

KATCH UP

2021



GRAND FINAL WINS

Year 7/8 Girls
Year 8 and Year 9

East Fremantle District Youth Coach
of the Year - Anthony Yerkovich



JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB
EST. 2004

KANE LUCAS MEDALLION

Mitchell Atkinson
and Zac Carlino

WKJFC Women's MVP Award

Shayla Templeton

2021 MILESTONE GAMES

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PLAYERS LISTED BELOW ON PLAYING THEIR
50TH OR 100TH GAME OF JUNIOR FOOTBALL IN SEASON 2021.



50 GAMES

Piper Bartlett – Girls Y5/6

Angus Egan – Y6

Liam Atkinson – Y6

Edward Lang – Y6

Hugo Knight – Y6

Taj Dunscombe – Y6

Charlie Battel – Y7

Shayla Templeton – Girls Y7/8

Brent Smith – Y8

Bowie Mooring – Y8

Benjamin Gatti – Y8

Hamish Morris – Y8

Noah Rees-Turner – Y9

Summer Fox – Girls Y9/10

Alex Ferguson – Y10

Hayden Sharpe – Y10



100 GAMES

Jamie Richardson – Y9

Nathan Martin – Y10

Ben Elliott – Y10

Cooper Elliott – Y10

Xavier Curr – Y10

Elliott Whittaker – Y10

Joshua Martin – Y10

Mitch Stedman – Y11/12

Ethan Bateman – Y11/12

Beau Allanson – Y11/12

WELL DONE TO ALL,
A FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENT!



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

2021 was another successful season for the Winnacott Kats Junior Football Club in what was a return to normality. A luxury in comparison to other areas of the country. We were fortunate that COVID only had a minimal impact on the season with a brief lock-down prior to the school holidays the only hiccup.

The season of 2021 featured many highlights, both on and off the field.

Our membership continues to remain strong across all age groups, and with good growth in Auskick participation, it puts us in good stead for the future. Furthermore, our female membership continues to grow with the club fielding three female teams for the first time.

This year also saw the club expand on its recognition of the contribution from our local indigenous community. Not only do our teams continue to embrace the celebrations of NAIDOC week but this year we proudly launched our new ingenious playing jumper in recognition of their importance to our club. We were also given the opportunity to renew our affiliation with the Clontarf Foundation who provided us with a number of players.

In season 2021, we formed new partnerships with some of our neighbouring clubs to allow our players to continue their football journey. This collaboration provided the opportunity for players in some of our developing teams to play football and maintain friendships whilst still being part of the Winnacott family. Our hope is to organically grow these groups into independent teams of the future. A huge thank you to all those at the Bibra Lake, Melville and the Fremantle City Dockers in helping forge these friendships that have been mutually beneficial for all clubs.

A return to normality meant that we not only returned to our regular 14-game fixture but also restored the usual extra activities such as the Auskick Carnival and Parade Day, events that were well supported and enjoyed by our younger members.

Our Year 6 boys and girls also had the rare opportunity to play in front of 42,000 at Optus Stadium for the little league at half time of the game between the Eagles v Essendon, a real highlight for them and an experience they will never forget.

Our Auskick and Junior teams continue to develop into our stars of the future and represented the club in the best possible way, playing with great sportsmanship and respect. It always great to watch the younger teams in action, uncomplicated games played with enjoyment and enthusiasm. Although some this enthusiasm was beginning to fade during some of the wintery weather, we endured this season.

In our Youth teams, the combined Melville/Winnacott/Bibra Lake, Year 7 team had a challenging initiation, not only did they need to adapt to the changes of the youth competition but also had the added difficulties of adjusting to new teammates. However, they really improved as the season went on, a great sign for things to come.

The Year 8's had an outstanding year. After dominating the start of the season, the team was elevated to the Red division, and still managed to finish on top of the ladder. Success continued throughout the finals with the team defeating Canning Vale to win the Grand Final in a very entertaining game of footy. A fitting reward for all their hard work and effort.

Similarly, the combined Fremantle City Dockers/Winnacott Year 7/8 girls finished on top of the ladder, a great achievement considering many of the team had not played together before. They too, went on to win the Premiership in a close game that was a fantastic standard of football. This is the first time in Winnacott's history that a female team has been part of a premiership. It is a proud moment for the club and hope it is a sign of things to come for our female program. Thanks again to Kurt and the team from the Fremantle City Dockers for all their support to allow this to happen.

It was a wild ride for the Year 9 team's finals series with both of their games played against Kwinana. Their semi-final resulted in a 1-point victory, followed by a 2-point victory in the Grand Final. These two teams developed a fantastic rivalry over the course of the season, one that I'm sure will continue for years to come.

After a blistering start to the year, the Year 10's were another team that moved to a higher division. They too went on to qualify for the finals but were unable to make it past the semi-finals, a

great effort, nonetheless. With a taste of finals football, I have no doubt they will be striving to take that a step further next year.

The Year 9/10 girls started the year with many of the team new to football, and the improvement over the season was incredible. The growth and development of this group in such a short time provides exciting signs for the future. The highlight for the year was their victory over Willetton which resulted in the ceremonial hat burning – hopefully, Paul has to buy a lot more hats in the future.

Our Year 11/12 team were unfortunate to miss playing finals, with a solitary point separating them from fourth place on the final standing, a fantastic achievement considering they played in the top tier of the competition against teams that were predominantly Y12 players. Not playing finals is new experience for this team which I'm sure, will motivate them heading into 2022.

2021 was a successful year off the field and I would like to acknowledge our committee for the tremendous amount of time and effort put in behind the scenes to get the season underway. We are very blessed to have such a dedicated group who care about our club and its members. Every year they strive to improve on the last.

Finally, thank you to our Coaches, Team Managers, parents and players for the time and effort you put into our club. We are very fortunate to have great people who are willing to be actively involved in developing our young men and women and providing an inclusive family environment for all. Without your help and support the Winnacott Kats would not be the club it is today.

Matt Templeton

President



AUSKICK REPORT

SEASON 2021 WAS WETTER THAN AVERAGE, BUT IT DIDN'T SEEM TO DAMPEN THE SPIRITS OF OUR AUSKICKERS.

Joel Cosford, the new Pre-Primary Coach had the kids engaged in every session, and their parents no doubt appreciated Joel's commitment and enthusiasm.

Kurt Johnson started his coaching career this year taking the Year 1's through their paces. The Year 1 team have thoroughly enjoyed Kurt's passion for footy and this can be seen in the teams skills.

Dean Diamond took over the coaching of our Year 2 team. The Year 2 Auskick players have become a great little team, and their progress has been visible to all. Dean has prepared them well for the transition to Junior football.

All three teams participated in the Rossmoyne Auskick carnival. It was great for the Kats players to take part in and play against other clubs. It was a wonderful way to end the season and show off all the skills that have been learnt over the year.

The Kats ask that you bring more friends and relatives along next year, to give Auskick a go. Auskick is the lifeblood of the club and recruiting new players to the Auskick teams underpins the Junior and Youth teams.

The club will run 'come and try' Auskick sessions for a few weeks in 2022. So, if the Auskicker's have got mates, relatives, next door neighbours who love footy, get them down to a Sunday morning session. Players can experience our great game in a fun, safe and engaging family orientated environment.

Thank you to all the Auskick Coaches, Team Managers and parents for your support this season.

Thanks also to the Winnacott Kats Committee for their commitment to the Auskick program and facilitating the Friday night sessions and Auskick Wind Up.

