JUNE 2024

FOOTBALLISTIQ

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW LAMBTON FC JUNIORS AND ARNETTS FC

HOT NEWS

NLFC JUNIORS

FIELD VANDALISM AND WET WEATHER CAUSE CHAOS ACROSS APRIL AND MAY

With over 200mm of rain locally in April and a further 230mm of rain in May, fields were saturated to the point where games were postponed and training was cancelled across the second half of May, heading into June.
Senseless vandalism of Regent Park's playing surface by people in vehicles coupled with the huge rainfall totals rendered it unplayable in early May. Even when the field dries out, it remains unplayable until Council can repair the damage.
This is not the first time this field has been vandalised by vehicles - fencing would be an ideal deterrent and solution at this location.

NEW CLUB SIGNAGE COMING SOON AT NOVOCASTRIAN

ALL VOLUNTEERS NEED TO HAVE A VALID WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK - GET YOURS NOW!

OUR VALUES, VISION AND MISSION

New Lambton FC Juniors has adopted a set of Values to guide Club behaviour:

1. Wellbeing: We develop and promote a safe and supportive environment
2. Excellence: We strive for quality and improvement in everything we do
3. Integrity: We know and do what is right
4. Respect: We respect diverse views and opinions and act with integrity, and treat others as we expect to be treated

Our **WEIR Values** (Wellbeing, Excellence, Integrity and Respect) underpin everything we do as a Club, as well as how we expect all our players, volunteers and others to engage with one another and the community. Our Values help set our Club's Vision and Mission Statement.

Vision

For New Lambton FC Juniors to be the leading and most respected local community football club and to support and promote football to ensure it is the largest and most popular sport for males and females.

Mission

1. To provide for all our members a Club run to the highest standard, without limitation as to age, race, religion or gender.
2. To improve the publicity of, and public perception of, amateur football at the Club level, so as to foster the continued prosperity of the sport.
3. To encourage and assist new and current players wishing to participate in organised amateur football.
4. To provide high-quality facilities for the benefit of all our members and the wider community.
5. To provide a progression pathway for all our members, from grass-roots through to the highest level of football available.
6. To do all these things whilst having regard for the amateur nature of our membership, and therefore keeping Club / Player costs at the lowest possible level.

New Lambton FC Juniors understands the value of diversity, equity and inclusion and expects its members to treat each other and members of the community with dignity and respect. We are committed to creating an inclusive Club culture where everyone feels respected, valued and safe to contribute their opinions and talents to the success of the organisation so that we can drive positive community outcomes. We value diverse styles, experiences, and perspectives. People from diverse backgrounds (including but not limited to, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, people with diverse gender identities and sexualities, people from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, people with disability, and veterans) are welcome.

ARNETTS FC SEASON HAS KICKED OFF

Arnetts FC has commenced the 2024 season and a big thanks to every single player, parent and supporter, including those from our sponsor 4u Care and New Lambton FC Junior's Zone League teams who regularly attend training sessions and game days to help out, support, coach and mentor. A big thanks to all volunteers.

The coaches were very impressed with the skill of the players; it seems as they've been practicing in the off season! Sadly, it would appear the coaches have not and the skill of the coaches needs some work, as they let many goals through!

Both new and returning players had a great time and demonstrated qualities of personal best, teamwork and perseverance. In 2024, our Arnetts FC players range in age from 6 - 17 years.

Always remember - it's not too late to join the fun, as a player or as a volunteer!

To find out about Arnetts FC, contact them at: **arnetts@newlambtonfcjuniors.org.au**











COMING UP IN JUNE

JUNE 15 & 16 - ROUND 7 - PRIDE ROUND Celebrate the LGBTQI+ members of our community with Pride Round. Pride Round is June 14 – 16, coinciding with Pride Month. With a commitment to diversity and inclusion, Pride Round provides an opportunity to celebrate and support members of the LGBTQI+ community.

JUNE 25 & 26 - TEAM PHOTOS Newcastle School Portraits shall be doing the photos again this year.

Where: Club Kotara, 2 Howell St Kotara in the ground floor meeting room

Book Your Team's Slot Now: **https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ls-J3laH_Rp1l-DwgASgLwxZpFdn2KM62riokAg8VI8/edit?usp=sharing**

NOTE: bookings are one per Team, and should be made by the Team Manager or Coach. Teams shall be allocated 10 mins, please be early and come prepared.

