MAY 2024

FOOTBALLISTIQ

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW LAMBTON FC JUNIORS

HOT NEWS

NLFC JUNIORS

AND JUST LIKE THAT - SEASON 2024 IS UP AND RUNNING ACROSS THE COMMUNITY

Thanks to everyone who donated during Heart Health Round and helped turn our club RED for heart research.

Funds raised from the weekend support life-saving research and helps strive towards achieving zero heart-related deaths on the sporting ground.

It's still not too late to donate - click the logo below to dontate NOW!

TWO NEW SCOREBOARDS IMPLEMENTED AT NOVO

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.

SEASON 2024 IS UP AND RUNNING

The 2024 season kicked off with resounding success, marked by enthusiastic participation and spirited competition. This year, the opening matches showcased a diverse array of teams representing our community - we even had complete matches with visiting teams played at Novo.

Families and supporters gathered at Novocastrian and Regent Parks, creating a vibrant atmosphere filled with cheers and camaraderie. The season's launch was marked by notable improvements in equipment, organisation and community engagement, thanks to the efforts of dedicated volunteers and organisers.

Players of all ages displayed their skills and sportsmanship, reflecting the inclusive spirit of community sports. The matches highlighted not only athletic prowess but also the values of teamwork, respect, and fair play that are central to community sports programs.

The successful start to the season has set a positive tone for upcoming matches and events, fostering a sense of pride and unity among participants and spectators alike. As the season progresses, anticipation grows for more exciting games and opportunities for our community to come together in the spirit of healthy competition and shared enjoyment of the beautiful game.











NEWCASTLE JETS HOLD GIRLS CLINICS

The Newcastle Jets Women's A-League team held 2 clinics across April, aimed at promoting girls in football in conjunction with New Lambton FC Juniors, sponsored by City of Newcastle.

They chose to partner with New Lambton FC Juniors as the club has such a strong female presence and high participation rate.

The take-up was extremely popular, with both sessions filling in no time at all - over 100 young ladies in each session had the opportunity to spend 2 hours in each session practicing and learning new skills, and spending some time with their heroes!

Feedback was overwhelming positive, with everyone giving the clinics a big thumbs-up.

A huge thanks to Newcastle Jets Women's A-League and City of Newcastle.







LOCALS SUPPORTING LOCALS

This season we have as many things happening off field as we do on the field and we have some fantastic partners who want to give back to our local community:

Newcastle Insurance Group Use Newcastle Insurance Group to compare your Business Insurance, Home & Car Insurance. There is no pressure or obligation to proceed, no fee for them to compare your insurances and not comparing may be costly. They will also manage claims for you.

Contact Gavin Walker Managing Director Newcastle Insurance Group on **0421 526 674** or **gavin@newcastleinsurancegroup.com.au** or visit their website at **www.newcastleinsurancegroup.com.au**

Please make sure to mention our Club when you book your Insurance comparison quote.

NEW SCOREBOARDS - HUGE SUCCESS

In the Club spirit of being the best we can be, two new Club-branded scoreboards were implemented for the start of the season.

Powered independently, they can be placed anywhere on the outer fields, where it best suits spectators and participants.

Scores are controlled by each of the game's Duty Officers.





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.



DUTY OFFICER - DUTIES AND TRAINING

Each team **MUST** supply **ONE DUTY OFFICER** at every home game. The role of the Duty Officer at club venues includes being visible, being vigilant and supporting behaviour that is appropriate to a community sporting event.

If a Duty Officer is not available, the game officials will likely not allow the game to proceed.

Each Duty Officer has a 2-way handheld radio that is used to contact other Club personnel, be it in the event of an emergency or simply to ask a question.

What does a Duty Officer do at NLFC?

- Be present during the whole of each fixture to which they are appointed.
- Actively monitor ground order - spectators behind the “courtesy” line around the inside of field (or at least 3m from field), team officials have appropriate ID and remain in the technical area, etc.
- Adjust the score on the electronic scoreboard for the match to which they are appointed (remote controlled).
- Answer any relevant questions and / or provide directions.
- Ensure a match offical is appointed in the event no match official is present.
- Ensure that any incident is reported.
- Ensure that emergency services are called if required for serious injury or assault to players or officials and direct the emergency vehicle on arrival.
- Keep spectators off the field between games and at half time, and away from behind goals during games.