See you all soon!

Leanne Vallance

Auskick Co-ordinator



AUSKICK



YEAR 3 COACH REPORT

ALL THE PLAYERS IN THE KATS YEAR 3 KATS TEAM WERE
LOOKING FORWARD TO MAKING THE CHANGE FROM THEIR
DEVELOPMENT YEARS IN THE AUSKICK PROGRAM TO
TRANSITIONING TO 'REAL FOOTY'.

The chance to play in proper positions and with real footy rules, let alone kicking goals and having the chance to do some tackling had all the kids excited. However, the team found the transition challenging, especially in the first few games. Adjusting to the rules, the flow of the game and umpires calling free kicks, we all realised, coaches, parents, and players that a lot happens on a footy field.

Season 2021 was the first time the team had afternoon training sessions with the coaches pleased with the dedication that the players showed to improving their skills and learning the rules and positions of the game. Every session was fun and competitive and it was only a matter of time before the intensity of our competitive training sessions would transfer to game day.

We started the season off with a few losses to well skilled, stronger teams. This was a good starting point for us all to understand what we needed to work on to be more competitive.

From here we suffered another handful of losses, however these games were hard fought, with each game's margin becoming smaller and smaller. The level of footy skills and understanding continued to grow throughout this time. These close losses really galvanised the players and made them hungry to improve and strive for that first win.

The turning point for the Year 3's was the fantastic game held under the lights in round seven against Palmyra. This was our best team effort with all players incredibly well engaged and switched on and able to impact the game in a real team effort. Be it a last touch on the goal line, a tough in and under hard ball get, a long kick forward, a bone crunching tackle, or a confident calming chest mark.

The hard work that the players had put in during training and in the previous matches all came together in this one game. It was a fantastic match that brought out the best in all players. It created great excitement, where every tense and thrilling moment was experienced by the coaches and parents on the side-line. It was wonderful to watch. With only minutes to play the Kats were fighting hard for their first win holding a narrow four-point lead. However, in the final seconds a Palmyra player kicked a fantastic long goal to snatch victory by two points.

In the following weeks the Year 3's went on a 4-game winning streak, chalking up their first win in round eight. This gave the players a good chance to improve their knowledge of the tune and lyrics of the club song. With another two impressive wins before the season's end the Year 3's developed great gusto and true pride when they got together at the end of the game to sing the club song.

Throughout the season the team was always fair and supportive of each other, which helped develop a strong sense of unity among the group. I was most impressed with how the kids played in the spirit of the game. They were, tough, competitive, hardworking, always played fair, by the rules and most importantly showed good sportsmanship and respected the umpire and opposing teams.

It was also very pleasing to see each child embrace their own individual footy challenges and grow in confidence as team members and players.

We faced some challenges with the skill level, size, and strength of some opposition, along with some challenging wet and chilly winter footy weather to contend with from time to time. However, these obstacles never dampened the kid's appetite to play. Their enjoyment of just playing the game, kicking a goal, or taking a mark was wonderful to watch.

Thank you must go to Emily, our Team Manager and the Assistant Coaches, Andy and Ben for all of their effort and support over the season. Thanks also to the parent helpers who fulfilled the new and unfamiliar roles of footy parent helpers, well done. Whether it was, setting up the oval, goal umpiring, washing jumpers, being time-keeper or first aider, you all took on the role happily and often pitched in whenever an extra pair of hands was needed.

This first season of Junior AFL was a wonderful experience for all. With all players showing great development in every aspect of the game and as the saying goes in footy, "We will be better for the run." I really enjoyed the role of coaching the team in 2021 and I am looking forward to doing it all again next season.

Heath Pozzi

Coach Year 3



YEAR 3



YEAR 4 JAGUARS COACH REPORT

WHAT A FANTASTIC AGE FOR FOOTBALL! THIS YEAR THE TEAM ENJOYED THE CHANGES IN SIZE OF THE FOOTY, JUDGEMENT OF EFFECTIVE SKILLS, TACKLING AND NOT HAVING THE COACH ON THE FIELD.

Upon reflection of this year's games, the WAFC must be commended for the way they provide a game that is safe, enjoyable and that encourages development of skills at both an individual and team level. This ensures all players on the oval remain involved in the game.

The Jaguars came up against some tough competition from Attadale, Willetton and Piara Waters at the start of the season and as a result, we started to focus on numbers around the ball.

The concepts of courage, effort and commitment were introduced to the boys and whilst these concepts can be daunting for 9-year-old boys, to their credit they all managed to improve greatly throughout the season, which was evident in their performances for the second half of the 14-game season.

Positional play and proficiency become increasingly important as the boys move up in age and this year saw the boys demonstrate some of their natural skill application to specific positions on the field. Whilst it is still important to rotate through all positions in Juniors, it's exciting to see the boys really enjoying being in and under type players or more the outside, opportunistic, and creative types. The greatest aspect of AFL is that it is a game for all types and getting exposure to all positions and roles is crucial to development and understanding. I would like to add to the individual comments made at the wind up by

saying that I am super impressed by the boys for stepping outside of their comfort zone and working hard all season. It's not always easy to put your head over the ball when you have bodies coming in hard, a pumped-up crowd and an opposition full of hard mullets... but the boys did, and they should be proud of themselves and of each other.

The development of the boy's physical size and ability, endeavour towards the sport and game day requirements saw an increase in effort and preparation needed from the admin team. All of it was made extremely easy by the effort put in by the team behind the team.

Assistant Coach Matt Campbell provided help at every training session and game. Team Manager Leigh Emmert provided seamless management of WAFC, team and club communications. Team Runner Mark Bridges provided on field support to the players and delivered the message from the box with passion and lastly our Medical Officer Colin Vallance provided excellent care for the boys on and off the field. Beyond these people we have an awesome bunch of parents, family and friends that volunteer and support our team of legends.

I am very excited for Year 5 in 2022!!

Lawrie Pettman
Coach Year 4 Jaguars



YEAR 4 JAGUARS



YEAR 4 PANTHERS COACH REPORT

THE MIGHTY PANTHERS STEPPED UP AGAIN THROUGHOUT SEASON 2021 TO PROVE THAT THEY HAVE BONDED WELL TOGETHER AS A GREAT FOOTBALL TEAM AND THAT THE LESSONS LEARNT THROUGH THE EARLY DAYS OF AUSKICK HAVE PROVIDED SOME FANTASTIC FOUNDATIONS FOR THE CLUB FOR YEARS TO COME.

One of the lessons that was particularly drawn upon throughout this season was the importance of effort and competing for the ball. There were three stand out Panthers that absolutely shone through throughout this past season as footballers who just don't stop competing. These being Tom Sloane, Archie Pike and Tyler Munro. Each of these Panthers will be champions of the future however, this year Tyler Munro took out the Coaches 'Spirit of the Panther' award for simply never giving up.

Once again, the Panthers were extremely well served by the ever-reliable mix of Harvey Doye, Jamahl Fitzgerald and Kai Berden. These three are a Coach's dream in that they turn up ready to go every training session and each game day.

We saw some fantastic signs of strong skill development and footy smarts from the likes of Olly Daws, Marley Madison and Olly White. These three seem to know where to go to get the footy and have an ability to entertain with ball in hand.

Claire Goodwin just keeps getting better each year and with her pace is likely to start tearing teams apart in future years whilst Sam Bajada continued to enforce his strength and ability throughout the year. Sam is shaping up as a promising key position player.