JUNE 26 - TEAM MANAGER AND COMMITTEE MEETING We would like to take this opportunity to remind all Team Managers to come along to the regular monthly Club Committee meetings – if the Team Manager cannot make the meeting, please send a team delegate. ANYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETINGS.

7:00pm at Club Kotara - 2 Howell St Kotara

JUNE 29 & 30 - ROUND 9 - GOT YOUR BACK SISTA ROUND Got Your Back Sista was established as a registered charity in 2016, with a vision to see women and their children happy, thriving and living independently after escaping the trauma of family violence, in fact they've helped over 1,200 women. Got Your Back Sista offers benevolent relief and support to women and children escaping domestic violence and are at risk of living below the poverty line. They give them a hand up to begin again by providing furniture and household items to set up a safe home free from violence. They also empower women to thrive by running courses and programs to rebuild their confidence, self-esteem, physical and emotional wellbeing and create pathways to study and employment.

Dig deep to help Got Your Back Sista – one of our chosen charities.

We will also have one of our supporters The FootDr attending Novocastrian Park across this weekend to offer a range of services including advice on blister prevention, strapping and / or injury management. There will also be a free boot fitting / assessment to all NLFC players and a discount for family and friends of NLFC to be used during the 2024 season.

JULY 6 & 7 - ROUND 10 - INDIGENOUS ROUND Celebrate and recognise the contributions of First Nations members of our community with Indigenous Round, Which is happening July 5 – 7 coinciding with national NAIDOC Week. With a deep commitment to diversity and inclusion, Indigenous Round provides an opportunity to recognise the history, culture, and achievements of First Nations participants.

LOCALS SUPPORTING LOCALS

NEW LAMBTON FC JUNIORS DEVELOPMENT FUND

New Lambton FC Juniors is a not-for-profit incorporated community club that attends to the inclusion and development of grass-roots football players in our local community.

New Lambton FC Juniors is partnering with the Australian Sports Foundation to assist in raising funds for developing and improving participant entry pathways for the disabled, aged and disadvantaged, operational equipment and coaching and player development pathway programs.

Financial assistance through the New Lambton FC Juniors Development Fund will allow the club to implement improved access to the game of football at a grass-roots community level, continue its program to develop grass-roots talent, upgrade equipment and uniforms and continue the skill development of coaching staff.

Without the assistance of our volunteers, sponsors and the general community New Lambton FC Juniors would not be able to pursue our objectives of being a prospering football club of choice for football participants in the New Lambton and surrounding areas.

YOUR DONATION TO THIS PROJECT IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

The Australian Sports Foundation (ASF) is the only deductible gift recipient for sport in Australia. This means that donations of $2 or more to approved projects on our website are tax deductible. Shortly after making your donation, you'll receive an official receipt from the ASF that you can use in your income tax return.

CLICK TO DONATE

www.newlambtonfcjuniors.org.au footballistiq@newlambtonfcjuniors.org.au

TEAM PHOTOGRAPHS

HURRY TO BOOK YOUR TEAM'S SPOT FOR THE 2024 PHOTOS - last year's were a huge success.

When: Tuesday June 25 and Wednesday June 26 from 3:20pm onwards - specific times as-per your team booking

Where: Club Kotara, 2 Howell St Kotara in the ground floor meeting room

Book Your Team's Slot Now: 2024 TEAM PHOTOS BOOKINGS

NOTE: bookings are strictly one per Team, and should be made by the Team Manager or Coach. Teams shall only be allocated 10 minutes, please be a little early and come prepared.



UPDATED SIGNAGE COMING SOON

It has been many years since the signage at Novocastrian Park has been updated, so with the other upgrades going on we thought it was a good time to refresh our signage and our brand.

We are refreshing the large Club signage on the Orchardtown Road side of the main facility, and also installing a similar Club sign on the eastern side of the new storage containers.

We are updating the Officials Room signage on the northern side of the facility as well.

Along our neighbour's fencing on the northern side of the fields we are also placing some signage reminding all park users not to kick balls against the fences.

Our good friends at **HIVIS Group** are helping us with this project.

The New Lambton Football Club shield logo is an iconic part of who we are, and something that we are fiercely proud of.









FEMALE CONSULTATIVE GROUP

The Committee is committed to ensuring the Club is fully inclusive. To that end, one of our priority tasks is to establish a Female Consultative Group (FCG).

