

## **Geelong City Cricket Club President's Report 2019-2020**

I reflect on the past season and acknowledge that it was a year of notable achievements, highlights and ultimately frustration given the premature end of the year due to Coronavirus.

It was also a year of firsts in the way we had to conduct a number of functions or meetings and generally how we communicated to members.

We commenced the year with a complete rebuild of the club's website and social media formats. The updated and modernised webpage portrayed the club in a professional manner and provided current and future members with a very informative site. This site coupled with both the players and club Facebook pages, allowed us to distribute news and information effectively. Thank you to Carso for all his work in establishing and managing these activities.

This season saw the implementation of our inaugural girls' team. Fielding a team of 5, they were very competitive and won through to the grand-final. This was a magnificent achievement in their first season. Thanks, must go to Annie & James for their guidance and support as well as coordination and coaching of the girls.

Women's & girls' cricket has really taken off and expanded in the GCA in the last couple of years. Hopefully this is the start of long careers for the girls who played this year, and encouragement for others to participate next season.

The club responded brilliantly to this summer's devastating bushfire disasters, hosting a fundraiser on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and raising \$15,500.00 for the Gippsland community. This was pulled together in a very short time-frame, from the initial discussion to implementation within 4 weeks. Thank you to everyone for your assistance on the day and making it the huge success it was. We presented the club to both the association & community in a very positive light.

Having Glenn McGrath attend our pink stump's day on February 15<sup>th</sup>, was definitely a feather in the cap for the ladies and recognition to the organising committee for their years of work. Glenn was so giving of his time engaging with everyone and staying for over 3 ½ hours. The day generated \$8,850.00 (the largest amount in 6 years) and has now pushed our total donated to the McGrath Foundation to over \$35,000.00.

We endured some minor inconvenience for the first half of the season, with the construction of new umpires' rooms & change room showers upgrade. Not exactly the full change room upgrade we were hoping for, but something that was definitely well over-due.

Off field we were successful in receiving a couple of grants. Firstly \$32,000.00 from the City of Greater Geelong towards the cost of installing an electronic scoreboard. We also received \$1,070.00 from the GCA for the purchase of a new small cover. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in our application for a grant to install shade structures in Eastern Park through the State Government. We will look to submit another application in the next round.

It is impossible for the Club to function without sponsorship. We are extremely grateful for the support provided and I would like to acknowledge our major sponsors:

Avalon Airport, Fulton Hogan, Richie Brothers, The Elephant & Castle, Lyons Construction, Rob Stribley Transport, Tomkinson Global Logistics, Stuchbery Bros. Haulage along with all our other sponsors.

I would like to congratulate the senior teams for qualifying to play semifinals. Unfortunately, due to unprecedented circumstances these did not proceed. The ladder positions at the end of the season for the top 3 grades, were a positive result for the club. We were beginning to play some very good cricket at the right end of the year, who knows what might have been? We should challenge ourselves to achieve this again as a minimum and set goals for next season.

Our junior program continues to develop great talent through the grades, with many junior players playing seniors again in the afternoon. Our under 13's made their grand final and were unlucky to be beaten on the last ball of the match. Our under 15's also played finals but were knocked out in the semifinal. Thank you to Danny Wilson, Trevor Elliot, Shane Hughan, Aaron Morgan, Justin Cook, Damien Barber, Adam Rolfe and all those who were involved and assisted the juniors over the season.

Fraser Wilson & Max Della Monica volunteered and ran our Woolies Junior/Master Blaster program on a Thursday & Friday night this season. I would like to acknowledge the development and support you have given to the program and junior players.

It is vital to acknowledge the volunteers of the club. Many players would be amazed by the number of hours given during the year behind the scenes. The club's strength and stability are dependent upon strong support at all levels by volunteers and committee members. I extend my thanks to everyone who has worked so hard in making a positive impact.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Chris for his efforts in his first season as club coach. Thank you also to the captains Richie, Shane, Matt & Damian for your commitment and support of each other and your players.

Richie and Ash had a few challenges and issues this year with unseasonal weather. Thank you for your work curating for the season. The club was awarded the opportunity to host of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Grand final and this was recognition of the work you had done.

Off the field, the support that we continue to receive from our ladies is something that cannot be expressed enough. Thank you to Annie, Jayne, Jenny & Jenny for your continued support. Thank you also to everyone that offered help in the kitchen and at social events held throughout the year. Please be assured that your efforts and help do not go unnoticed.

Thank you to Amanda for your efforts and support of the club on the committee. Amanda has indicated that she will be standing down from the committee this year. I thank you for all the work you have done over the last 4 years, including the last 2 as Secretary.

Thank you to Alf who this year stepped up in to the role of Treasurer. This is a time-consuming role, and you provided great support to both myself and the club as a member of the executive committee.

Aaron Morgan, Tom Driver & Chris Shine are stepping down from committee and I would like to thank them for their service over the last few years.

I would like to thank the members of the committee who have assisted throughout the year, on a Saturday afternoon, Saturday night and at additional club functions.

A club is not successful without your commitment, and I acknowledge the collaborative effort to build, sustain and promote our club.

There are many tasks and roles or sub committees requiring assistance during the year, I thank everybody who has contributed over the last 12 months.

As the season came to an end, we were required to reconsider our traditional presentation night due to the social distancing rules and formulate a way to acknowledge our award winners.

It was agreed that we would conduct an award recognition night live stream on our Facebook page. This was done on March 28<sup>th</sup> and I congratulate all the award winners on your season.

Our AGM was held on April 6 by a video online meeting forum to enable us the opportunity to conclude the season and meet our obligations under Consumer Affairs rules. I thank all members who logged in to allow this to be completed.

As this is my last report as President, I thank everyone for your support and assistance over the last 5 years. I wish Graeme, the incoming committee and the club continued success both on and off the field.

Who knows when this will end, or how long we will have restrictions placed upon us? Hopefully we are able to return to some form of normality and get back to playing sport again sooner rather than later, and we are able to come together again for next season.

Until then, please take care of yourselves & your families, stay healthy and look out for each other. Take the time to call someone to touch base and say g'day or just reach out if you are feeling isolated. We are all here for each other and willing to assist whenever needed.

Regards

David Neil