As relatively new additions to the Panthers squad, Kaiya Fitzgerald, Latoya Magdamo-Mellor and Ben Lamb demonstrated their determination to establish themselves as key members of the team and did not disappoint when it was their time to chase, tackle, mark or put pressure on the opposition. We are looking forward to their growth next year.

The highflyers for the year were Ben Bickley and Riley Burt. Both Panthers have an ability to compete for the ball while it is in the air and more often than not, they end up pulling down a fantastic mark.

A special mention goes to Deklen Ivey who is really starting to establish himself as a strong, dependable defender who is willing to stand on the last line of defence and take on all comers.

Effort has been one theme for the Mighty Panthers throughout their football career, but the most important factor of also having fun was not forgotten this year. As always, it has been great to see the team along with parents attend training and game day each week and enjoy the fun that can be had running around with a footy in hand.

Thanks to all parents and Panthers for a great 2021.

Travis Doye
Coach Year 4 Panthers



YEAR 4 PANTHERS



YEAR 5 COACH REPORT

**2021 WAS A BREAKOUT YEAR FOR THE
YEAR 5 TEAM.**

**THE BOYS HAD A REWARDING SEASON,
PUTTING TOGETHER SOME CONSISTENTLY
GOOD FOOTBALL THAT HAD US SINGING THE
KATS SONG MORE OFTEN THAN NOT.**

We were lucky to welcome some new players and personalities into the team, who all slotted in and made an impact.

Improvement came for the team by way of looking for a team-mate in a better position, commitment in the contest and a never give up attitude.

It was great to see everyone playing the role they were given on game-day, rotating through different lines, maintaining their structure and playing to the game plan.

It's really pleasing to see the development of each of the players and I'm sure all the parents would have been proud of their efforts throughout the year.

Well done: Aiden, Benj, Connor, Darcy, Dylan, Eli, Isaac, Jacob, Jamie, Kane, Lior, Lucas J, Lucas B, Michael, Mitch, Peter and Zack. We hope to see you all back next season.

Thanks to all the parents for their help and support throughout the year, at training and on gameday: setting up and packing up, goal umpiring, first aid, washing jumpers, time keeping, and helping out on the BBQ.

Special thanks to Meredith for her fantastic team management and to Jeremy for his excellent assistance in coaching this great group of kids.

Jack Nicolas

Coach Year 5



YEAR 5



YEAR 5-6 GIRLS COACH REPORT

2021 SAW SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR THE YEAR 5/6 WINNACOTT GIRLS. BEING SHORT ON NUMBERS, THE WINNACOTT KATS COMBINED WITH THE YEAR 5/6 BIBRA LAKE BANDICOOTS TO FORM A NEW TEAM THAT WOULD STILL REPRESENT BOTH CLUBS.

Training was split between the two clubs home grounds and the girls played under each club's colours on a week-to-week basis.

After a couple of training sessions, it was clear a new name was needed to bring the girls together as a team, and the Bandikatz Bratz was formed. It was a slow start for the Bratz. There were a few new girls to the sport and we were a bit slow to get training under way so it took a while for the girls to develop their skills and work together as one team instead of two.

By halfway through the year things began to change. The girls were more confident in themselves and their abilities and soon they were able to match it with the other teams point for point. Everyone had a role to play and they did it well.

It is never easy bringing two groups together with such a wide range of personalities, but I couldn't be prouder of how the Bratz finished the year. Watching them improve every week and grow as a team was an honour for me and I look forward to what next year holds for the Bratz.

Tim Bartlett

Coach Year 5/6 Girls



YEAR 5-6 GIRLS



YEAR 6 COACH REPORT

OUR 2021 CAMPAIGN KICKED OFF WITH SOME FRESH FACES TO THE TEAM. CHASE AND LACHY JOINED THE TEAM FOR THE FIRST TIME WHEREAS CADEN, FLYNN AND JOSEPH RETURNED AFTER TAKING TIME AWAY FROM THE GAME. THESE GUYS WERE WELCOME ADDITIONS TO THE TEAM AND MEANT WE HAD A HEALTHY SQUAD OF 22 PLAYERS FOR THE SEASON.

Adjusting to new teammates and a significant step-up in the quality of the opposition meant it was a season that presented many challenges that tested the players resolve and perseverance. It was great to see the team embrace the challenges which will be a great learning experience that will help their development as individuals and as a team.

This was our final year in 'Junior' football before making the transition into 'Youth' football, which sees the introduction of official scoring, a ladder and finals. Consequently, the objective for the season was to reinforce the fundamental skills the players have developed in recent years. We introduced an extra training session each week to focus on improving skills and it was really pleasing to see how well supported it was by all players. The enthusiasm to improve their skills (despite some very ordinary weather!!) was amazing and there was a huge improvement over the course of the season. This will hold them in good stead for the future.

A big thank you to Ben, Cooper and Harvey for their help with these sessions, the players really enjoy having older players showing an interest and contributing towards their development.

Whilst all players continued to play in all positions, it is starting to become evident that players were developing a liking for certain roles. Sam and Lachy played great footy when playing in the midfield where they could attack

the ball and provide a link between the backs and the forward line. Similarly, Liam V and Josh Bajada enjoyed being able to use their skills and ability to read the play to ensure they won the ball and then set up a teammate. Ed, Chase and Josh Burnby threw themselves into any contest, their strength and commitment were awesome to watch as they carved up the opposition. The strong overhead marking of Oli and Hugo always made them strong key position targets or fantastic at intercepting in defence. Jake, Jasper and Flynn played their best footy as dangerous options in our attacking half, always looking for opportunities score. Liam A and Luke T used their pace and evasive skills to take advantage of any loose balls around goals. Mike, Jacob and Luke B loved playing a defensive role, where they were able to shut down any opposition. Angus and Caden were great across half back, equally comfortable stopping the opposition or setting up attacking forward plays. . Joseph, Taj and Max loved the physicality of any contest and the opportunity to lay bruising tackles, all were important ball winners who never took a backward step.

The group improved dramatically as the season progressed and there was an enormous difference between their game in comparison to the beginning of the year. The boys should be immensely proud of their performances and the way in which they conducted themselves all year. They are a formidable group, and it is a pleasure to watch them in action each weekend.

One of the highlights for the team was the opportunity to participate in the Round 8 AFL Little League at half time of the Eagles V Essendon game in front of 42,000 at Optus Stadium, an experience they will never forget.

This year we were also fortunate to celebrate 50 game milestones for five of our players, Taj, Angus, Hugo, Ed and Liam A. All are popular members of the team, and it was great to see everyone enjoy celebrating their achievement with them.

Thanks to all the parents who helped during the season, whether it be at training or on game day. It really boosts their confidence knowing that someone is there to watch, encourage and take an interest in their football journey. Also, a big thank you to Doug and Damo who did an exceptional job as Assistant Coach and Team Manager. They were always there to help, provide advice and make everything run smoothly.

I could not be prouder of the team, they are an excellent group who are always keen, enthusiastic and ready to learn. Congratulations and well done.

Matt Templeton

Coach Year 6



YEAR 6



YEAR 8 COACH REPORT

THE TWO YEAR 7 TEAMS FROM THE 2020 SEASON, THE PANTHERS AND THE TIGERS CAME TOGETHER THIS YEAR TO FORM ONE YEAR 8 WINNACOTT KATS TEAM.