To be involved contact us via : **info@newlambtonfcjuniors.org.au**

Some of the key focus areas shall be:

1. Setting and monitoring goals and targets specifically relating to women and girls
2. Establishing a Female Football Club Ambassador
3. Establishing Club Female Development Coordinator program
4. Establish a Female Referee Mentoring program at Club level
5. Set strategies to ensure the Club aligns with FFA's Gender Equity Plan
6. Establish alternate participation opportunities (e.g. Kick On, Kick Off)
7. Grow the Club's female membership to 50%, including the committee
8. Develop and maintain formal plans and policies outlining the above

SPORTS RAGE - WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Despite most people's best intentions, sport rage incidents will occur. While it is the responsibility of the Club to deal with incidents, parents and other caregivers need to understand and support the process.

1. **Codes of conduct can be enforced.**
2. **Inappropriate behaviour should be reported.** It you witness behaviour that contravenes the code, you should approach your Club's appointed ground official (Duty Officer) for the day and notify them of the behaviour.
3. **Warning is issued.** The first time a person engages in inappropriate conduct, they may be issued with a warning that their conduct is inappropriate and breaches the code of conduct.
4. **Disciplinary action can be taken.** Clubs are responsible for taking disciplinary action against persons who breach the codes of conduct. While this may involve a warning, it can also include suspension, expulsion or requiring the person to participate at a counselling session.
5. **People can be removed from the field of play.** People can only enter the field of play with the permission of the referee.
6. **People can be removed from the venue.** If the Club can control ground entry, then it will be able to evict persons who contravene the code of conduct from the ground. Where attendance is not controlled, Member Clubs can request offenders to leave the venue, or otherwise discipline the person for breach of the code.
7. **The referee may suspend the game.** The referee may suspend play and refuse to re-start the match until appropriate action has been taken if there has been a breach of the code of conduct. The referee may request that a person is removed from the sideline area to a place where they can no longer interfere in the game. In the case of a serious breach, the referee may abandon the game altogether.
8. **The police should be involved if appropriate.** If you feel that the behaviour of an individual (including players, coaches, officials, supporters, administrators, spectators, parents) constitutes a criminal act, the police should be immediately notified. You should notify the ground official (Duty Officer) and request that the police be called.

You and your friends and family should be able to attend a sporting ground and enjoy yourselves without being intimidated, uncomfortable or subject to inappropriate behaviours.

GOOD SPORTS
INSPIRING A HEALTHIER SPORTING NATION
WE ARE A GOLD MEDAL ACCREDITED CLUB.
GOLD

NEW LAMBTON FC'S PLAYING FIELDS

Our Club plays predominantly out of two fields - Novocastrian Park and Regent Park, both in New Lambton. Novocastrian Park has lighting and irrigation, and a small portion is drained (the northern end of Field 1, although it is unclear the condition of the infrastructure). Regent Park has no lighting, no drainage and no irrigation.

Aside from having fit-for-purpose adequate change room facilities, it is recognised that field drainage and field irrigation is a necessity, as is field lighting (especially for winter sports).

It is also recognised that adequately drained fields and grounds is one of the most effective ways of providing mitigation to the effects of climate change and an increase in rainfall on outdoor sporting fields, in respect to being able to better-manage expectations around continuation of outdoor sports during rain events.

So what is New Lambton FC doing about this issue?

The Club is working hard to gain sufficient funding to be able to install adequate lighting, field drainage and field irrigation to Novocastrian Park.

- Lighting: Funding has been gained by the Club to install upgraded LED lighting for Novocastrian Park. We are working with Council to have this installed at the soonest opportunity. For interest, this project was won through grant funding and Club contributions, at a cost of $200,000.
- Drainage: The Club is working with Council to finalise specifications for field drainage for Novocastrian Park. This will allow us to submit applications to gain grant funding for the drainage of the fields and surrounds. The current estimation for the field drainage project is approximately $300,000.
- Irrigation: fortunately, Novocastrian Park is irrigated, so no further work is required at Novocastrian Park for irrigation works.
- Changing Rooms: We have received grant funding to upgrade the changing rooms, install access ramps, upgrade the Officials Room and also install a disabled toilet, shower and change room. It is likely that this work shall commence at the conclusion of this current season, and be complete in time for the 2025 season. The total cost for this project is estimated to be $320,000.

The Club will continue to work collaboratively with Council to put together a plan for potential upgrade works at Regent Park, to make the space safer, more user-friendly and allow for a wider range of the community to use the space by installing inclusive facilities such as safety lighting, ramps, gender-specific change rooms and disabled toilets installed. Ideally, the following would be included in the plan for Regent Park:

- Expansion / upgrade of the player facilities, to make them fit-for-use,
- Installation of fencing / barricades to stop access by vehicles to the fields,
- Installation of field drainage,
- Installation of field irrigation,
- Installation of field lighting.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD COACH?

