congratulations to Woonona FC who were the last non-NPL club left in the competition and the last Illawarra club standing. They successfully progressed to the fourth round, eventually falling to Gladesville Ravens.

Similarly, a number of our clubs also entered the FNSW State Cup, with Thirroul advancing the furthest of our clubs to the Semi Finals where they fell just short to eventual champions Seaforth FC. Shellharbour FC, Premier League Youth Grade also did the region proud as winner of both the FNSW State Cup and Champion of Champions.

The performances in these cups at a state level further proves the brilliant quality of our local footballers. The pathways at our clubs are strengthening from juniors to seniors, and I have no doubt the boom of registrations is coming after the Matildas performance at the Women's World Cup.

Lastly, I would like to personally thank the Women's Council and especially Sandy Depers for all their work this year. With a couple of us offline this year due to new families, Sandy has picked up the workload of the Women's Council with no questions asked. She was determined to make this year for all our members a great one, given the tumultuous seasons we have had over the past few years. I personally want to thank Sandy for keeping everything running smoothly and efficiently.

Good luck to all clubs for 2024.

Yours in Sport

*Emi Skopal
Head of Women's Football*



Pictured above: Players from all clubs participating in the inaugural Womens Illawarra Premier League



Pictured above: Shellharbour FC First Grade celebrating their Grand Final victory over Woonona FC at Ian McLennan Park



Pictured above (top) – Players from Coledale in action during the Women’s Community League Grand Final

Pictured above—The Kiama Quarriers against Figtree FC during the season

HONOUR ROLL – Women’s Premiership Competitions

The Grange Women’s—First Grade

League Champions—Woonona Sharks
Runner Up—Shellharbour JFC
Grand Final Winners—Shellharbour JFC
Grand Final Runner Up—Woonona Sharks

MM Kembla —Youth Grade

League Champions—Shellharbour JFC
Runner Up— Woonona Sharks
Grand Final Winners—Shellharbour JFC
Grand Final Runner Up— Woonona Sharks

The Grange—Second Grade

League Champions—UOW FC
Runner Up—Shellharbour JFC
Grand Final Winners—UOW FC
Grand Final Runner Up—Woonona Sharks

Julie Porter Cup

Winner—UOW FC
Runner Up—Albion Park White Eagles



Pictured above – Woonona FC were crowned Premier League First Grade League Champions

Pictured left —Premier League players from Woonona FC and Shellharbour FC in action during the season

HONOUR ROLL – Women’s Community Competitions

Competition	League Champion	League Runner Up	Grand Champion	Grand Final Runner up
All Age Div 1	Shoalhaven	Wollongong United	Shoalhaven	Wollongong United
All Age Div 2	Russell Vale Cobras	Oak Flats Kraken	Russell Vale Cobras	Oak Flats Kraken
All Age Div 3	Coledale	Helensburgh	Coledale	Bulli FC
Masters O30 Div 1	Thirroul	Albion Park WE	Kiama Quarriers	Thirroul
Masters O30 Div 2	Jamberoo Ravens	Gerringong	Gerringong	Jamberoo Ravens
Bonnie Lassie	Shoalhaven			



Pictured above: Shoalhaven FC were Community League Division 1 League Champions, Grand Final Winners and Bonnie Lassie winners.

REFEREES

HEAD OF COUNCIL REPORT

2023 was another challenging year for FSC referees, following on from the difficult years of Covid and the very wet 2022.

Nevertheless, there was tremendous commitment by Members trying to ensure that the game was serviced to the best of their ability.

In this area we are facing very similar issues to almost everywhere else in the football world – an increasing shortage of people prepared to really give refereeing a go.

We have little difficulty in attracting young and new referees into the field, but for the vast majority it is a sideline issue to their preference for playing and a source of pocket money.

We are certainly fortunate that we have been able to produce some very good young referees over the past decade or so, however, the retention rate beyond the ages of 18 or the end of university, where the match fees assist in survival, is very poor. This needs to be understood in many contexts – desire to play, career and life choices take over, and to some extent particularly in the younger groups the level of abuse that many are subjected to.