We commenced pre-season training in March at South Beach and it wasn't long before the enthusiastic group of 24 boys started to work hard and within a short space of time, new friendships were formed, old friendships were solidified, and the boys all gelled quickly as a group.

Their commitment to training continued when we moved to Winnacott and Alan Edwards on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I know the boys didn't always like it, but we focussed on running and fitness at training as well as ball skills and together along with having a full bench it made a big difference on game day. We were able to rotate frequently and have fresh legs in every game and because of the boys' fitness they could run the game out when other teams couldn't.

We won our first five games comfortably, and the team was rewarded for their efforts and moved up a grade. We remained undefeated in Red division for the remainder of the season except for one game in Round 10 when we lost to Mundijong Blue by one point. The boys were absolutely gutted, and it was a bitter pill to swallow.

The team were a bit slow to wake up in a few games this season, but they knew they couldn't afford to be asleep

against Kelmscott in Round 11 especially as they were coming off the back of a loss the week before.

We kicked away in the first quarter only to end up losing control of the game by half time. However, the boys were still feeling the previous week's loss, and it motivated them to pull together, and they ended up getting across the line by 22 points.

We won the remaining three games comfortably and went into the finals as minor Premiers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank some special people for a fantastic season:

Trevor Smith, my Assistant Coach, thanks for all your help. I've thoroughly enjoyed coaching with you this season and couldn't have done it without your help. Sam Visser, our runner, thanks for your efforts, mate. We'll miss having you in the box next year and we'll also miss the whole Visser family, good luck on your move. Belinda Griffin, for being the First Aider for the majority of our games. Elke Dous for her amazing photos of the boys in action. Liam Dunscombe for helping at pre-season training and the early part of the season after I had surgery. It was much ap-

preciated, as he has a lot of other commitments. AJ Dunscombe for helping Trev and I with drills and scratch matches at training.

Our team is lucky enough to have a great group of parents, thank you to everyone who helped on game day and for being at the games cheering the boys on week in and week out, rain, hail, or shine.

Finally, Nat Matthews and Clare Hobson for being the best Team Managers in the business. They put in a huge amount of time and effort to keep everything running smoothly in the background and all Trev and I do is turn up to training and game day and coach the boys. You are both rockstars!

I have saved the best for last. Thank you to the group of 24 boys that I have had the honour and privilege of coaching this year. You are the greatest bunch of boys, and I can't put into words how proud I am of you all.

Go Kats!!

Mark Strachan
Coach Year 8



YEAR 8



YEAR 9 COACH REPORT

BEING A NEW COACH TO THE CLUB AND WITH SEVERAL NEW PLAYERS COMING INTO THE TEAM THERE WAS A FAIR BIT OF GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER WHEN WE KICKED OFF OUR PRE-SEASON BACK IN MARCH.

It didn't take long however to work out that this was a fantastic group of young men who were more than willing to take on instruction and work together with a real desire to win games of football. It was especially pleasing to see the way the new players (and the new coach) were welcomed by both the players and parents alike and made to feel like part of the Kats family from day one. Not only did it go a long way to making it easier to coach the group, it made for a truly enjoyable season for all involved. Thank you to the players and parents.

After a solid pre-season that involved a lot of running and fitness (Mark's suicide runs were a team favourite!) we hit the season with a simple game plan that revolved around defending and working hard in both directions.

We got off to a great start with a solid two goal win over South Coogee that saw our game plan hold up and give us some confidence for the season. However, we quickly learned that with only three on the bench we might be in for a long season, when we picked up some early injuries that saw players having to sit out games.

Fortunately, we got great support from our Year 8 team who were able to send up players throughout the early part of the season when we were short. A very big thanks to the boys who helped us out.

Even more fortunately we picked up three players from Clontarf Aboriginal College in Deon, Nye and Shannon (Junior). Not only were these three terrific young men who brought a bunch of character to the group they also brought some extra skill and dash that really helped our team balance and having an extra three players meant we were able to manage players and our rotations a lot easier. I could not be prouder of the way the team wrapped their arms around these boys and made sure they felt like part of the team from day one.

While we had a simple game plan it required a lot of hard work and focus to make sure we got our positioning right and that our effort was directed to where it mattered and not into chasing oppo-

nents off the ball. This meant the season was a constant evolution, but to the boy's credit they all bought into the process, and we enjoyed a lot of incredibly good wins, a few of them great comebacks. We finished second on the ladder and only lost four games all season, none of which were easy victories for our opponents.

Most importantly the boys really came together as a team and developed a real belief in themselves and our game plan. Add to that a never say die attitude that would hold us in good stead for the finals. And what a final series it was!

After finishing second to Kwinana in the regular season and splitting our games against them we faced them first up in the semi-finals. After a combative first half that saw both sides play some great football, they got hold of us in the third and we went into the final quarter three goals down.

They then jumped us out of the blocks with the first two goals of the fourth quarter to build a solid lead. But as we had done all season we refused to lay down and fought back hard to bring the deficit back to five points with two minutes to play. With the momentum back in our favour we were able to drive the ball forward and an Archie Tames goal with a minute and a half to play saw us snatch the lead back. Another solid centre square contest saw us gain possession and we were able to hang on for a thrilling win and a trip to the grand final.

There are simply not enough words to describe the effort and contribution of each player, throughout the entire season. I could not be prouder of each one of you for all the effort you gave this season and for the way you came together to learn and to work hard for each other. On top of that you are a terrific bunch and I loved sharing the highs, the lows and the laughs with you across the season. It was a real privilege to coach you and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

To the parents thank you for your support, both for the team all season long and especially for me personally. Your words of encouragement and support throughout season were much appreciated. This is

a fantastic group of young men both on and off the field and that's a true reflection of a fantastic parent group.

To Rachel Roberts and Anthony Muirson thanks for all the hard work as our first aiders and being there to patch the boys up and get them back on the field. There was a lot to contend with and your assistance was much appreciated.

Finally, a special thank you to rest of the coaching team. Gloria Fitzgerald – Team Manager extraordinaire. I can't stress how much this fantastic lady does for this team. Not only did she go out of her way to support me as a new coach so that I didn't have to worry about anything other than training and the games, but she made sure everything just happened like clockwork. Thanks G couldn't have done it without you.

Mark Antonio – couldn't have asked for a better assistant. Always positive (for the coach and the players), and full of energy and enthusiasm that rubs off on the team along with plenty of good advice at training and on game day to help us get through. Thanks, Mark for such a massive contribution.

Brad Pike – our game day runner who I put to a lot of use with so many messages every week. Also, a constant assistant and positive presence at training every night throughout the season. Thanks Brad, I could not have got through all those drills (and game day messages) without your support.

I'd also like to pass on a special thanks to Craig Nelson who went out of his way to share his knowledge of the team and provide a sounding board whenever needed, along with some very helpful opposition scouting. For a coach with no prior involvement with the team it was invaluable support.

Shane Redhead
Coach Year 9



YEAR 9



YEAR 9-10 GIRLS COACH REPORT

THIS YEAR WE HAD THREE GIRLS TEAMS, YEAR 5/6 COMBINED WITH BIBRA LAKE JFC, YEAR 7/8 COMBINED WITH FREMANTLE CITY DOCKERS JFC AND YEAR 9/10 WINNACOTT JFC.

Congratulations to the Year 7/8 combined team who won the flag, well done.

The start of the Year 9/10 season saw a number of girls who had not played footy before join the team.