A good community football coach possesses a blend of technical skills, interpersonal abilities, and a genuine passion for both the sport and the development of players.

Knowledge of the Game:

- Technical Skills: Understanding the fundamentals of football, including tactics, techniques, and rules.
- Continuous Learning: Keeping up-to-date with the latest coaching methods, trends, and best practices.

Communication Skills:

- Clarity: Ability to clearly explain drills, tactics, and instructions.
- Listening: Being open to feedback from players and parents, and understanding players' needs and concerns.
- Encouragement: Offering positive reinforcement and constructive criticism.

Leadership and Management:

- Role Model: Demonstrating sportsmanship, integrity, and respect on and off the field.
- Organisation: Planning and organising training sessions effectively to make the most of the available time.
- Decision Making: Making fair and strategic decisions during games and practices.

Interpersonal Skills:

- Empathy: Understanding and addressing the individual needs and challenges of each player.
- Team Building: Fostering a sense of unity, teamwork, and camaraderie among players.
- Conflict Resolution: Handling conflicts and disagreements in a constructive manner.

Development Focus:

- Skill Development: Emphasising the improvement of players' skills and understanding of the game.
- Physical Fitness: Promoting overall physical fitness and health.
- Personal Growth: Encouraging personal development, confidence, and resilience.

Passion and Enthusiasm:

- Inspiration: Motivating players through enthusiasm and a love for the game.
- Fun: Ensuring that practices and games are enjoyable and engaging, keeping players excited about participating.

Community Engagement:

- Involvement: Building relationships with parents, school officials, and community members.
- Support: Creating a supportive environment where players feel valued and included.

Adaptability:

- Flexibility: Adapting coaching methods to suit different age groups, skill levels, and individual player needs.
- Problem Solving: Quickly finding solutions to unexpected challenges during practices and games.

By embodying these qualities, a community football coach can significantly impact players' development and enjoyment of the sport, fostering a positive and enriching environment for everyone involved.

CLUB REFEREES NEEDED - COMPETITION

Season 2024 has seen fewer official referees than ever appointed to our Competition matches (ages 12+) at both home and away games.

We are seeking to reach out to our community and see if we can establish a bigger pool of people willing to act as Club Referees to games where an official referee can't be appointed. This can be players, parents, family, friends or acquaintances - they don't need to otherwise play for NLFC.

We pay our club referees the full schedule fee (below).

If you have any leads, please email them to our Senior Referee Coordinator Ian: **ianbamford@exemail.com.au**

Please include name, age if (<18), contact details, times available (mid-week, Fri, Sat, Sun) and level they are comfortable with refereeing.

If we can't find anyone willing to referee a game, then it falls back on the home team to provide a referee.

We'd prefer to have a group of willing and prepared referees getting paid!

Follow this link for more information: **RESOURCES**

Competition		Referee	Assistant Referee (each)
Adult Competitions	All Age Men Division A	$72	$36
	All Age Men Other Divisions	$62	$31
	All Age Women Division A	$72	$36
	All Age Women Other Divisions	$62	$31
	Over 35 Men All Divisions	$62	$31
Junior Competitions	Under 20	$54	$27
	Under 18	$50	$25
	Under 17	$50	$25
	Under 16	$38	$19
	Under 15	$38	$19
	Under 14	$32	$16
	Under 13	$32	$16
	Under 12	$30	$15
	Miniroos Under 10 and 11	$20	N/A
	Miniroos Under 8 and 9	$14	N/A
Special Events	Match Fees for Special Events to be Determined by Northern NSW Football or Member Zones		

POSITIONS VACANT - CAN YOU HELP?

Our Club is run by a Committee which is made up of volunteers who are committed to the ongoing success of this Club – your Club, our Club.

We have a long list of tasks that need to be done throughout the year - and we need people to help.

Who can volunteer? People of all ages and abilities are welcome!

Some of those roles / duties are:

- Assistant Treasurer
- Assistant Registrar
- Assistant Secretary
- Volunteer Management Officer
- Game Day Management Officer
- General Committee Member
- Match day field set up and pack down
- Coaching teams in Community competitions (Junior or Senior)
- 'Green Team' - pitch and field management
- Infrastructure management - goal posts, nets, etc
- Game Day Canteen helpers and BBQ chefs
- Fundraising BBQ helpers (Bunnings, etc)

If you think you can help, please reach out: **info@newlambtonfcjuniors.org.au**

SOME BIG EVENTS COMING - STAY TUNED!

