

YVHC Presidents Report 2017

2017 was an historic year for YVHC in multiple ways. It marked our return to Premier League in both Men's And Women's divisions after more than 20 years. It also marks the 40th anniversary of the formation of YVHC from the merger of Ivanhoe and Fairfield, the later was formed 110 years ago. YVHC also have all Mixed Juniors playing Shield, and a Shield U16G team for the first time in 10 years along with a total of 15 junior teams from U10 to U18.

2017 was also highlighted by some fantastic achievements off field. At the annual Hockey Victoria awards night YVHC was awarded Community Club of the Year. This awards goes to a club with great culture, community involvement and on field outcomes across all grades. It is a tribute to many volunteers across the club but particular those associated with highlighting Fair Go Sport round across the club (and YES was the outcome too); Vennessa Flemming together with several Junior parents who provided support for disadvantaged kids to play team hockey, our huge H2H program (despite no home field) where thanks go to Rachel Watson et al, and of course the installation of our new Hybrid Synthetic turf to FIH standards at the Dam (Cyril Cummins reserve). Also at the HV awards night Nicola Brown was awarded HV Best Female Umpire 2017, Darcy Brown (no relation) Best Junior Umpiring Seniors 2017, and Bruce Smith was made a Life Member of Hockey Victoria for his outstanding service in Tournament management over many years. A credit to them all, and the club.

The absence of a pitch for the first part of the season was a difficult decision the Board had to take back in January, or delay until 2018. We knew it would create all sorts of problems, which it did. And more. I was proud of the way the club accepted the decision and the difficulties presented and all the dislocation and uncertainty re training venues, coaching, match locations and many other problems. Including the absence of any home games for the first half of the season making it very difficult for the club to get together, network and support each other. But we did get it done, thanks all and in particular Neil Watson who had to find all the different venues for us to train and play.

When we did return to the Dam we held a fantastic Opening Day Celebration with thanks to great organization from Tracy Cox & Vennessa. Hosting politicians and local Banyule council who all helped make the whole project happen. Other great functions in 2017 were Reverse Raffle, Trivia & Auction Night and also the Senior Presentation night, which were all great successes and a tribute to the organization of Larissa Payne who took on the Social coordination in 2017 – many thanks Riss.

On field the Premier League Women's and Men's did us proud. Competitive in almost all games, with ongoing improvement across the season as we adapted to the tempo in PL. Many thanks to both Dylan Gillespe and Zac Hawes the two senior coaches, and indeed all our coaches across senior grades: Matt Stead, Toby Johnson, Emma Storen and Alex Mason. Our club person for 2017 went to Emma Ball who also did some fantastic coaching at Senior Women's level, in juniors with U14 Shield and critically the uniform organization for her 4th season. Another first in 2017 had our two PL coaches organize an elegant Vote Count Night where due recognition for players across PL & PLR teams was conducted. The strength of the club can be gauged by how well the club performs across all the grades. We had some great results throughout the club. WPenD got the job done winning the flag in a tight but steady 1.0 game. They had to overcome many setbacks throughout the season, in a grade which was our No 1 priority for 2017 to achieve promotion. Well done girls. In WMA we also

improved markedly throughout the season to finish runners up. On the Men's side, the MPE were minor Premiers, & finished Runner's Up. They also helped out supporting our young MPB team week after week and hold that grade after returning there for the first time in 20 years. In MMB we also had a mix of experienced and young players and made finals in a very creditable season.

The Masters teams – with Andrew Howell performing the role as Masters Director very capably had some great success in 2017. Even Noel must have been happy with the outcome with Premierships in M45B, M45D; runners up in M50A and M50B. After a premiership drought these past few years.

Thanks to our sponsors: Just Hockey, Bendigo Bank (East Ivanhoe & Heidelberg), PEP signs, Courtney & Patterson Ford, East Ivanhoe Foodworks, Edgy Lawns & Gardens, Danahers Mitre 10 and The Henry Barkley Hotel. Special thanks to The Henry for the fantastic gift of Penfolds Red wine made to myself on presentation night which was & will be greatly appreciated. Do support our sponsors, they are vital to our success on and off field. The Australian Sports Foundation Project has continued and allow us to take donations that are fully tax deductible.

Our Coterie Group coordinated by Adrian Brown and David Findlay has again very important to raise funds (with ASF tax deductibility) and provide the forum to lobby for support from politicians, local government, schools and sponsors.

I commend to you the Financial report from Greg Watson which sees the club again finish the season in a solid situation. We do have tight cash flow at the moment as we go into off season . In 2017 we managed to raise more funds than in 2016 without the use of our home facility for half the season. Great efforts from all who helped on match days with BBQ's and events, particularly Danni & Gerard who were indefatigable. We set our financial goal to pay off the turf replacement without going into debt, it will be a close thing but we may just get through this thanks to Greg Watson's careful management of finances. Early registration is now available for 2018 at a slight discount to 2017 for those able to assist us in getting through this tight cash flow situation. Our major financial goal is now to build our resources again quickly to be in a position to lobby for a second field ahead of the Victorian election in 2018. We have a commitment of \$1M for BCC, but will need significant other funds (~\$0.4M) to get this done.

Huge accolades to all the YVHC General Committee members. One and all. Many thanks to Robin Filshie who has been our Junior VP these past 5 years. Our Juniors will miss Robin's deep knowledge and experience. His interests will now be exclusively in the Senior domain, so I look forward to his continued involvement in some way. Whilst he leaves big shoes to fill I am hopeful we can get a couple of volunteers to share this roll within juniors in 2018.

2018 presents an exciting and challenging opportunity to build on what we have achieved in 2018 and continue to grow our club in diverse ways on and off field. I know we are up for this!

Craig Lovel President 2017

Opening Day:



WPD premiers & promotion:



2017 HV Award night:

