



# Beechmont Junior Soccer Club Report for the BRASA Meeting 23 April 2017

The 2016 AGM was held on 3 December 2016 after insufficient attendance at the originally scheduled date of 19 November 2016. Office Bearers were elected as follow:

- President: Penni Conlan
- Vice-President: Peter Clark
- Secretary: Iain Bailey
- Treasurer: Lisa Richards
- Registrar: Lisa Richards
- Canteen Coordinator: Annette Clark
- Groundsman: Nic Gistitin

## **Beginning of season activities for 2017 included:**

- Launch of the Club website
- Creation of the Club Facebook page – which almost immediately generated enquiries from 3 families new to the mountain who wished to join the Club.
- Design and purchase of 'kit bags' for all players, with the club logo. The bags contain a club cap, socks, money box (for an incentive program designed to encourage the kids to bring their gear to training and game days), and a small 'gift' of novelty soccer toys.
- All Club forms and templates were updated to include the Club logo
- Changeover of our banking arrangements from the Commonwealth Bank to the Canungra and District Community Bank at Canungra. This decision was prompted by the closure of the Price St, Nerang CBA branch which made banking more onerous for the Committee. The Canungra and District Community Bank also offered a two-step online banking facility which without doubt simplified the transactions made by the Club.
- Purchase of new game balls and ball pumps for the coaches bags
- Blue Card registration for all Committee members, coaches and other [over 18] volunteers working with the Club – this was an initiative implemented by Football Queensland and welcomed by the Club.
- The Club also undertook a stocktake of uniforms and other equipment, and upon completion of the Soccer/Cricket Club House cleared the temporary storage container and moved equipment etc., into the cupboards and permanent storage container. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work put into the new Club House – it is a wonderful asset to our community generally, and a vast improvement on the old facilities that Beechmont Junior Soccer and Beechmont Cricket have spent many a long year enjoying.

## **Registration and season kick-off activities:**

As for all Clubs, and especially junior Clubs, recruitment of players is a critical time in the lead up to registration closing.

Despite interest from a small number of new families, it became apparent quite quickly that the Club might struggle to attract sufficient players, particularly in the older age groups (u10 and u11) given the changes to Primary school year levels (we lost students to high school from both the original year 7 classes, but also those moving into year 7, and therefore to high school – off the mountain.

The Club worked with BRASA to involve Milo Cricket, Netball and Tennis Clubs in a joint sign-on day at Graceleigh Park. A huge amount of work was put in to promoting the day, with signage at the old Beechmont Hall, North Rd bus stop, Canungra Foodworks, and Graceleigh Park. The Club also arranged a letterbox drop of flyers to alert families to the day, and promoted it via the school newsletters at both Beechmont Primary and

Silkwood. While some new, and a number of returning families who hadn't already registered, attended sign-on day, we achieved only a small number of registrations.

Unfortunately, the School Assembly evening, which is traditionally our best sign-on event, had to be cancelled due to a power outage. The rescheduled evening was less well attended than usual, and on that evening we achieved one (1) registration.

Despite the best efforts of the Committee, a few days prior to the deadline to notify teams to Football Gold Coast, we knew we needed to make a decision about whether the Club could actually field teams in 2017, viz:

- We could get an under 6's team together if we played 3 of our 7yr olds down and one 5 yr old up. We had a team!!
- Our remaining players were 6 x U8's, 4 x U9's, 2 U10's and an 11 and 12 yr old. This meant that we needed to put together an U9's team as we could not play the 10, 11 down any further but the 8's could come up.
- Upon calling all parents – 4 families from the under 8's pulled out because they did not want their child playing up, understandably. This left 4 x U9's – one of which was about to have a major operation and be out for most of the season, and one who would be going back to another country for an unknown amount of time.

The difficult decision was therefore made to suspend the club for the 2017 season. All registered families were notified and their feedback was lovely. They were extremely understanding, acknowledged the work the Committee had undertaken so far, and wanted to be kept informed about plans for the 2018 season.

### **So what is next?**

As you know, the Beechmont Junior Soccer Club committee, like most committees at Beechmont, are volunteers. Basically, we are a group of Dads and Mums of past and present players, or committed local folk with an interest in ensuring the kids can play soccer, so on 3 December 2016 we put our hands up to keep the Club going for the kids. **Be assured the children are our absolute first priority**, and so with that in mind we very gratefully accepted Football Gold Coast's offer of assistance and advice about moving the Club forward for the remainder of this year, and into 2018.

Alan Marquez (Football Operations Officer) and Damien Bresic (General Manager, FGC) kindly attended our 6 April 2017 meeting. We're pleased to advise that as a direct result of their advice and support, the Club has:

1. Very gratefully accepted FGC's offer to run development sessions for the kids during Term 2. These sessions are fully funded by FGC so there is no cost to families. They will be run on what would have been the Club's usual training days (Tuesdays, after school from 3.10pm to 4.10pm) as follows:
  - 9 May
  - 23 May
  - 6 June
  - 20 June

These sessions will continue in Term 3 if we have enough kids keen and, subject to numbers, FGC will help us organise a 'non-competition invitational' inter-club fun day with local clubs (eg: Canungra, Tamborine, Mudgeeraba) on a weekend in early August (probably Sunday, August 6, so put that in your diary!)

2. Determined that the next AGM will be held in early August 2017 to start the process for the 2018 season. We sincerely hope our local community will get behind our Club to ensure the kids have a soccer club well beyond 2018.
3. Forwarded to Beechmont Primary School an offer of assistance from FGC to assist with registration for funding for Sporting Schools which will allow the school to access funding and the possibility of

accessing funds to pay for Coaches for 3 terms out of four. Sporting Schools would be delivered by FGC and their team of coaches.

#### **Other matters**

- Lighting at Graceleigh Park

BRASA continues to work towards finalisation of the project and we thank BRASA for keeping us informed of progress of the installation of lighting at Graceleigh Park. We look forward to finalisation of the process, hopefully by August. As we understand it, Scenic Rim Regional Council is now in the final stages of working with BRASA to affirm the development approvals and BRASA will acquit the funds within the required timeframe.

On behalf of the kids of this mountain and surrounds, and the Committee, I would like to thank everyone who has supported and encouraged us over the past few months. It has been a difficult year for the Club, and your support is enormously appreciated at both the Club level, and personally, as a Committee.

Penni Conlan  
President