We always hope that, on completion of a playing career, some might return to refereeing. The football community's desire, however, to maximise participation through more and more games enticing people to play well into their 30s, 40s and 50s has had an incredible impact on the numbers of ex-players choosing to referee virtually eliminating what was previously a major supply line of senior referees.

This is also impacted by referee development pathways only being targeted at younger members, again disadvantaging the more mature ex player desirous of pursuing a career in officiating due to limited opportunity to advance to higher levels.

We have some incredibly dedicated long-standing members who turn up year after year and give service to FSC referees and clubs. We also have some very dedicated members and club volunteers who give their time as referee coordinators to support junior referees on whom the game relies heavily in its junior competitions. All of those people deserve significant thanks.

As a result of the increasing shortage, there has been some significant assessment within the game to address the issue. In some ways a pleasing aspect is that it has finally been recognized as a “whole of football” problem not a “referee” problem. A number of initiatives have been undertaken some of which address the “quantity” but not necessarily the “quality” issue which has always been a focus of refereeing in the context of ensuring high standards of performance, independence and maximized integrity.

One initiative, the introduction of the “Team Referee” concept in the community league has led to some significant gains in the allocation of referees who have at least undertaken a very basic introductory refereeing course. Whilst this provides some “Form” in the context of refereeing there is a need to be forever seeking “Substance” to go with that through proper adoption and application of the Australian Officiating Development Schedule which is mandatory following for every referee and referee body in the country.

We would hope that some referees, having undertaken the basic course and refereed a few games may get a taste for what can be a very successful and enjoyable pastime and pursue higher levels of qualification and consequently higher levels of games. It is not easy but can be very, very satisfying

It needs to be remembered that the Level 4 Qualification is an Entry Qualification to Junior Football and within two years for juniors and sooner for Seniors, every referee should be upgrading to Level 3.

Other initiatives include FSC this last year and now both FNSW and FA recognising that abuse is an issue. On field abuse (ie players and occupants of the Technical Area) is the responsibility of the Referee – the LOTG provide powers to act – we need to support officials to develop the character to act. The Football bodies are starting to support the need to ensure Clubs are held responsible for their supporters.

This year we were delighted at the success of some young FSC referees being appointed to the U18 Men's Champion of Champion's Final – Sam Hall as Referee and Brooklyn Faucett and Kynan Baes , Assistant Referees who acquitted themselves very well. This demonstrates yet another success of the Referee Development Panel of FSC, where talented young referees are closely monitored and mentored through the season on the representative NPL games of the Wolves, Flame and Stingrays.

The work done in this area in supporting referees through the RDP by Paul Flemming, Leigh Blanch, Rob Sindevski and others has been superb and we have, and are still seeing, some great results of that program.

Major Award winners within the very dedicated group of committed referees for the year were:

Rookie of the Year: Sam Hall

Most Improved: Casey Flemming

Club Person of the Year: Paul Flemming

Vince Master's Referee of the Year: Andrew Naylor

I would like to congratulate all referees for their performances over the year and particularly in the Finals' Series. It seems the games were decided without controversy over refereeing decisions. A point I will make – making decisions on finals and in fact, all appointments should always have in mind – the game is about players and spectators it is not about referees. Referees have a vital role to play but the game is not about them.

Teams are entitled to expect that the best referee for the game should be appointed particularly when it comes down to deciding competitions.

In closing I would like to thank my fellow Councillors: Rob Robertson, Phil Torpy, Leigh Blanch and Paul Flemming for their efforts and contributions. It has been a very, very difficult year of change and we haven't always seen eye to eye. Nevertheless, your commitment has always been there and many, many hours of your time have been given for which many others should be thankful. Thanks also to Mike Dodd, an independent Director of the Board who joined us for the year providing valued advice and support. Similarly , I would like to thank Ann-Marie, Bobby and Kat from the office for their support in a very difficult year.

Yours in Sport

Rex Leighton

Head of Referee Coordination Council



Pictured above – FSC Referees at the Premier League Grand Finals

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER REPORT

Flare Football Program

After several disrupted years through COVID and then the extreme wet weather in 2022, as a football community we were finally able to have an uninterrupted season which we are all extremely grateful for.

