



U14 Div 2 West



Trophy Recipients

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Player's Player Award	Joel Woodhead
Coach's Award	Max Rose
Most Consistent	Humza Khalid
Team Player Award	Joshua Black
Leading Goal Kicker	Luke O'Neill (39)

Season Summary

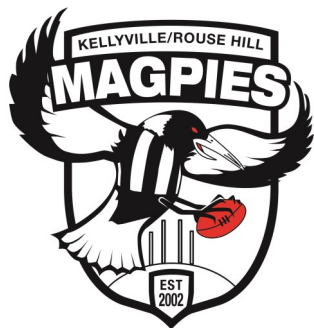
The 14/2s started the season not knowing how competitive we would be. We had a few 1st year players amongst a team that also had a few boys getting close to their 100 game milestones. A solid preseason with Thommo meant we were ready to go. We continued to train one night a week with the harbour team and some of the team had the opportunity to play a few games in the harbour 1st division.

Round 1 saw us hosting Baulkham Hills and, after a close first half, we finished strongly to take out a 28-point win. This gave us confidence that we would be competitive this year. We followed with an 8-goal win over Hawkesbury and then invoked the mercy rule against St Clair. Meanwhile, Wollondilly had also been winning and were shaping up as the team to beat. We first met in round 5, both teams undefeated. After a close game we made the long trip home on top of the ladder, following a 14-point victory.

By round 5 the boys settled into regular positions. A rock solid backline filled with no nonsense players that got the job done every week, was complemented by our forward line, built on one or two big targets with a lot of mobile players. The midfield had good structure, each with a role to play. We were blessed with 2 good ruckmen, a ball magnet and players who just knew how to be in the right spot. We developed our ruckmen to be conscious of where they were tapping, and our mids to be on the move in the right spot. Our training revolved around a few drills based on hitting a moving target. Early on you could hear the moan when I said "let's do the triangle drill". It became clear throughout the year that our skills had improved immensely. The drills got sharper and the boys took that into the weekend.

Manager: Rob Brunt

Coach: Craig Peisley



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We remained undefeated until the last home and away round. We had some close games and some big wins but each game against Wollondilly was a tussle. Round 10 we got up by 2 points but in Round 15 we had our first loss. We went down by a goal to Wollondilly on our home ground. Not the ideal way to enter a finals series.

Our first Semi-final was against Baulkham Hills. A strong first half meant we took a 4-goal lead into half time. Baulkham Hills finished stronger and advanced to the Grand Final. We had the second chance and met Wollondilly in the preliminary final the following week. After 2 of our very best training sessions for the year, we followed up with our performance of the year. A 4-goal win over Wollondilly earned us a spot in the Grand Final.

Grand Final day. The boys were switched on and took control of the game early. In a clinical effort the Magpies took a 2-goal lead into quarter time and extended that to 5 goals at half time. The boys remained focused and determined to play out the game, eventually finishing with a crushing 84-point victory. All year every player played their role, and this was also evident on Grand Final day. This team was not about individuals, it was shared responsibility across the park. The mids dominated possession throughout the game. The backs restricted the Hawks to 3 scoring shots for the game and the forwards shared the goals across 7 players. One team with one goal.

Well done boys! Be very proud of your achievements this year.

I would like to thank Rob Brunt for taking on the hardest role as team manager. Thank you to Christian, Sohail, Mal and Greg for putting their hand up every week. Thank you to Justin Pratt and Steve Pullen for the thousands of photos and hours of sorting and uploading throughout the year. Thank you to ALL the parents for your ongoing support of both your sons and the team as a whole.

And, finally, thank you to all the boys. It has been an absolute pleasure to a part of your AFL journey. Hope to see you all back in the Magpies nest in 2020!!!





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Player Profiles:



Humza Khalid : Humza led by example throughout the year. An unselfish player with very good skills, he played midfield most of the year and often formed 'the wall', repelling opposition attempts to advance the ball back through the middle. Humza can kick on both feet, which he needed after injuring his right ankle in round 13. He used his left only for the next few games. Not many would have noticed as his left is better than many player's right foot!

The Grand final victory was also Humza's 100th game for the club, what a way to celebrate!!!