After a couple of games the girls started to find their way and continued to develop and improve every week. They never gave up, even when they were playing teams with a number of players on their bench, the girls always had a red hot go, all the while displaying great sportswomanship.

After coming very close a couple of times, to see their efforts rewarded with a win was fantastic.

A big thank you to Laura (Team Manager), and Paul (Assistant Coach) for all your help this year, and also to the parents who helped throughout the year.

Well done girls, you have done the club proud.

Looking forward to 2022.

Phil Fox

Coach Year 9/10 Girls



YEAR 9-10 GIRLS



YEAR 10 COACH REPORT

AS PER PREVIOUS YEARS, OUR PRE-SEASON COMMENCED IN SOME TESTING TEMPERATURES IN MID-FEBRUARY AT WEBBER RESERVE, BUT IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR THE BOYS TO BUILD A SOLID PLATFORM OF FITNESS TO PUNCH OUT THE HOUR-LONG SESSIONS.

We welcomed five new members into the squad in 2021 - Luke Pitman, Bailey Mexsom, Elliot Whittaker, Ky Hehir and Henry Mattner, with all of them settling in quickly and making an immediate impact. A highlight of the pre-season was an afternoon down at Coogee Beach. Whilst it was challenging on the lungs, it ended up being a magnificent team building session with the boys cooling off on the pontoon post-session as the sun set.

The week before the start of our campaign in the Year 10 White division, the team elected its leadership group. We thank Ben Elliott and his deputies, Nathan Martin and Henry Mattner, who performed their roles with passion and energy throughout the season.

First up was Roleystone at Springdale Park. The team simply gelled, in a fantastic start to the season and instant reward for a long pre-season - Kats by 113 points. The next four rounds produced wins against Willetton on Mother's Day by 26 points, Booragoon by 150 points, Rossmoyne by 208 points and then Kardinya by 71 points. Five wins from five games and a healthy percentage of 52.9% resulted in the team's promotion to the Year 10 Red division for the rest of the season.

The Kats faced off against South Coogee in round six. South Coogee had also won their first five games in the Red division

and were the benchmark of the competition. The team started brightly, but instantly felt the step up in game intensity. Inaccurate kicking allowed South Coogee back into the game before they eventually ran over the Kats by 17 points. The boys were proud of their efforts and took confidence into future games. Typical wintery conditions returned in rounds seven and eight verses Hammond Park and East Fremantle, with the boys recording solid 27 and 3 point victories respectively. The East Fremantle game was our Vice Captain Nathan Martin's 100th game with the Kats, but sadly Nat suffered a season ending Salter Harris Type 3 Femur Fracture that required two pins to assist in the recovery.

With the injury toll mounting, the boys bravely battled on but found the speed and skill of the Applecross boys too strong in the pouring rain in round nine, then bounced back to record a morale boosting win verses Cockburn in round ten by 29 points. This had the team sitting in fourth position with a 3 win:2 loss record after the first five games of the competition. A surprise last minute forfeit by Armadale resulted in the team moving into third place and the dream of playing finals in September was a definite possibility. To guarantee this we needed to win at least two out of the final three games.

The boys struggled early against a phys-

ical Attadale in round 12, however never once considered throwing in the towel. Our rotations were restricted when Hayden Sharpe, who was playing his 50th game, suffered yet another broken wrist. What is it with injuries to our Milestone game players? To the team's credit they outscored Attadale in the last three quarters of the game, but still ended up going down by three goals.

We had a quick turnaround during the next week with our round 13 fixture verses Jandakot on Friday night and wowzers what a game!! A packed ground had the boys pumped for a good showing, knowing a win would keep us in with a chance of playing finals. We were down early, with the Jets quick ruck and mid-field division and a clever floating half back that blocked our forward movement dominating play. At quarter time we implemented tagging roles and rotated names on the whiteboard with the immediate impact of crawling back to lead by the barest of margins at the main break. The contest remained tight, but efficient forward movement by the Kats resulted in our lead extending to six points with a quarter to play. Game on in the fourth! Jandakot exploded out of the blocks and bounced out to a two-goal margin. However, the Kats continued to surge and with 90 seconds left in the game, the boys finished a fantastic passage of play on the outer wing to grab the lead by four points. Jandakot won the



resulting centre bounce, and they continued to pepper their goals, but the Kats stood strong to record a memorable 3-point victory. The post-game celebrations were intense, and I have never heard the club song sung with so much passion.

Entering the final round in second position we weren't guaranteed a final spot, with Bull Creek Leeming and Jandakot in 5th and 6th, still within striking distance. It was a simple case of win, and we play in September, lose and its fingers crossed. Round 14 verses Bull Creek Leeming was a tough game. Bull Creek Leeming are a physical side that used their run-off half back to hit up their creative forwards all season. An early concussion injury suffered by Zac and a torn hamstring for Elliot, left us with only one rotation on the bench. Down by four goals, in the shed at half time Harvey Templeton delivered an inspiration half time speech – something you would have expected from Barassi, John Kennedy or even Ken Hinkley. It had the desired response and early in the third the margin was reduced to 11 points. Sadly, the boys simply ran out of legs, and although still fighting on went down by 27 points.

Thinking our finals dream was over we said our thankyou's and packed up. Then a glimmer of hope as text messages started to flood the phone – in the final game of the round, Jandakot was pushing Attadale - 29 points a-piece at half time. Just maybe, there was a glimmer of hope. 45 minutes later the news came through – Jandakot had got the choccies by one point leaving the Kats, Bombers and the Jets all on the same points, but

with a superior percentage, the Kats had forced their way back into the top four – we are finals bound for the first time.

We played our Semi-final at Marmion Reserve against Bull Creek Leeming. We knew what to expect from the previous week and the boys played out of their skins to lead by two goals at the first break. Bull Creek Leeming responded in the second with the breeze and both teams went into half time with not a point separating them. Sadly, that's where the dream ended for the Kats with the team unable to kick a "6-pointer" in the second half verses Bull Creek Leeming kicking five. Still the boys played out the game with spirit and pride and will learn from the finals experience.

Congratulations to Alex Ferguson and Hayden Sharpe on playing their 50th game and Nathan Martin, Ben Elliott, Cooper Elliott, Xavier Curr, Elliot Whitaker and Joshua Martin on playing their 100th game of footy throughout the season.

Injuries provide opportunities for other boys to shine, and I wish to acknowledge the Year 9 players that played for the 10's throughout the season – congratulations and thanks Cahil Fitzgerald, Archie Tames, Sam Nelson and Jamie Richardson.

I cannot thank enough the contributions made by my fellow coaches – Tyson Pittard and Rob Martin. Again, it has been a pleasure to collaborate with you and our boys are extremely fortunate to have you guide them in their developing footy careers.

A huge thank you to the best Team Manager in the business, Catherine Elliott. We

all appreciate your ability to manage the team administration so efficiently that enables the team to run so smoothly. To Cameron and Catherine Elliott, I know that I can speak from all the players and families, we all eagerly await your weekly photo slideshow, so again thank you for your contributions.

To our parent group, thank you for all your support and willingness to contribute all season.

Finally, to a super bunch of young men – congratulations on a great season. We are all incredibly proud of the way you have gelled as a team, your work ethic, resilience, skills and the respectful competitiveness you display when-ever you pull on the Kats jumper. Let's go one week deeper in the season in 2022!