Flare Football School Holiday Clinics

Our 2023 holiday clinic programs saw extremely healthy participation numbers with our association youngest players between the ages of 6-12 years all enjoying the 3-day camps across the Illawarra. These holiday clinic programs provide the perfect opportunity for players to continue to play the game in the school holiday period and to provide players new to football the opportunity to be exposed to the game. We would like to thank the continued support of Albion Park, Balgownie, Thirroul, and Helensburgh Junior clubs for hosting the April, July and September clinics.

This year we introduced a 1-day goal-keeping clinic which was a huge success with just shy of 100 aspiring goalkeepers attending the clinics throughout the year. It was extremely encouraging to see so many young players wanting to play in goal given how specialised the position is in our game.

To support the ever-growing demand for female football opportunities, in 2023 we also introduced 1-day female only holiday clinics to provide like-minded young female players the opportunity to develop and play together. As with the introduction of our 1-day goal-keeping clinics, this was a huge success with very strong numbers seen throughout our April, July and September clinics.

In addition to the FSC School Holiday Programs, we continue our joint holiday clinic program with Sydney FC that's held at the University of Wollongong delivering both a mixed and girls only camps to our region's players.

Sydney FC Partnership

Our partnership with Sydney FC providing Skills Training and School Holiday programs continued throughout 2023. The Skills Training Program providing the opportunity for our junior players to supplement their club training commitments by attending this 10-week school term program that focuses heavily on technical development.

Development Programs

Our FSC and Pre-SAP and SAP development programs enjoyed a great year in 2023 with little to no interruptions due to wet weather. This program provides additional football development opportunities for 7–8-year old's (Pre SAP-Development Program) and 9–12-year old's (SAP Development Program) focusing on technical and small sided game development for the players in addition to preparing those players that wish to pursue their football development further into the representative space. We would like to acknowledge and congratulate the 40 players that attended for their hard work and dedication to the 30-week program.

Our 30-week Youth Development program in line with our Pre-SAP and SAP development program continued in 2023 providing the same development opportunities as that of our junior players. Focusing on players between the ages of 13 – 16, this program also provided additional football development opportunities to support their club football training. The commitment and attitude of the players was outstanding and the improvement in their football was clear to see.

This year we expanded our goalkeeping school term programs so that we could facilitate those players development residing in the Northern (Bulli) and Southern (Albion Park) suburbs whilst maintaining the program in our central location of Fairy Meadow. The numbers in this program and that of our 1 day school holiday GK only clinics highlights the appetite we have amongst our young players to want to pursue their football in this key position on the field of play which is brilliant to see.

Football South Coast Cup

The FSC Cup in 2023 was a program highlight for the year. Teams from across our region and teams from Sydney all coming together to participate in the 3-day round robin and knockout tournaments between the ages of 6 years – 12 years. The weather was kind throughout the competition that was held in the July school holiday clinics. The atmosphere throughout the week was great and I applaud all the players and coaches for their conduct and the spirit in which they played.

End of Season Association Development Program

To facilitate the ever-growing demand for both our male and female junior players to continue to train post end of season and in preparation for our Summer Soccer competition, we introduced a 6 week end of season association program so that player had the opportunity to continue their training with our highly qualified FSC coaching staff. In total 45 local players attended the program, and we would like to commend them on their hard work and focus throughout the 6 week duration.

Girls Only Development Programs

Our girl's development programs continue to go from strength to strength since the introduction of our Female Development Manager and the huge success of the Woman's World Cup and performances from the Matildas. Female football is firmly in the spotlight and the growth of the female game cannot be underestimated.

Our Girls Only (school term) development program held at Ian McLennan Park was hugely successful throughout 2023 and was expanded to a second night at Albion Park with ever growing numbers at both venues.

We also introduced a free 6 week 'Girls Love Football' program for 13 – 18 years who have never played the game before to experience safe, fun, and inclusive training sessions with the view to connecting those players to their local football club.