- Presentation Day - Junior Teams
- Presentation Day - Competition Teams
- Sponsor Appreciation Function
- Fast 5's Competition
- The Festival of Female Football
- And more.....
- All dates to be confirmed in next month's newsletter

OUR CHOSEN CHARITIES

Being a community, family-focussed Club, we feel that supporting charities is a meaningful way for the Club to contribute to positive societal changes, express empathy, and address pressing issues. Charitable support and contributions play a vital role in creating a more compassionate and equitable world.

Our Club's chosen charities are **Got Your Back Sista** and **Black Dog Institute**.

CLUB KOTARA - LOCAL SOCIAL HUB

Club Kotara shares many similar values to our football Club - they are community-focussed, and their ethos of Community, Respect and Wellbeing aligns nicely with our club WEIR values of Wellbeing, Excellence, Integrity and Respect.

Club Kotara is proud of their history and is excited about the future. Located in the centre of Kotara at 2 Howell Street, they are a hub for events and activities the entire community can enjoy. Club Kotara loves to welcome everyone from retirees, families, friendship groups, community groups, schools and everyone in between.

The Barefoot Bistro is a family-friendly bistro open for lunch and dinner from Tuesday to Sunday. Their menu has something for everyone to enjoy and whether it's just a light snack or you're after the full deluxe experience with a three-course meal, their team are there to provide you with delicious food all year round.

The Club's OPENING HOURS are EVERYDAY from 10:00am – 10:00pm

The BISTRO is open for Lunch Service from 11:30am – 2:00pm and the Dinner Service is open on Monday – Friday: 5:00pm – 8:00pm and Saturday –Sunday: 4:00 – 8:00pm

Now more than ever Club Kotara needs the community to support them, and we are happy to do so - locals supporting locals.

DID YOU KNOW THAT.....

One of the most fascinating facts about Australian football is the story of Australia's record-breaking victory in international football.

On April 11, 2001, during the qualification rounds for the 2002 FIFA World Cup, Australia played against American Samoa in a match that resulted in an unprecedented scoreline of 31-0. This match, held in Coffs Harbour, New South Wales, set the record for the largest margin of victory in an international football match.

Australia's dominance was evident from the start, with Archie Thompson scoring a record 13 goals in the match, the most ever scored by a player in an international game. David Zdrilic also contributed significantly with 8 goals. The Australian team, nicknamed the Socceroos, showcased their superior skills and tactical prowess throughout the game.

This lopsided victory highlighted the disparity in football development between countries and brought attention to the need for support and growth in less developed footballing nations.

The match had broader implications for the sport. It led to discussions within the international football community about the structure of qualification processes for the World Cup. There were considerations on how to create more balanced and competitive matches, especially for teams from regions with varying levels of football infrastructure and talent pools.

Australia's historic win is not just a tale of triumph but also serves as a reminder of the sport's global diversity and the ongoing efforts to develop football around the world.

This record victory remains a memorable chapter in the annals of international football, illustrating both the heights of competitive success and the importance of fostering growth in emerging football nations.









HOW DO THEY MAKE FOOTBALLS?

The process of making footballs involves several stages, combining both manual craftsmanship and modern manufacturing techniques.

1. **Design and Material Selection:**
   - Panels: The traditional soccer ball is made up of 32 panels (12 pentagons and 20 hexagons), though modern designs can vary.
   - Material: The panels are usually made from synthetic leather, often polyurethane (PU) or polyvinyl chloride (PVC), which provides durability, water resistance, and a consistent feel.

2. **Cutting Panels:**
   - The synthetic leather is cut into the desired shapes (hexagons and pentagons) using large cutting machines.
   - For high-quality balls, panels may be individually cut to ensure precision.

3. **Printing and Branding:**
   - Panels are printed with the manufacturer's logo, design patterns, and other branding elements using screen printing or heat transfer printing techniques.

4. **Lamination:**
   - The printed panels are laminated with layers of fabric (typically polyester or cotton) and sometimes foam to provide structure, softness, and additional strength.

5. **Stitching or Bonding:**
   - Stitching: Traditional soccer balls are hand-stitched using polyester or Kevlar threads. Workers stitch the panels together inside out, leaving a small opening.
   - Bonding: Some modern soccer balls use thermal bonding technology, where panels are glued together and then heated to form a seamless surface.