Lachlan Cardwell : Lachy started the year in the ruck and later moved to centre half forward. His game play improved a lot towards the end of the year, and as we hit the finals he was playing his best football of the season. Lachy demonstrated his versatility by moving to into the backline during the finals and he used his physical presence to take his game to a new level. His role in the finals campaign was integral and he grew as a captain throughout the year. Booted 9 goals for the season.



Will Hurst: Will is a very talented ball-winner, whose burst of speed often gets him into space. Will possesses great vision and was often the catalyst for a number of scoring raids. When he went forward, Will found a way to shake off his opponent to get on the end of a few kicks. A very reliable kick, Will is strong around the goals and slotted 17 goals for the season. Will celebrated his 100th game during the season and continued to be one of our most consistent performers all year.

Ryan Peisley: Another one of our 100-gamers, Ryan was rock solid at fullback all year. Very good overhead, we often saw Ryan taking marks in the last line of defence. He regularly took on, and beat, bigger opponents. Ryan is always very calm under pressure and, for the most part, would usually come up great decisions to help get the team out of trouble. An accurate kick enabled Ryan to steer us out of defence, regularly hitting targets outside the 50.





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Luke 'Grumpy' O'Neill: Grumpy is the ultimate goal sneak and also our most experienced player, approaching 150 games for the club. A very mobile forward, Luke often surprised as he out-marked players much taller than him. This can be attributed to his tenacity to compete for the ball and his ability to put himself into the right positions. A season highlight was Luke's 9-goal haul in round 3 against St Clair. Luke was the competition's leading goalkicker with 39 goals for the year, which was more than double the next player in the league!

Ishan Shah: After a number of seasons playing in the Sydney Harbour competition, this was Ishan's first year as a magpie. A reliable player, Ishan trained hard all year, after initially struggling with some of the running early in the year. He attended almost every training session and pushed himself hard, driving his fitness and skills. Ishan took some strong overhead marks and kicked some crucial goals, finishing with 14 for the year. Ishan played full forward for most of the year and learnt the art of leading from the goal square.



Darcy Strachan: This year was Darcy's first year of AFL and he proved to be an absolute natural footy player. Proving he can play anywhere, Darcy spent time in the ruck, roving and in the forwards. We moved him to the wing in the prelim final, where he dominated, kicking 3 crucial goals. Darcy never takes a backward step and goes hard at the ball. He is a nightmare for an opposition coach because he is such a well-rounded footballer, possessing speed, agility and a long kick. We all look forward to seeing Darcy develop his game further next year.

Lachlan Wotton: Returning to the game after a 5-year break, and in his first year as a magpie, it looked as though Lachlan had never been away from the game. Anyone who has seen the match photos can see Lachlan's strengths. Playing most of the year in the ruck, the photos show him hanging in the air, with a long reach above his opposing ruckman. He absolutely dominated his rivals in the ruck during the finals, enabling the team to continually get on the front foot. Lachlan is also a good kick, booting 8 goals for the season.





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Karl Fischer: Karl has a great passion for footy and is always eager to work on improving his game. Early in the year Karl asked me if he could move to the forwards. I had to explain to him that moving him forward would weaken our backline. Karl is a tight defender and his burst of speed often allowed him to rebound the ball off our backline. He loves going for a big leap and pulling in an overhead mark. A feature of Karl's game is his knack of winning the one-on-one contests, which were key to the success of our defensive line.

Max Rose: After taking a year away from the game, Max returned to the magpies this year and proved to be a valuable addition to the team. Max played most of the year in the backline but occasionally found himself in the midfield. A versatile and reliable player, Max is an accurate kick but it was his body work and overhead marking that saw him dominate across the backline. Max just gets the job done and he does it so efficiently that many won't notice the impact he has on a game. Welcome back, great season Max!



Adam Pratt: If Adam wants the ball, watch out, Adam will get the ball. Adam spent most of the year in the backline but did find himself in the middle regularly, where he did an excellent job. In fact, he played most of the final series on the ball. His physical presence put fear in the opposition and, combined with his speed and strength, this allowed Adam to win a lot of important ball that got the team moving forward. Adam always works hard at training, he is one of the fittest members of the team and he continued to improve his kicking throughout the season.