Towards the end of 2023 we delivered 'free come and try' girls only training sessions for new players in the community to experience the game between the ages of 6 – 12 years, again with the purpose to expose them to the game and to connect those female players to their local clubs for 2024.

Girls Only School Holiday Mini World Cup

In the July school holidays we delivered a Girls Only Mini World Cup to coincide with the FIFA Woman's World Cup. In total, 10 association clubs were represented at the tournament with 15 teams in total competing in the round robin and knock out format event between the ages of U6-U13s. The games were played in an amazing spirit and the level of competition was high amongst all the players.



Pictured left –
Players
participating in
the FSC School
Holiday Clinic

Coaching Education

We were very fortunate in 2023 to be able to get back out on the field of play to deliver coach education workshops and formalised courses when in previous seasons due to the wet weather and covid, coach education was taken online.

Online workshops were still offered via zoom to those coaches who were not able to attend the practical coaching courses however the focus in 2023 and moving into 2024 will be to facilitate our regions coach's development and understanding of coaching on the field of play. The importance of coach education cannot be underestimated, providing coaches with the tools and structure to be able to deliver safe, fun, inclusive training sessions for our regions players will not only keep our players returning to the game but will also allow for retention of coaches in the game which is vital if the game is going to continue to grow.

Moving into 2024, there will be significant changes in the coach education landscape with a new FFA 'Foundation of Football Certificate' being introduced that will replace the 2023 FFA Skills Training, Game Training and Senior Licence certificates. This 1 day course will be a pre-requisite to any coach looking to develop their coaching development further by registering to the new C Licence Diploma which is the first of the three professional coaching awards.

The Mini-Roo's coaching certificate will remain unchanged, this 3 hour 'free' course is a perfect introduction to coaching for those involved in the Mini-Roo's ages of 5 – 9 years and like in 2023, we look forward to delivering a number of these courses and the Foundation of Football Certificate throughout the season.

Jonathan Forster

FSC Football Development Manager



AWARD WINNERS



MEN'S PREMIERSHIP – Sponsored by the Fraternity Club

Premier League Youth Player of the Year	Joshua Bussoletti (Corrimal Rangers)
Premier League Second Grade Player of the Year	Aaron Baker (Bulli FC)
District League Youth Player of the Year	Noah Biddulph (Thirroul Thunder)
District League Second Grade Player of the Year	Conor O'Brien (University FC)
Neville Arrowsmith Medal	Joshua Hawker (Gerringong Breakers)
George Naylor Medal	Peter Simonoski (Cringila Lions)
Sharp Shooter Awards - District League	Youth Grade— Stuart Forbes (Thirroul Thunder)
	Second Grade— Jack Ray (Gerringong Breakers)
	First Grade— Joshua Hawker (Gerringong Breakers)
Sharp Shooter Awards – Premier League	Youth Grade— Jayden Branovski (Port Kembla)
	Second Grade— Kane Dorrian (Tarrawanna Blueys)
	First Grade— Peter Simonoski (Cringila Lions)
Golden Gove	Premier League— Kaydin Harrison (Coniston FC)
	District League— Blake Coad (Shellharbour FC)
Coach of the Year	Premier League— George Antoniou (Albion Park White Eagles)
	District League— Rod Williams (Shellharbour FC)

Fair Play Awards	District League— University FC
	Premier League— Bellambi Rosellas
Referee of the Year	Andrew Naylor
Media Recognition	Tim Gibson – Match Reporter Alison Dinh – Match Reporter Dylan Arvela – Match Reporter Joshua Bartlett —Illawarra Mercury Graham Brown – Photographer



Pictured above left – Peter Simonoski (Cringila Lions FC) and Joshua Hawker (Gerringong Breakers) were Players of the Year across the Premier and District League.