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

COMMUNITY-MINDED BEHAVIOUR

As we commence our training and also head into season 2024, we'd like to kindly remind everyone of a few important guidelines to maintain the positive atmosphere within our football Club.

As we continue to foster a vibrant and respectful community within our football Club, it's essential to uphold certain standards of behavior both on and off the field.

There have been reports of balls being kicked into fences or over fences, and also reports of people entering yards without permission to retrieve balls. May we remind everyone if a ball goes over a fence, you must go to the front door of the residence and request permission to enter the yard to retrieve the ball.

There have also been reports of inappropriate language being used during games or during practices and training. Obviously this is not acceptable.

These behaviours not only reflect poorly on us as individuals but also on our Club as a whole.

It's important to remember that we share our facilities with others in the community, and showing courtesy and respect towards our surroundings is paramount. Here are a few reminders to help maintain a positive environment:

1. Avoid kicking balls into fences or over fences: Not only does this risk damaging property, but it also disrupts the peace of our neighbours. Let's make a conscious effort to keep our play and practice within the designated areas.
2. Practice good sportsmanship: Whether we win or lose, how we conduct ourselves on the field speaks volumes about our character. Let's strive to be gracious in victory and gracious in defeat.
3. Mind our language: Offensive or inappropriate language has no place in our Club. Let's communicate respectfully with teammates, coaches, referees, opponents and other members of the community at all times.
4. Be community-minded: Remember that we are representatives of our Club and our community. Let's demonstrate our values of Wellbeing, Excellence, Integrity and Respect in everything we do.

By adhering to these principles, we not only elevate the reputation of our Club but also contribute positively to the communities we are a part of. Let's work together to create an environment where everyone feels welcome and respected.

Whilst we appreciate that Novocastrian Park is a public space and there are other members of the community and other sporting clubs that use it, let's make a conscious effort to ensure that our behaviours are not brought into question.

GOOD SPORTS
INSPIRING A HEALTHIER SPORTING NATION

WE ARE A GOLD MEDAL ACCREDITED CLUB.

GOLD

SPORTING FIELD DRAINAGE EXPLAINED

Sporting field drainage systems are designed to efficiently remove excess water from the surface and subsoil, allowing the field to remain playable even after rainfall. Here's a summary of how they work:

Surface Drains: Surface drains are installed at strategic locations across the outer-field to collect water that accumulates on the surface. These drains are typically placed in low-lying areas or areas prone to water accumulation.

Subsurface Drains: Subsurface drains are installed beneath the playing surface to remove excess water from the subsoil. These drains consist of perforated pipes buried in trenches filled with gravel or aggregate material. The pipes collect water that seeps through the soil and carry it away from the field.

Grading and Sloping: The field is often graded and sloped to facilitate water runoff towards the drainage points. This helps prevent water from pooling on the surface and ensures that it efficiently enters the drainage system.

Outfall or Discharge Point: The collected water is directed towards an outfall or discharge point, where it is safely released away from the playing area.

Maintenance: Regular maintenance is essential to ensure the effectiveness of the drainage system. This includes keeping the drains clear of debris, inspecting for any damage or clogging, and addressing issues to prevent waterlogging and maintain playing conditions.

Overall, sporting field drainage systems work by collecting water from the surface and subsoil, transporting it through a network of drains, and safely discharging it away from the playing area, thus allowing the field to remain playable even after rainfall.

The time it takes for a sporting field to dry out depends on various factors such as the type of soil, the amount of rainfall, temperature, humidity, and whether the field has drainage systems installed.

With Drainage: Sporting fields equipped with proper drainage systems tend to dry out much faster compared to those without. The drainage system helps to remove excess water from the surface and subsoil, allowing the field to dry more quickly. Depending on the severity of the rain and the effectiveness of the drainage system, it could take anywhere from a few hours to a day or two for a well-drained field to dry out sufficiently for use.

Without Drainage: Fields without drainage systems rely solely on natural processes like evaporation and absorption to remove excess water. In such cases, the drying time can be significantly longer, especially after heavy rainfall. It might take several days or even weeks for the field to dry out completely, depending on the weather conditions and the soil's permeability.