6. **Inner Bladder:**
   - The inner bladder, usually made of latex or butyl rubber, is inserted through the small opening left during stitching. The bladder holds air and provides the ball's bounce.
   - Butyl bladders are known for excellent air retention, while latex bladders offer a softer feel and better responsiveness.

7. **Inflation and Sealing:**
   - The bladder is inflated to the appropriate pressure to check for leaks and ensure proper shape.
   - The opening used for inserting the bladder is then sewn or sealed closed.

8. **Quality Control:**
   - Each ball undergoes rigorous quality control tests to ensure it meets size, weight, roundness, and performance standards.
   - Balls are tested for factors like air retention, water absorption, and overall durability.

9. **Final Inspection and Packaging:**
   - Finished balls are inspected one last time to ensure there are no defects.
   - They are then deflated (if necessary) and packaged for shipment to retailers or directly to consumers.

The combination of traditional craftsmanship and modern technology ensures they are durable and functional and meet the standards for professional and recreational play.

OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

MGRATH REAL ESTATE NEW LAMBTON Home to a team of passionate property specialists with exceptional skills in Real Estate, the McGrath New Lambton Real Estate Agency is dedicated to achieving outstanding results tailored to the individuals needs. Contact us on 4952 6500.

NEWCASTLE INSURANCE GROUP Your local Newcastle insurance broker. We are Newcastle based providing business insurance, home and car insurance to our clients. We are also one of the leading online providers of business insurance Australia wide. Contact us on 1300 62 80 80.

NOVOCASTRIAN ELECTRICAL Novocastrian Electrical has been serving the people of Newcastle, Port Stephens and the Hunter Valley for over 30 years. Novocastrian Electrical will not only attain your project expectations and outcomes but seek to achieve beyond expectations in all areas. Contact us on 4987 6441.

GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL The Great Northern is an iconic family hotel in Newcastle's East End. The Great Northern welcomes everyone to enjoy their hospitality and reward yourselves with sharing what they have to offer as part of our great community. We appreciate your support. Contact us on 4077 3910.

VILLAGE GROCER BLACKBUTT The Village Grocer Blackbutt takes pride in their commitment to the community, offering high-quality groceries and valuable work experience opportunities for individuals living with disabilities.Visit and support your local grocer at 74 Orchardtown Rd New Lambton.

OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

WESTS NEW LAMBTON The Wests Group is a locally owned and operated not-for-profit membership-based organisation. We proudly commit to meaningful social investments that help sustain positive, thriving communities throughout our region. Support the club that supports your community. Visit us at 88 Hobart Rd New Lambton, or contact us on 4935 1200.

SPORTS CLIQUE Sports Clique have provided athletes, organisations, members and supporters with outstanding kits, apparel and accessories and have done so since 2014. Contact us on sales@sportsclique.com.au

ROBOLINE Level up your line marking game with Roboline. Roboline is Newcastle and Lake Macquarie's newest line marking service, with precision sporting field line marking for every occasion. We use a state of the art GPS robotic sporting field line marking system to guarantee the best results. Contact us on 0414 552 669.

BAKERS DELIGHT KOTARA What we do is nice and simple, it's freshly baked bread! We are committed to delighting our customers and being pillars of our communities. We've been baking the same way for many years to give you our signature delightful experience. Because you don't just deserve butter, you deserve the best. Contact us on 4956 2142.

ADAMS FAMILY MEATS Adam's Family Meats is an award winning, modern day butcher shop located in New Lambton, serving customers in and around the Newcastle area for over 10 years. Contact us on 4952 1622.

OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

SOLVD Consult, Create, Reach and Nurture. The team at Solved are helping brands solve complex challenges with ingenuity, using critical thinking and critical execution. Contact us on 0413 426 878.

MELT GELATO Melt Gelato has a huge range of gelato in 18 flavours, spiders, milkshakes and other sweet treats on offer to our great local community. Come and visit us at 89 Regent Street New Lambton.

MY FOOTDR. My Foot Doctor Podiatry Charlestown have the skills and experience to assess and treat almost any foot or lower limb condition. How you move, how you feel and how you live comes down to your feet - we believe that healthy feet can lead to a better quality of life. My Foot Doctor - healthy feet, better lives. Contact us on 4966 0799.

NCIG - NEWCASTLE COAL INFRASTRUCTURE GROUP Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group (NCIG) provides a premier coal export service and is an integral part of the Australian coal export industry. Our facilities include rail, coal storage, ship loading facilities and associated infrastructure.

