

Coach – James Mooney

Manager – Megan Mooney

Assistant Coach – Matt Whitton

#### **TROPHY WINNERS**

Best & Fairest	Savannah Codd
Rising Star	Summer Hupfeld
Rising Star	Sarah Hicks
Coaches Award	Nikki O'Neill
Leading Goalkicker	Savannah Codd



#### **SEASON SUMMARY:**

Season 2 for the Youth Girls U12 competition and once again the girls who represented our club in this division did so with great pride, team spirit and success, ultimately finishing in 4th position and playing in a semi final. The team undertook a pretty large transformation after last year, with 13 of the 17 from the Premiership team moving up to the U15's teams. The remaining girls really took on the responsibility of embracing their new team mates, forming new friendships and encouraging them to develop with the team. Some of our new girls were joining a brand new team, others were playing AFL for the very first time and another couple were playing with and against the big girls a few years older than them.



The girls got off to flying start, winning their first seven games straight and playing some brilliant football. The next three games brought them back down to earth a bit, playing some of the more powerful teams and learning that defence was also an important element of the game. The girls weren't daunted by the losses though. They understood that each loss was a chance to improve and learn something. Regardless of the result, their attitude to training was consistent (lots of talking) and they had a million questions. The girls were also very aware of their ladder position and what they needed to do to qualify for finals.

So with their goal firmly in their mind they closed the season with two more strong wins to secure themselves a spot in the semi finals. Along the way the girls should be credited for the way in which they dealt with a number of different scenario's, including a broken arm to one of their team mates, playing against significantly older and stronger opponents, playing against weaker/younger sides, a huge milestone game for one of their team mates and ensuring that every player on their team was able to score a goal during the season. They embraced the challenges, fear and enjoyment that each of these scenarios presented them and they did so as a united team, supporting one another.

The season finished with a tense 11 point semi final loss to the Giants. The girls did everything asked of them but just couldn't over run the Giants despite threatening to, right up until the last seconds of the game. Whilst they were disappointed with the loss, the girls should be enormously proud of their season, their development and the spirit in which they played the game.

In wrapping up I want to thank my team manager Megan. Otherwise known as the brains of the operation, she has the team manager role down pat and makes sure the season runs as smoothly as it possibly can for all the kids, parents and helpers. I also want to recognise the efforts of Matt Whitton who was at every training session and game - rain, hail or shine - to help train the girls, offer encouragement, guidance and support the team. I also want to thank Craig Robinson for taking on just about every single job that was going at one point or another through the season. Thanks also to a great group of parents, who never hesitated to jump in and assist the team in any way they could and provided a really supportive environment for the girls to learn and enjoy their football.

Well done girls and good luck for next year.

#### **PLAYER PROFILES:**

Kate Duffy - Super competitive, courageous and flexible player who ended up dominating the last few games and semi final in the backline. Her great defensive positioning, strong tackling and clearance work made her just about impassable. Another fantastic, consistent season.

Keira Mooney - Tough young player who thrived on competing against and matching it with the older girls. Neat skills and a tenacious tackler.



Sarah Hicks - Great goal sense and loves winning plenty of the football through the midfield too. Highly skilled and talented young player who was one of our most consistent.

Isobel Prince - Tenacious young player who thrived on winning her own ball and delivering out of a contest to a running player. Settled into the backline and had her best game of the year in our Semi Final.

Nikki O'Neill - Tough, Tough, Tough. The toughest kid I've coached. New to AFL this year and showed huge improvement in her understanding and skills as the season wore on, to complement her natural strengths.

Fallon Jenkins - Transfered across to the Magpies this year and was an immediate hit with her new team mates. A pleasure to coach and her goal against the Lionneses was one of highlights of the year. Found familiarity and confidence in her forward role as the year progressed.

Sienna Mooney - Elegant, flexible and skilful player, who loved being one of the more senior players. Her kicking skills and strong overhead marking ability stood out in a number of games. Importantly saved her best game for the semi final.

Sarah Whitton - A natural athlete who took on a senior role in the team. Shouldered the ruck work for the majority of the year and exemplified the team first attitude. Consistently brought team mates into the game through her running, chasing, tackling and clearances.

Savannah Codd - Explosive athlete with tear away speed. Our most consistent player, who was able to dominate games through her ball winning ability. A great first season with a big future ahead.

Summer Hupfeld - A great runner, who reads the play well and positions herself accordingly. Perpetual motion on the field with sure hands, great goal sense and a booming kick. A star on the rise.

Charlize Robinson - Versatile player whose confidence rose as the season progressed. Strong around the ball, a good mark and a powerful kick, she was able to play well in all three areas of the ground by the end of the season.

Summer Jones - The heartbeat of the team. She plays with passion and commitment for her teammates. Listens and carries out team instructions to the letter. Found her niche in defence towards the end of the year where no one got an easy kick on her.

Emma Hayhow - An unfortunate accident ended her playing year early but before her injury she displayed a great natural feel for the game. Another great runner with good skills, she reads the play well, makes excellent decisions when in possession and a selfless team mate who made sure she stayed connected to the team despite not being able to play.













