



WEST BRUNSWICK AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB

PRESIDENT: BETH COOK
SECRETARY: HENRY PAEZ

SNR MEN'S COACH: BILL IRVING
SNR WOMEN'S COACH: JOSH MELICAN

SENIOR PREMIERSHIPS:
1960, '80, 2002, '08, '14, '15

RESERVE PREMIERSHIPS:
1989, '98, 2015, '18

Season 2019 The Birdsnest

Vol 49 No 1

Season 2019 officially commences on the 6th of April, with the men v St Mary's Salesian and the women v Kew. The men are playing on Ransford Oval and the women on McAllister Oval, with the respective senior games commencing at 2:00pm.

For West Brunswick this season is the club's 61st in the VAFA and we find ourselves in Division 1 with the men finishing as a middle order club last season (which meant there was no promotion or relegation issues). The women's teams have been promoted to the Premier Division for on the back of their past two seasons as grand finalists.

The VAFA promotion and relegation system has two teams (the grand finalists) promoted to a higher Division with the bottom two teams from the higher grade relegated to the lower Division. For the men's teams we face four new clubs, and in the women's its six new clubs and a much tougher opposition.

Season 2019 marks the 49th year of the Birdsnest as the official organ of the football club. Launched in 1970 the Birdsnest was the major communication tool for getting the word out to our members. The views expressed in the Birdsnest only broadly represent the facts, but every now and again there may be a little bit of tweaking to assist readers in getting a better understanding of what's gone on. And sometimes an error may occur which can be corrected with a quick email to the editor.

Evolution or Revolution?

This year West Brunswick will have six teams playing each Saturday; three men's teams and three women's teams. The women's teams are in the Premier Division, the highest level of the VAFA competition whilst the men's teams are in the 'Divisions' not in Premier Blue, Yellow or Green. So much has happened in the women's football space in such a short time, at the AFLW level and all the other levels that it's almost too much to comprehend.

So is West Brunswick part of the evolution or are we leading a revolution? Our club is different to other clubs in how the players are integrated at training and our blending doesn't finish there.

Half the committee are women, Beth Cook is the president, Robbo is the treasurer and a host of the other executive roles are held by our women members. We have women in off field roles on the men's teams and equally men fulfilling off field roles in the women's teams. The line separating the club between old and new is very blurred to being almost nonexistent. For over fifty-five of its sixty-one years the club was a two male Seniors and Reserves teams, (with Under 19's for around 15 years). Over the past six years the club has 'morphed' into a very different 'community club' with so many different dimensions.

Some things are the same. The great 'welcome to West Brunswick' hasn't changed, all players are equal and the club is run by the players. We still play at Royal Park on some of the best fields in Melbourne and the opposition teams still regard us as fearful. But West Brunswick has become a 'big fish', no longer a minnow with over two hundred players down at training, more energy than a Tony Abbott discussion about solar power and a group that will go places in 2019.



PO BOX 32
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Coaching Panel

Why would anybody change a winning formula when they don't have to? Mainly because Angus Hamilton has decided to take a lesser role in 2019 and have more recreational time in his life.

For the men's Senior team Billy 'Morgan' has stepped up to be the main man. Senior assistants to the men's coach include Craig Mitchell and Polly Fletcher. Hamma will be around on Saturdays doing 'bench' strategies.

Ben Sexton and Quiddy will be the reserves coaches and Rhys Allen will be the 2019 men's thirds coach.

The Senior women's team will be coached by last season's reserves coach Josh Melican who was a big part of last year's panel and works in very well.

The women's reserves will be coached by Marnee Silver, while Freya Logan will coach the women's thirds.

We have a number of leaders in each team which will assist the coaches, a very different situation from only a few short years ago.

We congratulate the whole team on their appointments and wish them well for a successful 2019 season.

The 2019 fixture

The full season's fixture is available on the club website and can be accessed any time.

Men's

April	6	v	St Mary's	Home
April	13	v	Preston	Away
EASTER				
April	27	v	Kew	Away

Women's

April	6	v	Kew	Home
April	13	v	Marcellin	Away
EASTER				
April	27	v	St Mary's	Away

You & Health Insurance

Footy's a dangerous game. Have you got private health insurance to deal with the likelihood you may need to use it during the season?

Statistics dominate sporting conversations, and the bad news is that football injuries are the greatest source of income to physios, osteos, chiros, doctors, and are felt by more than 40% of the playing list.

The league insurance does cover some medical expenses, but we recommend getting your own private health insurance to ensure you have comprehensive coverage!

Also, neither the league insurance or private health will cover ambulance fees. Visit www.ambulance.vic.gov.au to get ambulance insurance for less than a dollar a week! It is a 2019 requirement to play for WBAFC!



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Our Website:

As players and technologies improve all the time, our website is no exception! There is a stack of stuff, most importantly training and playing information, as well as history, politics, science and social interaction opportunities. There is also a news section as well as fixtures, Golden Magpies, etc.

Quiddy and Bingle have got the website looking so good that it may be likely the Birdsnest will become redundant. There are a few videos, great photos and lots of other items of interest.

Since lots of information regarding sponsors, committee, etc. are already on the website I do not wish to duplicate everything. Space, printing and time can all be managed more efficiently, so I will only cover a few key points and should you wish to dig further, go to www.wbafc.com.au. Should you have something to say or whatever, you can also contact the club on westbrunswick@gmail.com.