Rob Davidson

Coach Year 10



YEAR 10



YEAR 11/12 COACH REPORT

THE YEAR 11/12'S 2021 PRE-SEASON COMMENCED IN THE FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY, WITH THE BOYS TRAINING TWO NIGHTS PER WEEK. THIS YEAR, NUMBERS ATTENDING PRE-SEASON WAS IMPACTED AS TEN BOYS WERE SELECTED TO TRAIN WITH THE EAST FREMANTLE AND SOUTH FREMANTLE FUTURES 16'S AND COLT'S SQUADS.

Four successive Grand Finals for three premierships throughout years 7-10 resulted in the boys being elevated into the combined Year 11/12 Blue division. This meant the team would be playing against teams made up of predominately Year 12 players, so we knew it was going to be a challenging season.

Our first game was an away game against Jandakot Jets, a very strong team. The boys fought hard all day against a bigger bodied team and scores were level at 3 quarter time. Despite a fantastic team performance, the Kats could not hold on and lost by 14 points.

The next six rounds would be frustrating, but competitive. The boys had a big win against Bull Creek/Leeming, then lost the next five games by no more than 12 points.

We needed to win four of our last six games to remain in finals contention, plus have a couple of results from other games to go our way.

Round 14, our last game for the season was against Canning Vale who we defeated in the 2020 Grand Final.

Canning Vale recruited well in the off season and were definitely stronger this year. Having already lost to them twice this season by 2 and 7 points, we knew it would be a big challenge. A win would secure a place in the top four and a spot in the finals.

In a tight game, the boys hit the in front in the last quarter to win by 14 points and finished the season with a higher percentage than Canning Vale, in 4th position on the ladder. However, due to a couple of indiscretions during the season, and resulting loss of E points, this relegated the team to 5th position at the end of the year.

It was a learning experience for the squad this season. We all enjoy playing this great game and winning, however playing in the spirit of the game and respecting umpires and their decisions is paramount.

I'd like to farewell Jack Blurton, Charlie Lynn and Charlie Miller, our only Year 12's for this season. Jack your maturity within this team has been awesome. Charlie Lynn, who was only at our club for one season, has become a bit of a cult hero. Charlie Miller was a quiet achiever in just a couple of games for the side. Thanks boys.

Well done to our leadership team in Jack Johnson (C), Ethan Yerkovich (VC) and Liam Piper (DVC).

Many thanks to my Assistant Coaches, Liam Dunscombe, Dave Piper and Jason Morrone for all your help through the season, it can't be done without you guys.

To our Team Manager Jodie Zanolli, thanks for all your pre, post-game and weekly organisation, you're the best!

Thanks also to John Zanolli, the man with the Magic Fingers, our First Aid Officer and Physio.

Finally, a huge thank you to our wonderful parents for all your help throughout the season.

I have had the privilege to watch this group over the years, grow from boys into amazing young men. With the right attitude and commitment in 2022, this group of boys have every chance of finishing off their last junior football season as Year 12's at this great club on a high.

Go Kats and bring on 2022

Anthony Yerkovich
Coach Year 11/12



YEAR 11/12



METRO SOUTH FAIREST AND BEST

The 2021 Metro South Fairest and Best Night was held over two nights at South Fremantle Oval.

Congratulations to the Winnacott Kats players named below who were in the top 10 for their age group and division.

YEAR	PLAYER	NUMBER OF VOTES/PLACE
Year 7/8 Girls Red Division	Shayla Templeton	8 (equal 3rd place)
	Sascha Thomson	4 (equal 6th place)
Year 8 Red Division	Ryan Bateman	12 (equal 5th place)
	Mitchell Atkinson	5 (equal 9th place)
	Kai Griffin	4 (equal 10th place)
Year 9 Red Division	Archie Tames	14 (5th place)
	Sam Nelson	10 (equal 7th place)
	Cahil Fitzgerald	9 (equal 8th place)
Year 10 Red Division	Ky Hehir	7 (6th place)
	Henry Mattner	3 (equal 10th place)
	Zac Gorton	3 votes (equal 10th place)
Year 11/12 Blue Division	Chadd Dunscombe	14 (4th place)
	Terrance Munro	7 (equal 8th place)
	Jack Blurton	7 (equal 9th place)
	Callan Albrecht	6 votes (equal 9th place)

EAST FREMANTLE DISTRICT YOUTH COACH OF THE YEAR

Winnacott Kats Year 11/12 Coach, **Anthony Yerkovich** was awarded the East Fremantle District 2021 Youth Coach of the Year award at the Metro South Presentation Night on Monday 6th September.

Anthony has been a Coach at the Kats since 2009, starting as an Auskick Coach. He has led a mostly unchanged side to play in 4 Grand Finals and win 3 premierships.

Congratulations Yerko on this outstanding achievement and well deserved recognition.



WKJFC AWARDS 2021

2021 FAIREST AND BEST NIGHT

The Kats 2021 Fairest and Best Night, held at the East Fremantle Football Club on Saturday 9th October was a celebration of club, team and individual achievements. The amazing football talents of many of our Kats players and the wonderful contributions of our invaluable Kats volunteers were acknowledged and on the night.

2021 FAIREST AND BEST AWARDS

Team	Winner	2nd Place	3rd Place
Year 7	Noah Capelinha	N/A	N/A
Year 7/8 Girls	N/A	Shayla Templeton	N/A
Year 8	Mitchell Atkinson	Kai Griffin	Jez Dunscombe
Year 9	Sam Nelson	Archie Tames	Cahil Fitzgerald Jamie Richardson
Year 9/10 Girls	Avaree Garrett	Tahlia Dempster Ashleigh Martinez	Hailey Headland
Year 10	Henry Mattner	Ky Hehir	Nicholas Davidson
Year 11/12	Chadd Dunscombe	Callan Albrecht	Liam Piper



Noah Capelinha



Shayla Templeton



Mitchell Atkinson



Sam Nelson



Avaree Garrett



Henry Mattner



Chadd Dunscombe

Congratulations to all the players!

CLUB PERSON OF THE YEAR

The 2021 Club Person of the Year is **Jodie Zanolli**.



Jodie is a long-time servant of the club, joining the committee in 2013 and has contributed an incredible amount in many roles over many years.

Not only can Jodie be seen every week in the role of Team Manager of the Y11/12 team but also has the club roles of Secretary, Website Manager and Merchandise Manager.

Furthermore, Jodie is instrumental to the day-to-day operation of the club. She is a person who will help out in any way she can and is regularly seen setting-up on match day, in the canteen, cleaning up, in the role of match day official and generally helping wherever she can.

Jodie also does an amazing amount of work behind the scenes. Jodie co-ordinates the team of the week reports, social media, home ground fixtures, club functions, merchandise, the Fairest and Best Night and the Katch Up magazine - to name a few. Jodie is a phenomenal asset to the club. Her passion and tireless work over many years has helped shape the Winnacott Kats into the club it is today.

Congratulations Jodie on receiving the recognition you deserve.



WKJFC AWARDS 2021

JUNIOR CLUB PERSON OF THE YEAR

The Junior Club Person award is presented to a Junior member of the Kats who during the season has volunteered their time to the club. The Junior Club Person for season 2021 is **Liam Zanolli**.



Liam (Fish) Zanolli has assisted at club merchandise afternoons and helped out in the canteen on Open Night, the Year 9 Semi Finals (hosted by Winnacott) and at the end of season Junior Wind Up.