Factors such as soil composition, slope, and the presence of vegetation also influence drying time. Sandy soils typically drain faster than clay soils due to differences in their pore sizes and water retention capacities. Similarly, a field with a proper slope facilitates water runoff and speeds up drying.

A sporting field with a good drainage system can dry out relatively quickly, typically within a day or two after rainfall, whereas one without drainage may take significantly longer, potentially days or even weeks, depending on various environmental factors.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD VOLUNTEER?

Several qualities contribute to making a good volunteer:

1. **Reliability:** A good volunteer is dependable and follows through on commitments. They show up on time and consistently contribute their time and effort to the cause.
2. **Passion and Dedication:** A genuine passion for the cause or organization they are volunteering for drives a good volunteer. They are committed to making a difference and are enthusiastic about the work they do.
3. **Flexibility and Adaptability:** Volunteers often encounter unexpected situations or changes in plans. Being flexible and adaptable allows volunteers to effectively navigate these challenges and adjust their approach as needed.
4. **Team Player:** Volunteering often involves working alongside others towards a common goal. A good volunteer collaborates well with teammates, communicates effectively, and respects the contributions of others.
5. **Initiative and Proactivity:** Taking initiative to identify and tackle tasks without constant supervision is a valuable trait in a volunteer. Proactive volunteers actively seek out ways to contribute and improve processes.
6. **Empathy and Compassion:** Volunteering frequently involves interacting with individuals who may be facing challenges or adversity. Having empathy and compassion allows volunteers to connect with others on a deeper level and provide support when needed.
7. **Open-Mindedness and Respect for Diversity:** Volunteers encounter people from diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Being open-minded and respectful of differences fosters inclusivity and creates a welcoming environment for all involved.
8. **Communication Skills:** Effective communication is essential for conveying information, collaborating with others, and addressing conflicts or concerns. Good volunteers possess strong communication skills, both verbal and written.
9. **Resilience:** Volunteering can be demanding and may involve facing setbacks or obstacles. Resilient volunteers maintain a positive attitude, persevere through challenges, and bounce back from disappointments.
10. **Ethical and Integrity:** Acting with honesty, integrity, and ethical conduct is paramount for volunteers. They uphold the values and principles of the organisation they represent and behave ethically in all interactions.

Overall, a good volunteer embodies a combination of qualities such as reliability, passion, flexibility, teamwork, initiative, empathy, communication skills, resilience, and ethical conduct, contributing positively to their volunteer role and making a meaningful difference in their community or cause.

HOW CAN I MAKE TRAINING FUN?

Making youth football training both meaningful and enjoyable requires striking a balance between skill development, game understanding, and fun activities. Here are some tips to achieve this:

1. **Plan Engaging Activities:** Incorporate drills and exercises that are not only beneficial for skill development but also engaging and enjoyable for the players. Use creative and age-appropriate activities that keep the players motivated and excited to participate.
2. **Include Game-Like Scenarios:** Integrate game-like situations into training sessions to help players understand tactics, positioning, and decision-making within the context of actual gameplay. Small-sided games and sessions are effective ways to simulate real match scenarios while keeping the atmosphere fun.
3. **Provide Positive Feedback:** Encourage and praise players for their efforts and achievements during training sessions. Positive reinforcement helps build confidence and motivation, making the experience more rewarding for the players.
4. **Variety and Challenge:** Keep training sessions dynamic by introducing a variety of drills, exercises, and challenges. Rotate through different activities to maintain players' interest and prevent boredom. Gradually increase the level of difficulty to continually challenge players and facilitate skill progression.
5. **Incorporate Competition in a Positive Way:** Friendly competition can add excitement and motivation to training sessions. Organise small-sided games, skill challenges, or relay races where players can compete against each other in a supportive and encouraging environment.
6. **Promote Teamwork and Communication:** Emphasise the importance of teamwork, cooperation, and communication on the field. Encourage players to work together, communicate effectively, and support each other during drills and games. Team-building activities can also foster a sense of camaraderie among players.
7. **Be Creative and Flexible:** Don't be afraid to think outside the box and try new ideas to keep training sessions fresh and enjoyable. Be flexible and adapt to the needs and preferences of the players, making adjustments as necessary to maximise engagement and participation.
8. **Incorporate Fun Challenges and Rewards:** Introduce fun challenges or games with rewards to add an element of excitement and motivation to training sessions. For example, you could set up target-shooting competitions or dribbling obstacle courses with prizes for winners.
9. **Maintain a Positive and Supportive Atmosphere:** Create a positive and supportive environment where players feel comfortable expressing themselves, making mistakes, and learning from their experiences. Foster a culture of encouragement, respect, and sportsmanship among players and coaches alike.
10. **Listen to Feedback and Adapt:** Pay attention to feedback from players and be open to making adjustments to improve the training experience. Solicit input from players about what they enjoy and what they find meaningful, and incorporate their suggestions into future sessions wherever possible.