Pictured left— Albion Park White Eagles coaching staff and Committee members celebrating their Silverware at the Gala Night

COMMUNITY LEAGUE – Sponsored by RMB Lawyers

<u>All Age</u>		Masters	
Division 1 First Grade	Player of the Year Logan Connell (Shoalhaven FC) Leading Goal Scorer Brendan Kellett (Shoalhaven FC)	Division 1	Player of the Year Paul Gaffney (Northern FC) Leading Goal Scorer Marcello Molina (Coledale Waves)
Division 1 Second Grade	Player of the Year Ryan Bradbury (Oak Flats Kraken) Leading Goal Scorer Timothy Goodall (Oak Flats Kraken)	Division 2	Player of the Year Nathan Wright (Burgh Hogs) Leading Goal Scorer Josh Faulks (Albion Park City)
Division 2 First Grade	Player of the Year Andrew Breslin (Uni Bomb Brewers) Leading Goal Scorer Isaac Scicluna (Helensburgh Hogs)	Division 3	Player of the Year Justin Broers (Fernhill FC) Leading Goal Scorer Justin Broers (Fernhill FC)
Division 2 Second Grade	Player of the Year Alex Tuovinen (Helensburgh Hogs) Leading Goal Scorer Andrew Breslin (Uni Bomb Brewers)	Over 45s	Player of the Year Mark Dalla Pozza (Gibson Park Rangers) Leading Goal Scorer Bryan Southall (Woonona FC)
Division 3	Player of the Year Sam Cahill (Gerringong Breakers) Leading Goal Scorer Justin Collette (Albion Park Soccer Club)	Club Champions	All Age 1: Shoalhaven FC All Age 2: Helensburgh Hogs



Pictured above - photos from the end of season Community League presentation held at The Grange

WOMEN'S PREMIER – Sponsored by The Grange and MM Kembla (Women's Youth League)

Player of the Year	Premier League—First Grade Nikita Woods (Woonona Sharks)
	Premier League—Second Grade Emma Stratten (Shellharbour JFC)
	Premier League – Youth Grade Dylan Air (Thirroul FC)
Golden Boot	Premier League—First Grade Nikita Woods (Woonona Sharks)
	Premier League—Second Grade Grace Tyerman (Woonona Sharks)
	Premier League—Youth Grade Mia Fleming (Shellharbour JFC)
Coach Of The Year	Neil Castle (Woonona Sharks)
Goalkeeper of the Year	Sayaka Koyama (Bulli FC)



Pictured above left – Nikita Woods from Woonona FC was the Premier League Player of the Year

Pictured above right—FSC Chair, Eddy De Gabriele presenting to Shellharbour FC Coach, Ron Fogarty

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY LEAGUE – Sponsored by The Grange

Player of the Year	All Age Division 1 Shaylee Meehan (Shoalhaven Association)
	All Age Division 2 Angela Gray (Berkeley Sports)
	All Age Division 3 Vanessa McKellar (Jamberoo Ravens)
	Over 30's Division 1 Alyce Quod (Kiama Quarriers)
	Over 30's Division 2 Vanessa McKellar (Jamberoo Ravens)
Golden Boot	All Age Division 1 Shaylee Meehan (Shoalhaven Association)
	All Age Division 2 Nikki Taylor (Russell Vale Cobras)
	All Age Division 3 Lani Taylor (Coledale Waves)
	Over 30's Division 1 Amanda May (Albion Park White Eagles)
	Over 30's Division 2 Vanessa McKellar (Jamberoo Ravens)
Dot Reed Stephenson Club Person of the Year	Christine Wylie (Russell Vale FC)



Pictured above: Photos from the End of Season Women's Presentation held at The Grange

LIFE MEMBERS

Many individuals give countless hours of their time, unquestioned loyalty and a dedicated service to the game of Football. Without these wonderful and dedicated people, our beautiful global game of football cannot and could not have prospered and would not have provided that basic enjoyment to our community, of a simple game of football every week.