Finding volunteers throughout the season can be difficult, therefore it is very heartening when a Junior member of the Kats steps up to volunteer and give back to the club. People like this are the key to the club's future.

Many thanks Liam for your dedication to the Winnacott Kats not only as a player, but also as a volunteer. Congratulations.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Life membership is awarded to a member of the Kats who has volunteered at the club for a minimum of five years and whose contribution to the club has been outstanding during their time at the club.



The Winnacott Kats Junior Football Club congratulates **Judy Mancini** on being awarded the 2021 Life Membership Award.

Judy has been a Kats member for over 10 years and joined the Kats committee in 2016.

Judy has held many roles during her time at the club, Team Manager, Registrar, MDO and First Aid Officer. Judy can also frequently be seen assisting in the canteen on game day or behind the BBQ. Judy has also dedicated many hours setting up for club functions, merchandise afternoons and the Fairest and Best night.

Judy has a heart of gold and her contribution to the club is admirable.

JUNIOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The Winnacott Kats Junior Football Club awards Junior Life Membership to players who have played a minimum of 125 games for the Kats or have been a registered Kats player for 10 years.

In season 2021 Junior Life Membership was awarded to the following players, both from the Kats Year 11/12 team.

Liam Zanolli
Fraser Hickling



KANE LUCAS MEDALLION

The Kane Lucas Medallion is presented to the player voted as being the 'best on ground' in a Grand Final.

The votes are cast using a 5,4,3,2,1 system, with ten individual people (committee members, coaches and team staff) voting to select the 'best on ground'.



The medallion is named after Kane Lucas, the first Winnacott Kats Junior Football Club player to play in the AFL.

The recipient of the Kane Lucas Medallion for the Kats Year 8 team was **Mitchell Atkinson**. Mitchell had a fantastic game and was just too good for his opposing players. He always seemed to be in the right place at the right time, whether it be intercepting play from the opposition or providing a strong lead for his own team mates.

The Kats Year 9 player awarded the Kane Lucas Medallion was **Zac Carlino**. Zac's ability to out mark the rival players and help to create a strong line of defence for the Kats was outstanding. Zac's contribution in the Grand Final undoubtedly helped the Kats secure the victory.



WKJFC WOMEN'S MVP

The WKJFC Women's MVP Award is a new award this season for the Winnacott Kats Junior Football Club.

The WKJFC Women's MVP Award is presented to the player who is voted as best on ground in a Grand Final in an all-female competition.

The votes are based on a 5,4,3,2,1 system, with ten individual people voting to select the 'best on ground' player.

In 2021 the Kats saw its first all-female team play in and win a Grand Final, the Year 7/8 Girls Winnacott/Freo City Dockers.

Congratulations and well done to **Shayla Templeton** on being presented with the inaugural WKJFC Women's MVP Award.



WKJFC AWARDS 2021

BRAD PULS COACHING RECOGNITION AWARD

The Brad Puls Coaching Recognition Award is named after Brad Puls, Winnacott Coach 2013 - 2015. Premiership Coach in 2013 and 2014.

Brad was a great Winnacott club person and Coach and is sadly missed by all. The Winnacott Kats Junior Football Club would like to thank Robyn, Darcy and Max Puls for attending the Fairest and Best Night and presenting this award.

The 2021 Brad Puls Coaching Recognition Award is awarded to **Mark Strachan**.

Mark has been involved in coaching at the Winnacott Kats Junior Football club since 2015. Mark's first role was as an assistant Auskick Coach, moving to Auskick and then Junior Coach in the following years.

In season 2021 Mark took on the role of Youth Coach for the Kats Year 8 team.

Mark successfully merged the two Year 7 teams from 2020 to form one new team. Merging teams can be difficult to navigate, however Mark used the foundation of the Year 7 Panthers and Year 7 Tigers teams to create an inclusive and strong Year 8 side.

Mark is fair and respectful to all of the Year 8 players and is able to identify each players strengths and weaknesses and place them in a position on the field that best suits both the individual player and the team. Mark has worked with every player to further develop their footy skills, promote sportsmanship and understand the values of being part of a team.

In season 2021 Mark led his team to their first Grand Final and premiership win.

Congratulations Mark on being awarded the Brad Puls Coaching Recognition Award for 2021.



Darcy Puls, Mark Strachan and Max Puls

COACH'S AWARD

At the end of each season Coaches for the Youth teams are asked to select a player to be awarded the Coach's Award in their team. The Winnacott Kats are fortunate to have many dedicated, respectful and talented players in each Youth team. This is not an easy task for any of the Coaches.

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2021 Coach's Award!

Team	Name
Year 8	Hamish Morris and Bailey Emmert
Year 9	Oscar Courtney
Year 9/10 Girls	Chelsea Martinez
Year 10	Hayden Sharpe
Year 11/12	Fraser Hickling



Hamish Morris



Bailey Emmert



Oscar Courtney



Chelsea Martinez



Hayden Sharpe



Fraser Hickling



TO OUR SUCCESS

EAST FREMANTLE FOOTBALL CLUB LYNN MEDAL

Congratulations to **Kyle Baskerville**, former Winnacott Kats JFC player on being awarded 2021 East Fremantle Football Club's highest individual honour, The Lynn Medal.



Kyle started the 2021 season as one of the competitions best shut down small defenders, but it was the inspired move to the midfield that saw the 2019 Rising Star take his game to the next level. Over the last 7 games as an inside mid, Baskerville averaged 27.9 disposals, 13 contested and 8 clearances to be one of the prime performing midfielders in the WAFL. Going into the last round of votes, Baskerville lead Jupp by 1 vote, with a 43-disposal game rubber stamping the win with 157 votes.

Congratulations too to **Luke Strnadica**, also a former Kats player. Luke finished in 4th position with 139 votes. Luke finished 3rd for hit outs and 4th for hit outs to advantage in the WAFL to establish himself as one of the competitions premier ruckman.



The boy's indigenous jumper was designed by local artist Tehya Jamieson, with the girl's jumper also including artwork by the Dykman family.



THE HAT BURNING

Early in the 2021 season the Year 9/10 girls decided that they would train two nights a week. Paul Wright (Assistant Coach) would run the Tuesday session and we both ran the Friday session. About halfway through the season on a Friday afternoon, the girls revealed that Paul had told them that when they won their first game, they could burn his West Coast Eagles hat.



Now I've known Paul for a number of years and can't ever remember seeing him without said hat firmly on his head, in fact I believe the only time he didn't have it on was at the team photo session this year. Round 13 Winnacott v Willetton, the second last round of the season, saw the girls win. The following Friday after training up she went.

Phil Fox
Year 9/10 Coach

INDIGENOUS JUMPERS

In season 2021 the Winnacott Kats Junior Football Club proudly unveiled our new indigenous playing jumper.

The introduction of an indigenous jumper is in recognition of the contribution of our local indigenous community, Kat's members and players, as well as a renewed affiliation with the Clontarf Foundation.

The jumpers were proudly worn by the Year 11/12 team to recognise and celebrate the importance of NAIDOC week.

WAFL GRAND FINAL PARADE

As the premiership winners in their respective age group and division the Winnacott Kats Year 8 and Year 9 teams were invited to take part in the WAFL Grand Final Parade at Optus Stadium on Saturday 2nd October.

The Kats Year 8, Year 9 and the Fremantle City Dockers/Winnacott Year 7/8 Girls teams, excitedly marched around Optus Stadium, resplendent in club colours. All three teams proudly represented their club.