By implementing these strategies, you can create youth soccer training sessions that are both meaningful in terms of skill development and enjoyable for the players, fostering a love for the game and supporting their overall development as athletes and individuals.

MONTHLY TEAM MANAGER AND COMMITTEE MEETING

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 would like to take this opportunity to remind all Team Managers to come along to the regular monthly Club Team Manager and Committee meetings – if the Team Manager cannot make the meeting, please send a team delegate.

This will allow your team to have direct access to the Committee and be involved in the decision making processes of your Club.

Although – ANYONE IS WELCOME TO THE MONTHLY MEETINGS.

Also, it will allow people to see what we do, maybe consider volunteering for the Club or joining the Committee and help us run the Club for the participants (mostly children) and future generations.

The Committee cannot function without volunteer participation, and without volunteers and a Committee the Club cannot continue to operate.

If you think you have something to offer the Committee, want to have a say, or are just interested in how the Club is run please think about joining...or just attending a meeting.

You are welcome at any Team Manager and Committee meeting (we have them set up as individual Events in TeamApp), and we would very much like to see you all (new faces and old).

We are hoping to establish various sub-committees to help focus on specific projects and tasks. Volunteer help will be essential for this and we would appreciate any assistance or input in these matters.

The meetings are designed to make decisions and if you are able to assist then that is great, if not, your assistance in helping to come to the decision is just as valuable.

If you can spare time to help with game days, working bees, Club events either as a volunteer helper or Committee member it is always much appreciated.

If you have not come along to a Team Manager and Committee meeting, volunteered or joined the Committee for any of the reasons above then please think about it and give it a go.

Meetings are currently held the last Wednesday of the month at Club Kotara, 2 Howell St Kotara, commencing at 7:00pm.

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**.

NEW MEETING VENUE - CLUB KOTARA

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 fascinating aspect of Australian football is its unique evolution and integration into the broader global football landscape. Despite being a relatively young sport in Australia compared to traditional favourites like cricket and Australian rules football, football has steadily grown in popularity and influence over the years. However, it wasn't until recent decades that Australian football truly began to make its mark on the international stage.

One curious fact about Australian football revolves around its journey to join the prestigious Asian Football Confederation (AFC). Historically, Australia was affiliated with the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC), which limited its opportunities for competitive play and international recognition. Due to the relatively small number of competitive teams in the OFC, Australian football struggled to advance beyond regional competitions and gain exposure on the global stage.

In the early 2000s, there was a significant push within Australian football circles to seek greater opportunities for growth and development. This led to the audacious decision to transition from the OFC to the AFC, a move that would have profound implications for the future of Australian football.

One of the key motivations behind this move was the desire to access more competitive playing opportunities and higher-quality competitions. By joining the AFC, Australia would be able to compete against stronger teams from Asia, participate in prestigious tournaments such as the AFC Asian Cup, and gain exposure to a wider audience of football fans.

The road to joining the AFC was not without its challenges, as it required approval from both the OFC and the AFC, as well as navigating diplomatic and political considerations. However, Australian football officials were determined to see the transition through, recognising the immense potential benefits it could bring to the sport in Australia.

In 2006, after years of negotiations and lobbying efforts, Australia officially became a member of the AFC, marking a historic moment in the country's football history. This move opened up a wealth of opportunities for Australian football, allowing players to compete at higher levels, gain invaluable experience against top-tier opposition, and raise the profile of the sport domestically and internationally.