Prior to unification the Illawarra Referee Association (IFRA) the Illawarra Women's Football Association (IWFA), the Illawarra Junior Football Association (IJFA), the Illawarra Amateur Football Association (IAFA) and the Illawarra Football Association (IFA) honoured some wonderful contributors of the game:

<p>IFRA 1923 W. CUNNINGHAM * 1923 S. E. COPE * 1932 Tom SIMMONS * 1932 Jack SCOTT * 1947 Andy DAVIDSON * 1952 Jim SEATH * 1958 George RICHARDSON * 1960 Peter BANKS * 1960 Dave MEREDITH * 1960 Bob BROWN * 1961 Jim VICKERY * 1964 Albert ROBINSON * 1964 Jack SIMPSON * 1966 Doug HAYMAN 1968 Jack STIFF 1969 Tom SCOTT * 1970 John CRAIG * 1974 Vince MASTERS * 1977 Phil CLARKE 1980 Barry SCOTT * 1984 George NAYLOR * 1987 Robert ROBERTSON 1988 Phil TORPY 1990 Peter GRAHAM 1994 Mike SHEDDEN 1997 Les PARKER * 1998 Rex LEIGHTON 2001 Eddy UITTERLINDEN 2008 Stephan JAROS 2011 Phil HOLT</p> <p>HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS 2001 Phil MURPHY * 2006 Mario MASTROIANNI *</p> <p>IAFA Peter WEBSTER Jim ISABELLA Claude CUDA</p>	<p>IFA 1941 James HOOD * 1944 Frank POSITTI * 1944 John POSITTI * 1944 Les ISEDALE * 1944 A 'Bert' BAMPTON* 1945 Frank ISEDALE * 1945 Pat SKERITT * 1945 Harry SKERITT * 1963 Gordon LEWIS 1964 Neville ARROWSMITH 1966 J 'Jock' SMITH * 1968 J 'Jock' HAMILTON * 1971 Peter BANKS * 1974 A 'Tony' McDONALD 1975 Helmut VOGEL * 1978 Barry SCOTT * 1984 Harry BROWN * 1985 Frank SHUTTLEWORTH * 1987 George NAYLOR * 1992 Neil KEMP 1994 John WALKER 1995 Mavis NAYLOR 2002 Emilio GIGLIOTTI 2004 Otto BADER 2005 Peter DENT 2006 Alan WALTON * 2008 Paul MAHANIDIS</p> <p>IWFA 1990 Phyllis KNIGHT * 1995 Joan HUDSON 1995 Dot REED-STEPHENSON 1999- Rod RODERICK 2005 Carol LEWISTON 2010 Jenny SHELTON 2012 Jody CONFORD Margot NAYLOR Susan REED STEPHENSON</p>	<p>IJFA RJ BUCHANNAN * RF POSITTI * WJ GAVIN * WJ DALY * C SHIPTON * RM TOWNSON * Judy MASTERS * A DAVIDSON * John POSITTI * 1977 Laurie LAMB * 1977 Frank POSITTI * 1977 FJ ETHERINGTON 1977 AJ BURROWS* 1977 RG NEWELL 1977 EG RING * 1977 GB ROBSON * 1977 A DAVIDSON * 1977 N DAVIDSON 1977 DV HAYMAN 1977 WH SIMPSON * 1977 D THOMAS * 1977 AG STYLES 1977 GL EDWARDS * 1978 Harold MOORES 1978 Neil KEMP 1979 Joe EVRY 1980 Bruce PLEASANT * 1981 Jan MAUGHAN 1985 Bob MAUGHAN</p> <p>1985 Florence STEPHENSON Pre1994 Richard SMART 1994 Joan HUDSON 1995 David COWIE 1996 Vicki TIDSWELL 1997 John MUNRO 1998 David WARE 2000 Sheila MORRIS 2000John WHIDDETT 2008 Jimmy NOLAN 2008 Dawn POWER *</p>	<p>Football South Coast 2015 – Eddy De Gabriele 2015 – Claude Cuda 2015 – Milco Stojanoski 2016 – David Swan 2016 – Bruce Cunningham 2017 – Tom Clark 2019 – Sandy Depers 2020 – Joe Seco</p>
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NSW STATE AWARD AND CONTRIBUTION TO FOOTBALL RECIPIENTS

NSW STATE AWARD—2023 Recipient, Eddy De Gabriele

Eddy started playing soccer in Victoria in 1962 as a 7yo for west suburbs Polish Club, Keilor City.