TO OUR SUCCESS

BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLE

On Saturday 12th June the Kats were kept busy cooking sausages for the customers at Bunnings O'Connor.

Many thanks to our wonderful Kats parents, players and committee members for helping out on the day.



YEAR 7/8 GIRLS GRAND FINAL REPORT

THE WINNACOTT YEAR 7/8 GIRLS FORMED AN ALLIANCE WITH THE FREMANTLE CITY DOCKERS YEAR 7/8 GIRLS THAT ALLOWED BOTH CLUBS THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIELD A TEAM FOR THE 2021 SEASON.

The girls trained on Wednesday and Friday nights which gave them plenty of opportunity to get to know each other and forge team comradery. It only took a few weeks for the group to develop a strong friendship, with each team welcoming members from the other club with open arms.

It was a slow start to the season and took a couple of games to adapt to new teammates, but they soon found their groove and went on to have a very successful season. The girls won the last nine games of the regular season and finished on top of the table. This meant the team went straight into the 2nd Semi Final against Kwinana.

Kwinana provided the Freo City Dockers/Winnacott Kats with a great contest during the year, however on the day the Dockers/Kats players were too strong and secured a comfortable 45-point victory and booked themselves a place in the Grand Final. Final score Dockers/Kats 8.7.55 to Kwinana 1.4.10.

The Grand Final was played in perfect conditions at Atwell Reserve in front of a great crowd, all keen to see a great game of football. It also happened to be the home ground of the opposition which added an extra challenge for the Dockers/Kats.

The Dockers/Kats got off to a great start, but weren't able to capitalise on the scoreboard, missing a few opportunities in front of goal after dominating most of the play in the 1st quarter. They went into the 1st break with an 8-point lead – Dockers/Kats 9 points to the Jets' solitary 1 point.

Again, the Dockers/Kats were the better team in the 2nd quarter, but the Jandakot Jets defence was resolute. However, the Docker/Kats increased the lead to 16 points going into the half time break and looked to be in control of the game.

The Jets came out after half time and showed why they deserved to be in the Grand Final. They kicked 3 goals for the term and went into the final quarter with a 1-point lead, setting up an exciting end to a wonderful game of football.

The Dockers/Kats Coach (Kurt) gave an inspiring speech at three quarter time and the girls woke up and got their heads into the game, they came out firing and ready for the contest to decide who would be 2021 Premiers.

The girls soon overturned the 1-point deficit after kicking an early goal in the final term. This settled their nerves and

the girl's played brilliant football and never gave the opposition a chance from thereon. They ended up resounding winners with a 19-point victory.

Final score – Freo City Dockers/ Winnacott Kats: 5.12.42 to Jandakot Jets: 3.5.23

It was a fitting end to a great season for the team.

It was a great team effort with every player having an impact in the game and contributing to the victory. With so many playing well, it was tough to pick one best player however on the day Shayla Templeton was voted Grand Final MVP for the victorious Dockers/ Kats.

A big thank you to the Fremantle City Dockers JFC for their contribution towards the combined team and making the Winnacott girls feel at home. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the year and have made some great friendships which will last a long time. They will always have a premiership to talk about!



YEAR 7/8 GIRLS GRAND FINAL



YEAR 8 GRAND FINAL REPORT

THIS WAS THE FIRST YEAR THE BOYS HAVE PLAYED FINALS FOOTY AFTER COVID THREW A SPANNER IN THE WORKS LAST YEAR.

We came up against Kelmscott again in the Semi Final, but this time the boys were hungrier than ever, and they didn't even give them a look in, and we won by 60 points.

This win put us straight through to the Grand Final which meant the boys all had a well-deserved rest the following Saturday. A few of the team made the trek to Mundijong to watch the Preliminary Final between Kelmscott and Canning Vale Teal to see who we would be playing in the Grand Final the following week. Canning Vale Teal were victorious, we last played them in Round 9 and we only won by 14 points, our narrowest win all season. We knew we had a tough game ahead of us.

The big day arrived, and it was a perfect day for footy, blue skies and only a slight breeze. The team were all there early to soak up the Grand Final atmosphere and watch the preceeding game.

Once the siren sounded, the Kats scored a quick goal, then a point but Canning Vale were never going to go down without a fight and the rest of the game were some of the most nerve-wracking moments of my life and I'm sure all the parents and Kats cheer squad felt the same. I think nerves may have gotten the better of the boys and they didn't play our usual run and carry brand of footy and made some fundamental mistakes. We were only one point up at three quarter time break and the only thing I said to the boys was to look over to the supporters who had cheered them on all season and do it for them.

The boys clicked into top gear in the final quarter and showed why we were the best team all season winning by a margin of 16 points to be the Premiership winning side.

You worked hard this season and you deserve to be the Premiers. I want to see every single one of you back next season ready to work even harder and add another Premiership trophy to the cabinet.

Mark Strachan

Coach Year 8



YEAR 8 GRAND FINAL



YEAR 9 GRAND FINAL REPORT

HAVING STAGED AN EPIC COMEBACK TO BEAT KWINANA IN THE SEMI-FINAL WE SQUARED OFF AGAINST THEM AGAIN IN THE GRAND FINAL.

As you would expect from the top two sides it was a fierce four quarter contest with both sides refusing to give an inch and it was genuinely one of the best games of junior football I have seen.

We got off to a great start bursting out of the blocks with the first goal coming from a clean centre clearance. While both teams looked to move the ball quickly the game tightened up with both teams applying plenty of pressure on the ball. Our defence stood firm and our mids got on top giving us plenty of inside 50's which we are able to capitalise on and saw us go into quarter time leading 5.2 to 3.1.

To Kwinana's credit they responded in the second quarter and their pressure saw us struggle to convert our opportunities as we kicked 1.5 in the term. Conversely Kwinana were able to use their pace to gain quick entries for easy conversions and we went into half time just in front 6.7 to 6.2. Unfortunately, we lost Cahill at half time who is one of our real on field leaders and who had been a massive contributor in our first half both in the ruck and across centre half back. It could have been easy for the boys to drop their heads at his loss, but to their credit they rallied around each other, and we shuffled the magnets.

The third quarter was frenetic. Both teams ramped up the pressure and there wasn't an easy possession to be had as the ball bounced from contest to contest. Despite the intense pressure, and Kwinana kicking a goal right on the siren, we managed to claim the quarter and we went into the final quarter with our noses still in front 7.11 to 7.5.

The final quarter started as the third had ended with the ball going end to end and the pressure through the roof. Both teams struggled to convert with a couple of posters and a few behinds before the Kats kicked truly. Kwinana though were far from done and they continued to pressure the Kats. Our defence did a great job to limit their impact, but the weight of entries saw them hit the front with 5 minutes to play.

As we had shown in the semi-final, we are not a team that is easily beat and the self-belief we had built through the season came to the fore as we simply refused to lay down. The relentless pressure we applied was ultimately rewarded when in scenes reminiscent of the semi-final, Archie Tames again, kicked a goal with a minute and a half remaining to see us snatch back the lead by a point. It was all we needed as the boys managed to hang on to take the flag.

Quite simply it was a brilliant game of football and in a game with that much pressure you simply can't win without a serious contribution and effort from every single player. It was a true team performance.

Congratulations to Archie Tames who was judged best on ground by the umpires and to Zac Carlino who won the Kane Lucas medal.

Shane Redhead
Coach Year 9



YEAR 9 GRAND FINAL



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