Since joining the AFC, Australian football has experienced significant growth and success on multiple fronts. The national men’s team, the Socceroos, has become a formidable presence in Asian soccer, winning the AFC Asian Cup in 2015 and consistently qualifying for the FIFA World Cup. The women’s national team, the Matildas, won the 2010 Women’s Asian Cup and were runners-up in 2006 and 2014, 2018. They were also winners of the AFF Women’s Championship in 2008, winners of the Australia Cup in 1999, 2001 and 2002, winners of the 2017 Tournament of Nations and winners of the 2019 Cup of Nations.

Australian clubs have made their mark in continental competitions such as the AFC Champions League, showcasing the talent and competitiveness of Australian football on a broader stage.

The journey of Australian football to join the AFC serves as a testament to the sport's resilience, ambition, and capacity for growth. It highlights the transformative power of strategic decision-making and international collaboration in shaping the trajectory of football in Australia and solidifying its place in the global football community.

THE NORTHERN NSW FOOTBALL STRUCTURE

Football is the most popular game in the world. According to FIFA, there are five billion football fans around the world. The shared passion for the game touches every corner of our planet.

That passion all starts with clubs and players in our local communities. Every football organisation and level of governance exists to support and develop the game and its players.

Clubs

In northern NSW there are 208 local clubs.

Member Zones

Member zones help develop football and support each of the local clubs in their area. In northern NSW there are seven member zones.

Standing Committees

These committees are purpose-specific and designed to advise member federations on aspects related to their purpose. In northern NSW, there are three committees to advise on the two premier competitions as well as referee matters.

Member Federation

Northern NSW Football

In NSW there are two member federations within the state, with Northern NSW Football looking after the northern regions from the Central Coast up to the Far North Coast and the Queensland border, fanning out through the Upper Hunter, Gunnedah, Narrabri and Moree up to the state border.

Their role is to organise, promote and administer football throughout northern NSW. They're responsible for referees across the region, commercial partnerships, government engagement and the delivery of elite pathways and competitions. They look after all strategic aspects of the game, participation programs and its ongoing growth in the region.

National Body

Football Australia is Australia's FIFA member and is responsible for the development of pathways, commercial and government partnerships at a national level and managing national teams.

International Body

FIFA is football's world governing body and helps coordinate the game across its 211 member countries. FIFA is on a mission to make football truly global and see at least 50 national teams and 50 clubs from every continent that can compete at a top level.

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 regions. Our friendly staff can assist you whether you are a weekend adventurer, across the country tourer or recreational 4WDer. As part of the TJM national distributor network we have access to a wide range of 4WD, vehicle accessories, touring, and outdoors products.



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**

CLICK ON THE GRAPHIC TO BUY TICKETS IN OUR RAFFLE AND SUPPORT OUR CLUB!!



JUNIOR FICTION - BRIDGET'S BIG GOAL

Bridget loved football more than anything else in the world. With her trusty football at her feet, she felt like she could conquer anything. She was twelve years old, with wild curls bouncing as she ran, and a smile that could light up the whole field.

On a sunny Sunday morning, Bridget's team, the Lightning Strikers, were facing off against their biggest rivals, the Thunderbolts. The tension crackled in the air as the referee blew the whistle, signalling the start of the game.

Bridget dashed across the field, her cleats kicking up clumps of grass as she chased after the ball. She dribbled past defenders with fancy footwork that would make even the pros jealous. But just as she was about to take a shot, the Thunderbolts' goalkeeper leaped in front of her, blocking her path.

Undeterred, Bridget hatched a plan. She winked at her teammate, Mia, and whispered, "Watch this!"

With a mischievous grin, Bridget faked left, then right, then left again, sending the Thunderbolts' defenders spinning in confusion. She zigzagged through the chaos, leaving a trail of dust in her wake.

Suddenly, Bridget found herself face-to-face with the Thunderbolts' goalie once more. But instead of shooting, she pulled off the most outrageous move anyone had ever seen. She performed a cartwheel right in front of the goal, flipping over the stunned goalkeeper, and landing on her feet with the ball at her toes.