Eddy had a very successful Football Career in Victoria leading to him being twice selected for an Australian Representative Team. In 1985, Eddy was recruited by Green Gully Ajax and played in their 1st year of the National Soccer League (NSL) and then soon after unfortunately in 1989, due to a family tragedy, Eddy, his wife and their 3 young children moved to the Wollongong area.

In 1990, Eddy started his junior coaching career with Port Kembla Soccer Club working alongside the legendary 1974 Socceroo, Adrian “Noddy” Alston.

In 2003, Eddy commenced his first appointment as a Football Administrator when he was asked by the Illawarra (Men’s) Football Association to join the IFA Board as a Special Advisor Director.

In 2005, Eddy was elected as President of Illawarra Men’s Football Association, In 2006, after a meeting with FNSW, Eddy recognized the need to create a unified single entity Football Association to represent the Illawarra Football Zone. At this time there was 5 separate football associations representing the Illawarra and this was not a sustainable model. Eddy was selected as the Chair to lead the legal Unification and consultation process.

In 2010 after years of consultation and working with the many football groups, Football South Coast was born.

Thereby in 2010 a new era of Football Unity in the Illawarra was publicly announced under the Chairmanship of Eddy De Gabriele and continued in the role for 15 years.



Service to Football Award Recipients – FSC Season Launch

Each year at the FSC Season Launch, each Football Council awards a Service to Football Award to individuals involved in football for a minimum of 10 years and who have been a key and visible contributor to the football community in the Illawarra.



At the 2023 Season Launch the Contribution to Football Award Recipients were:

Junior Football Council

Giovanni Del Turco (Berkeley Football Club)

Danielle Foster (Thirroul Junior Football Club)

Women's Football Council

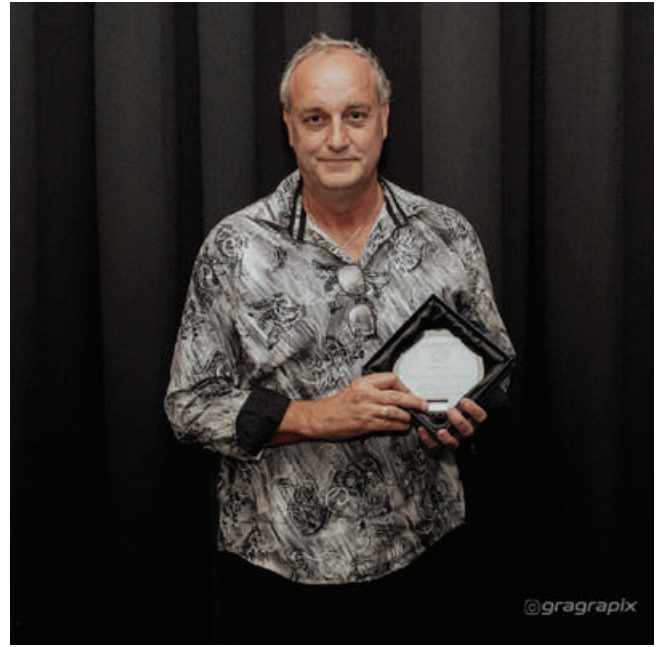
Mick Sutton (Woonona Junior Football Club)

Men's Football Council

Kevin Wiseman (Woonona Football Club)

Community League Football Council

Robert Belsito (Northern FC)



2023 Contribution to Football Award Recipients were:

Above Left: Danielle Foster (Thirroul FC)

Above Right: Giovanni Del Turco (Berkeley FC)

Middle Left: Mick Sutton (Woonona Junior FC)

Middle Right: Kevin Wiseman (Woonona FC)

Bottom Left: Robert Belsito (Northern FC)

FNSW Competitions—Champion of Champions and State Cup

Balgownie Junior Football Club U14 boys and Shellharbour Junior Football Club - SJFC (Youth Grade / U18s) were FNSW Champions.

Both teams were ground final winners for both the State Cup and Champion of Champions. A huge congratulations to both teams and everyone involved in their success.



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