Joel Woodhead: 'Ball magnet', 'leather poisoning' - these are some of the terms used to describe Woody after every game. Woody didn't have a bad game all year, and this was acknowledged by his teammates in their player's player votes. His fitness and ball-winning skills meant he featured heavily in every game. Woody is an absolutely tenacious competitor, with a never-say-die attitude. These qualities ensured that Woody could always be found at the bottom of the ruck and, more often than not, would come away with the ball. His excellent vision and game sense would then enable him to link up with one of his teammates. Woody is a crucial part of our midfield and he formed a great combination with our ruckmen. Another cracking year Woody!





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Jai Robinson: One of the quieter members of the team, Jai always did what was asked of him on the field. Jai's overhead marking and ability to 'clean-up' became a feature of his play in the second half of the year. One of the team's big improvers, Jai uses his body to his advantage in contests and never gives up. Jai is a great asset to the team, offering wonderful versatility in playing wing, back and forward this year. Also knows how to snare a goal, with 8 for the year. Jai celebrated his 50-game milestone this year and was a consistent performer throughout the entire season.

Alessandro 'AJ' Silva: Now in his second season of AFL, AJ played most of the year on the wing, and continually improves his game. He has pace and endeavour for the ball, and is always willing to listen to advice. Unfortunately, AJ injured his knee in round 13, which put him out for the rest of the year. AJ was heartbroken but was still with the team all the way through the finals campaign. We all look forward to watching AJ's game continue to develop when he is back and fully fit in 2020!



Archie Hindmarsh: Another player in just his second season of AFL, Archie was one of our key men at the back, and continued to improve his game throughout the year. His work at training resulted in a much improved drop punt and the ability to hit a target more consistently. As Archie's confidence grew through the year, he became more physical and often won the ball through sheer aggression. Archie tackled players much bigger than him and is keen to get his head over the ball.

Connor Knowles : Connor started the year playing mostly on the wing but his ability to read the play meant he could add strength to our backline. Often leaving his opponent at the right time to charge at the ball, Connor took plenty of intercepts and helped turn defence into attack. Another impressive aspect of Connor's game this year was his willingness to engage in the physical aspects by putting on a number of strong hits and rattling his opponent in the process. Connor took some strong overhead marks and could find himself a key position player in the future. A very solid season.



Jackson Brunt: Jackson has a good football brain and he reads the game extremely well. One of Jackson's strengths is his ability to maintain his composure under pressure and find a quality target. He knows how to find the ball, and is quite elusive with the ball in his hands. Jackson loves his footy and works hard at training and on game day. Jackson is a very accurate kick and finished the season as the competition's second leading goalkicker, with 17 majors for the year. His 3 goals against Wollondilly in the prelim were key for us making it to the GF.



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Joshua Black: One of our unsung heroes, Josh considered not playing this year but while sitting on the sideline for round one the lure of playing footy was just too great (thankfully for us!). Josh mostly played forward and is a very skilful player with a good mark, great evasive skills and a very accurate kick. Quiet and unassuming, Josh's confidence grew throughout the year and he became more physical and imposing on his opposition as the season progressed. I am sure he has no regrets about playing and I am equally sure the team are glad he joined us!

Luke Eastman: What a wonderful addition Luke was for us! Midway through the season, and with a number of players unavailable, Luke stepped up from the U/13's to help us out. In the end, Luke played 7 games for us, including the finals series. Luke quickly became a key feature in our forward line leading into the final series, but has the versatility to fit in anywhere. Luke is a clever footballer, with an impressive left foot and no fear of taking on larger opponents. Thanks Luke, it was great to have you in the squad!



Brandon McAllister-Nash: Brandon is one of our tall forwards. We used him for short bursts in the backs and mids where his body work and endeavour for the ball made a huge impact. Brandon doesn't mind the tough stuff and put on a number of solid hits during the season. Despite not being available for a number of games during the year, Brandon was still one of our leading goalkickers with 11 for the season.

Fredy Muamba: Fredy approaches each game with great enthusiasm and a massive smile on his face. His lightning burst of speed, coupled with his elusiveness, brought excitement to the crowd every time he got near the ball. No opponent was safe as Fredy would run them down and tackle them before they realised what was going on. Fredy trained hard but only managed 7 games for us this year and unfortunately missed out on the finals.