The crowd erupted into cheers as Bridget tapped the ball into the empty net, scoring the most spectacular goal of the season. Even the Thunderbolts' players couldn't help but applaud her audacious move.

As the game went on, Bridget continued to dazzle with her skills. She dribbled past defenders, made precision passes, and even did a celebratory dance every time she scored.

With only minutes left on the clock and the score tied, Bridget knew it was now or never. She sprinted down the field, her heart pounding in her chest. The ball was at her feet, and victory was within reach.

But just as Bridget was about to take the shot, she tripped over her own feet and tumbled to the ground in a heap. The Thunderbolts' defenders swarmed around her, stealing the ball away and launching a counterattack.

Time seemed to slow as Bridget watched in horror as the Thunderbolts charged toward her team's goal. But then, out of nowhere, Mia swooped in and made a heroic save, blocking the shot with a spectacular dive.

With seconds left on the clock, Bridget sprang to her feet and raced down the field with renewed determination. She received a perfect pass from her teammate and took aim at the goal. With one final kick, Bridget sent the ball soaring through the air, straight into the back of the net.

The referee blew the final whistle, and the crowd erupted into cheers. Bridget's team had won the game, thanks to her incredible skills and never-give-up attitude.

As Bridget and her teammates celebrated their victory, she knew that no matter what obstacles stood in her way, she would always find a way to come out on top. After all, she was Bridget, the unstoppable soccer superstar!

THE FINAL WHISTLE

Community football serves as the grassroots foundation of the sport, nurturing talent, fostering community spirit and providing access to the game for people of all ages and backgrounds. Its relationship with the National Premier Leagues (NPL), a tiered football league system, is complex and multifaceted, reflecting the broader dynamics of football development and competition. Here's an introspective look at their relationship:

Development Pipeline: Community football acts as a crucial development pipeline for the NPL and higher levels of competition. It is where aspiring young players first lace up their boots, hone their skills, and dream of one day competing at the highest levels. The NPL scouts talent from community clubs, identifying promising players to join elite youth academies or senior teams, thus creating a symbiotic relationship between grassroots and professional football.

Talent Identification and Development: Community football serves as a fertile ground for talent identification and development. NPL clubs often scout community matches and tournaments in search of gifted players who demonstrate the potential to thrive at higher levels. By investing in grassroots initiatives and youth development programs, NPL clubs strengthen their talent pool and ensure a steady supply of skilled players for their teams.

Pathways to Professionalism: Community football provides pathways to professionalism for aspiring players who aspire to compete in the NPL and beyond. Talented youngsters who excel in community leagues may earn opportunities to join NPL academies, reserve teams, or senior squads, where they can further refine their skills and compete against top-tier opposition. This upward mobility creates a sense of aspiration and ambition within the community soccer ecosystem, motivating players to strive for excellence.

Cultural and Social Impact: Community football plays a vital role in fostering a sense of belonging and camaraderie within local communities. It brings people together from diverse backgrounds, fostering friendships, promoting social cohesion and instilling values of teamwork and sportsmanship. The NPL, by extension, amplifies this sense of community pride by providing a platform for local clubs to showcase their talent and represent their neighbourhoods on a broader stage.

Financial and Structural Challenges: Despite its intrinsic value, community football often faces financial and structural challenges. Limited funding, outdated facilities and volunteer-driven management structures are common obstacles that community clubs must navigate. The NPL, as a more professionally-run entity, may struggle to bridge the gap between grassroots and elite soccer, leading to disparities in resources and opportunities.

Striking a Balance: Balancing the interests of community football with the demands of the NPL requires a delicate equilibrium. While the NPL seeks to elevate the standard of play and provide a platform for elite competition, it must also remain mindful of the grassroots foundations upon which the sport is built. Investing in community development programs, supporting grassroots initiatives, and fostering collaboration between community clubs and NPL teams are essential steps toward maintaining a harmonious relationship.

In essence, the relationship between community football and the NPL is characterised by symbiosis, mutual benefit and challenges. By recognising the intrinsic value of grassroots football, investing in talent development and fostering collaboration, stakeholders can ensure that the sport thrives at all levels, from the neighbourhood pitch to the national stage.

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