ABE'S AUDIO With our diverse range of voice over talent and expert sound engineers, your next project will really stand out. With Abe's Audio, you can have as much creative control as you want, from wherever you want. Whether it's online content, TV or radio advertising, an eLearning narration or corporate video, sound design, podcast production or a jingle, we can make your next project have an impact – on your audience and your peace of mind. Contact us on production@abesaudio.com

OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

TJM HUNTER VALLEY TJM Hunter Valley is the go-to place for 4WD equipment and vehicle accessories in the Newcastle, Central Coast and Hunter Valley. Our staff can assist you whether you are a weekend adventurer, across the country tourer or recreational 4WDer. As part of the TJM national network we have access to a wide range of 4WD, vehicle accessories, touring, and outdoors products.



ALLAMBI CARE Allambi Care is a multi-disciplined and recognised leader in the human services field working across Newcastle, the Hunter, the NSW Central Coast and Victoria. We are committed to supporting our community's most vulnerable people through tailored services and programs.

ALLAMBI CARE

ULTRA TUNE MORRISET Ultra Tune Morisset guarantee that "old fashioned" service experience. Whether it's your daily drive or you have a fleet of vehicles that need looking after we offer a complete range of car servicing options, designed to suit your needs. In every case, you'll know in advance exactly how much the service will cost.

UltraTune
Auto Service Centres

4U CARE We're on a mission to radically improve the lives of people living with disability. To prove that leading an ordinary life doesn't need to be an extraordinary effort. That with care, optimism and enthusiasm, we can create a more just world. A world full of enjoyable experiences, friendship and opportunity.

4u care

CREATIVE CHILDCARE Creative Childcare is locally owned and operated, founded in 2016 by a group of parents who had a shared vision of providing a new and innovative approach to early education. Creative Childcare offers the very best of care and learning in a fun and creative environment and is run by a qualified team of Educators.

Creative Childcare

LOOKING FOR CLUB PARTNERS

Running a community football Club is not easy, and we generally have only two things that stop our Club from being the best we can be - volunteers and funding.

We have some fantastic Club sponsors, supporters and partners, although we are always looking for more funding partners to allow the Club to thrive and to ensure that the equipment we have is fit-for-purpose, safe and ready to go.

For example - to provide everyone a practice ball at training, we need around 1,000 balls (plus another 100 or so for game balls). For everyone to have a training bib, we need around 1,000 bibs, plus nearly 200 volunteer bibs. To have enough training cones for all the teams, we need around 1,600 cones. For each team to have portable mini-goals for training we need around 80 sets of goals. This is just a small insight into some of the things we need to make your Club be as good as it can be.

We need people to help with general teams management, gear and equipment distribution, general administrative tasks, helping with game days and assisting at our Bunnings BBQ's - to name just a few. If you think you can help by volunteering some of your time or if you know someone who may be interested, please reach out to us for more information on **info@newlambtonfcjuniors.org.au**

If you are considering a Club sponsorship or if you know someone who may be in a position to do so, please contact us on **supporter@newlambtonfcjuniors.org.au**

REFEREEING A GAME - SUPRISE!

If you're called upon to referee a game at the last minute due to there being no official referees, here are some steps to help you manage the game effectively:

1. Get Basic Equipment such as a whistle, vest and a watch. A notebook and pen to record any incidents, goals, and player details.
2. Understand the Rules and if possible, review a quick guide or summary of the laws of the game. Link: **LAWS OF THE GAME**
3. Pre-Game Preparation includes inspecting the field for any hazards and ensure goals are securely anchored. Meet with Team Captains and introduce yourself, explain the circumstances and conduct the coin toss to determine which team kicks off and which side they start on.
4. Verify Player Equipment and ensure everyone is wearing correct kit.
5. During the Game try to stay close to the play but not in the way. Keep a clear line of sight to the action and use clear and loud signals for starting / stopping play and for fouls. Maintain control of the game by being consistent with your decisions. Ensure each half is the correct length.
6. Post-Game make sure to note down the final score and any disciplinary actions taken during the game. Report post game information to the Club.

JUNIOR FICTION - BILLY'S GOLDEN BOOT

Billy "the Bolt" Thompson was not your average 10-year-old football player. With his wild, untamed hair and a toothy grin, he zipped around the field so fast that sometimes, even his shadow had trouble keeping up. Billy loved football more than anything, and he had a knack for making every game an adventure.

One sunny Saturday morning, Billy's team, the Thunderbolts, had a big match against their arch-rivals, the Scorpions. The stakes were high: the winner would get to keep the coveted Golden Boot Trophy for the whole year. As Billy arrived at the field, he could feel the excitement buzzing in the air like a swarm of bees.

