



President's Report

2024 was another year of consolidation and improvement for our community club. Our theme this year was '*working together to win together*' and we had a strong focus on a 'One Club' approach.

The year has been full of learnings and new experiences for our mainly new Committee and Coaching team, however everyone has taken it in their stride. The ethos of '*working together to win together*' was on display every week, both on and off the field. It would be easy to think that 'winning' only applies to on-field success, however we all know that a strong club must have a strong off field team working together to ensure success.

'Winning' can mean many things – from the sense of belonging and ownership felt by members, to strong governance and financial security, to player and supporter retention. There are so many aspects of *winning* that we are fortunate to already have at Inglewood, and we will continue to develop going forward. And we know the on-field and on-court success will follow in 2025, based on the strong foundation we have built.

The off-season started positively with the appointment of Fergus Payne as Senior Coach and Nathan Angelino and Sam Polack as Reserves Co Coaches. Leigh Lamprell was again appointed as our Under 18 Coach, with Darcy Hogan and Jack Sleep stepping into the Auskick coaching roles.

We were pleased to appoint Abbey Hayes as the A & B Grade Coach and we welcomed Genevieve Lyons to the Club as our C Grade Coach. Shasta Maher stepped into the C Reserve coaching role, with Dianne Wayman, Izzy Rollinson, Sharna Lewis, Caitlyn Cartwright, Hollie Matheson and Freya Dawe leading our junior teams.

We fielded all grades of netball and football.

Our season launch in February kicked off 2025, with Senior Vice President Chris Nevins announcing my appointment as President and Gerald Angelino as Junior Vice President. Gerry and I joined the Committee members who were appointed at the 2023 AGM – Suzi Birthisel (Secretary), Michael Mayes (Treasurer), Bec Hermans, Bill Concol, Chelsea Roberts, Darcy Hogan, Gary Scanlon, Graham Roberts, Nerissa Rollason and Vickie Jeffrey.

Throughout the season, our Social and fundraising events were well-attended. These included a Back to Upper Loddon cricket reunion, Premiership Netball reunion for the 1994 A, B & C Grades teams, 1986 Premiership Reunion, Gala Ball at St Kilian's Hall, Flight Night and Mystery Bus Tour. Our Super Saturday was again a large event, consisting of Marquee Day for Sponsors, Eucy Cutters Members and \$10,000 Draw Ticket Holders, followed by our Goods & Services Auction and drawing of the \$10,000 prize winner.

Our Thursday Night dinners were also popular, with an early junior sitting and shortly afterwards the senior sitting. Many thanks to those who assisted in the organising of these events, which are an important part of keeping our community club together in social terms, as well as raising funds for the sustainability of the club.

Our Anzac Round matches against Bridgewater again featured a service conducted by the Inglewood-Bridgewater RSL Sub-branch, Eddie Harrison Medal for Most Courageous Player in the Senior match awarded to Tom Kennedy and ANZAC Medal for Most Courageous in the A Grade netball. We were represented on ANZAC Day by Lucy Rollinson and Jamie Penrose, who lay a wreath in remembrance.

Another successful Kaye's Day was held at our home game against Marong, who we thank for their continued support of this event. As well as the Kaye's Day medals awarded to the best players from each grade of football and netball, cupcake sales and raffle. We were pleased to make a donation of \$1591 to the Cancer Council Victoria, in memory of Kaye Cohalan.

Our Past Players & Official Group again held two well-attended functions throughout the season. Guest speakers David Cossar and Gary Jacobs gave fantastic insights into their time at the club, and it was great to see so many familiar faces returning to the club for these events. Thanks again to the PPOG Committee of Glenn Billett, Paul Williams, and Corie Birthisel. A further thank you to our Club Historian, David Rose, who provided invaluable support in recognising player milestones and memorable moments throughout the season.

During the season a club Health-Check was undertaken again, with surveys giving our members a chance to voice their views on what we do well, and where the areas of improvement may lie. With over 100 surveys completed by members, the feedback was positive about the direction the club is heading in. Thanks to Collin Brady for facilitating this process.