"Alright, team!" Coach Johnson clapped his hands, rallying the players. "Remember, teamwork is the key. And Billy, try to stay focused today, okay?"

Billy nodded enthusiastically, although everyone knew that Billy's idea of "focus" involved as much fun and mischief as possible. As the game kicked off, Billy's energy was infectious. He darted around the field, passing the ball with precision and laughing all the way.

Midway through the first half, Billy spotted an opportunity. He saw the Scorpions' star player, Max "The Wall" Martinez, heading straight for him. Max was known for his tough defense, but Billy had a plan. With a mischievous twinkle in his eye, Billy performed his signature move: The Spin Cycle.

He twirled around Max so fast that Max stumbled and fell, landing on his rear with a look of utter confusion. The crowd roared with laughter as Billy dashed towards the goal, leaving Max in the dust. With a swift kick, he sent the ball sailing into the net. The Thunderbolts erupted in cheers, and Billy did a celebratory cartwheel.

The second half was even more intense. The Scorpions were determined to even the score, and Max had a fire in his eyes. But Billy was unstoppable. At one point, he dribbled past three defenders, his feet moving like they had minds of their own. As he closed in on the goal, he spotted his best friend and fellow Thunderbolt, Sam, in the perfect position.

"Sam, heads up!" Billy shouted, sending a perfect cross to his friend. Sam didn't miss a beat and scored with a fantastic header. The Thunderbolts were up 2-0!

With only minutes left in the game, the Scorpions made one last desperate attempt. Max, determined to redeem himself, charged towards the Thunderbolts' goal. Billy sprinted back, intercepting the ball just in time. He glanced at the clock – only ten seconds left.

"Billy, boot it!" Coach Johnson yelled.

Billy grinned. He kicked the ball with all his might, sending it soaring across the field. To everyone's surprise, the ball flew straight into the Scorpions' goal just as the final whistle blew. The crowd went wild. The Thunderbolts had won 3-0!

As the team lifted Billy onto their shoulders, chanting "Billy the Bolt! Billy the Bolt!" he couldn't stop laughing. It had been the most fun and exciting game of his life.

After the match, Billy's mom hugged him tightly. "I'm so proud of you, Billy! You were amazing out there."

Billy beamed. "Thanks, Mom. But it was a team effort. And besides," he added with a mischievous wink, "I couldn't have done it without a little bit of fun."

That night, as Billy placed the Golden Boot Trophy on his bedside table, he drifted off to sleep with a smile on his face, already dreaming of his next great adventure on the football field.

THE FINAL WHISTLE

In the early 20th century, community football faced numerous challenges in Newcastle. Despite the city's burgeoning industrial economy and growing population, the sport struggled to gain traction due to several factors.

One significant obstacle was the dominance of other sports, particularly rugby league, which had deeper roots in the region. These sports had established strong followings and received more attention from local authorities and media outlets, leaving football on the sidelines.

Additionally, the lack of suitable playing fields and facilities hindered the development of football in Newcastle. Many of the available grounds were uneven, poorly maintained, or situated in industrial areas, making them unsuitable for regular matches. This scarcity of proper infrastructure limited opportunities for training and competition, discouraging potential players and supporters.

Moreover, the socio-economic landscape of Newcastle posed challenges for community football. The city's working-class population, employed primarily in the coal mines and steelworks, often had limited leisure time and disposable income. Participation in organised sports like football required both time and money, which many families could ill afford.

Despite these difficulties, dedicated individuals and grassroots organisations persevered in their efforts to promote football in Newcastle. Local clubs and associations organised community matches and tournaments, often relying on volunteer coaches and administrators to keep the sport alive.

Gradually, as Newcastle continued to grow and diversify, football began to gain momentum. The establishment of the Northern NSW Football Federation provided a centralised governing body for the sport, facilitating greater organisation and support at the local level.

In the latter half of the 20th century, the landscape of community football in Newcastle underwent a transformation. Improved infrastructure, including the construction of modern stadiums and training facilities, enhanced the playing experience for participants and spectators alike. Increased media coverage and corporate sponsorship further boosted the profile of the sport, attracting new fans and investment.

Today, football enjoys a prominent place in the sporting culture of Newcastle, with thriving clubs, enthusiastic supporters, and a pipeline of talented players emerging from the community ranks.

While the journey from adversity to success was challenging, the resilience and passion of those involved in community football have left an indelible mark on the city's sporting history.

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