On the netball court, there were many positives to be taken for all grades. Our A & B Grades battled hard all year and never gave up, the C & C Reserve teams had some close games and recorded some memorable wins. The performance of our junior netball teams was encouraging, and we were thrilled the 13 & Under team participated in the finals, playing off in front of a home crowd in the Preliminary Final. Well done to the 13s and Coaches Sharna and Catilyn.

I would like to thank our Netball Operations Managers, Nerissa Rollason and Chelsea Roberts, for their dedication and support in 2024. Also, thanks to our coaches, Abbey, Gen, Shasta, Di, Izzy, Sharna, Catlin, Hollie and Freya. A special thanks to Tara for her support during the season, and our sports trainers, Sue, Teleea, Shasta and Alana for their care of our athletes.

In the football we saw a number of new players to our club. Injuries and absences kept the selectors on their toes, with well over 60 players taking the field in the Reserves throughout the year.

Well done to our Coaches, Fergus, Nathan, Sam and Leigh, Operations Manager Gary and Team Managers Gerry and Stacey. A big thanks to Darcy and Jack for making Auskick great fun!

Our Reserves and Under 18s both participated in finals, with the Under 18s also playing off in a home preliminary final.

I would like congratulate Leigh and the Under 18 players, who performed unbelievably well in the finals with 16 players.

Thanks to all the players, netball and football, junior and senior. Our club has some great people, and great people make a great club. I hope everyone can stick together and continue to take this club forward.

In September it was our turn to host the LVFNL Preliminary Final. Through the efforts of many people, we managed to put on a fantastic day, which was received very positively by League officials, and many outside the club. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed.

This year we had separate Junior and Senior Presentations, which were very well attended. Congratulations to all award winners, and special mention to Paul 'Ducka' Williams and Tania Rollinson, who were very deservedly awarded joint Best Club Person Award. We appreciate the efforts of Paul and Tania and their entire families, who continually put their hands up to perform roles for the benefit of the club.

On a sad note, throughout the season we mourned the passing of several people who were well known and loved at our Club, including Margaret Miller, Bronwyn Hopcott and Bev Gilmore. Our condolences go to their families and friends for their loss.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors. Without their support we would not be able to operate as we do, and we are very grateful for their ongoing commitment to our Club.

Equally, our volunteers and support staff are the backbone of IFNC. As well as our loyal volunteers who have performed roles for many years, it was heartening to see new volunteers put their hand up this year, including parents and family members of our players, along with new community members. The efforts of everyone, large or small, is much appreciated. We are a small community club which relies largely on the work of volunteers, and their efforts are greatly valued.

Both our netball and football playing cohort are young groups. We need to be patient and provide support and encouragement as our teams develop. We have a strong future ahead of us.

We did a number of Junior club fundraising initiatives this year, which were made possible by the fundraising efforts of Ron Heenan. The junior netballers went into Bendigo a watched the Vixen's play and the junior footballers and their families went to watch the Hawks take on the Tigers at the MCG.

Our junior netballers and footballers are the future of our Club and it is our intention to invest into their future development. With this in mind we have opened a separate bank account dedicated for junior development and engagement.

It is with great pleasure I announce Kelvin Dows has been awarded life membership of the Inglewood Football Netball Club. Kelvin has been a true champion of our Club and this is a well deserved honour. Kelvin played at IFNC from 1977-1981 and again in 1983-1990. Kelvin's impressive career statistics are as follows:

- 205 games
- 802 goals
- 2 x Club Best & Fairest (1981, 1986)
- 10 x Club Leading Goalkickers (1979, 1980, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990)
- 4 x LVFL Leading Goalkicker (1985, 1986, 1987, 1989)
- 2 x 100 goals in a season (103 goals in 1986, 120 goals in 1987)
- 5 x LVFL Interleague Representative (1979, 1980, 1981, 1986, 1987)
- LVFL Best on Ground (1987 – 7 goals)
- Inglewood Team of the Century (announced 2001)

Finally, I would like to thank the 2024 Committee for their contribution in guiding the Club this season. As a new Committee, there were many new learnings along the way, however by working together we achieved some great outcomes which set the foundation for the 2025 season.

Thank you for supporting me as President this year. I look forward to working together to win together in 2025. Go Woodies!

Tim Birthisel
President