The 2019 Committee

Thanks to those people putting their hand up to manage the club this season. The growth in the number of teams makes the job ahead considerably more time consuming, and the blending of the women's and men's teams is a challenge in ensuring everybody can be heard in a very crowded space.

There are lots of people on the committee doing lots of jobs, the full list of the committee is on the website, but the executive roles for 2019 are:

<i>President</i>	Beth Cook
<i>Vice President</i>	Evan Lloyd
<i>Secretary</i>	Henry Paez
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jess Roberts

Thanks to the 2018 retiring committee for their contributions.

Noticed that...

- Interesting, but true: three clubs will be playing both Seniors and Reserves Men's and Women's games against each other during the year. Kew, St Mary's and West Brunswick. Wouldn't have been dreamt two years ago and given the vagaries of the VAFA it is statistically a long shot coming home at 100-1.
- Peninsula Old Boys' away game used to be a bus trip, a motivational movie going there and five slabs for the way home. They join us this year, down from Premier purple.
- Turning sixty-one this year, West Brunswick becomes the sixth longest operating District club in the VAFA with only Elsternwick, Ormond, Ivanhoe, Kew* and Hampton Rovers. (I have excluded merged or realigned clubs)
- The club still has not been able to convince the Melbourne City Council that cricket season is finished and all three grounds do not need prepared wickets.
- Golden magpie membership has had a price increase to \$60. The GM membership was introduced in 1980 to offset players paying a weekly fee to get onto the ground, and has been \$50 for more than thirty years.
- Club merchandise covers just about everything a footy fan could want to show off our 'colours'.



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Golden Magpies

This year the membership fee is just \$60! Last season we had over 40 golden magpies, and the contribution goes a long way in helping the football club provide first class services to our players and take some of the pressure off fees. Golden Magpies can be paid into the below account:

West Brunswick Amateur Football Club
BSB: 633-000
Acc. No: 136422383

It would be greatly appreciated that when a deposit is made it is accompanied by the donors' name, and a note to the editor too. This will avoid name calling and accusing the editor of forgetting something he has not been told.

Social Plans

**Family & Friends Day
Home game - Round 1
6 April 2019
Lunch is free and a range of
refreshments will be available
from the clubrooms.
12:00pm – 5:00pm**

Our annual day to celebrate all things West Brunswick. As the name suggests, family, friends, partners of WBAFC players and officials are encouraged to come along and see their loved ones in action. Sponsors of our club will also be featured.



**In-Season Launch
Round 3
27 April 2019
7:00pm – late**

Come and celebrate the beginning of the 2019 season at the Club's brand new sponsor pub: the Prince Alfred on Grattan St, Carlton.

Current Sponsors



We are pleased to continue the support from the EFEX Group. EFEX is a young and keenly progressive managed services company that devises and deploys print, IT, network, cloud and voice and data solutions that are flexible, scalable, elegantly simple yet extremely robust, and surprisingly cost effective. We right-fit a mix of award winning hardware and services to deliver faster workflows. You will easily recognise the difference that reduced downtime and a single point of contact for support, maintenance and helpdesk issues can make to office productivity.

We're also pleased to announce two new 2019 partners: women's sponsor, Boost Juice Barkly Square and men's sponsor, Hawkers Brewing:



Hawkers



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The club is looking for sponsors in any form. If you would like to promote your business in the Birdsnest, website or around the club get in contact with Bridie Walsh (brighdin.r.walsh@gmail.com). We can get you promoted in many wonderful ways: posters, tickets, t-shirts, special dedications, small ads on banners of milestone games, inside the inner sanctum, etc.

Looking for Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to help out around the club – in any capacity. Casual once-off basis or a few Saturdays during the year. Jobs include time keeping, goal umpire, running the boundary, match day manager, scorer, helping in the canteen on a Saturday or perhaps cooking up a pot of bolognaise for Thursday night selection. Contact: Nahkita Wolfe or Hugh Baird if you can assist in any way.

Keeping in Contact

The club has a LinkedIn Group – West Brunswick Amateur Football Club.

If you've changed your email address or are new to the club, send an email to the club westbrunswick@gmail.com to update your details.

Club award winners for 2018

David "Max" McAllister Memorial, Best Clubman
Beth Cook

Shane Devers Best First Year Player Perpetual Trophy
Jess Malouf (women)
Sean Butler (men)

Raymond Barrett Perpetual Shield, Best Matchday Volunteer
Sarah McPherson & Nic Kerber

Bruce Ivey Medal, Senior Best and Fairest
Cormac Cashin

2nd Best and Fairest
David Ferrier

Bob Baker Medal, Reserves Best and Fairest
Declan Cashin

Res. 2nd Best and Fairest
Henry Mahoney and Angus Campbell

Raph Touzel Medal, Thirds Best and Fairest
Ted Forbes

Fours Best and Fairest
Paddy Davoren

Women's Best and Fairest
Mel Lindsay (also league B & F)

2nd Best and Fairest
Nahkita Wolfe

Reserves Best and Fairest
Vic Christie

Res. 2nd Best and Fairest
Jess Schumann



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*Stan Hughes Memorial Medal, Men's Leading
Goalkickers*

Seniors: **Jethro Calma-Holt (32)**

Reserves: **Joel Beer (19)**

Thirds: **Michael Hofstein (12)**

Fours: **Aaron Thompson (9)**

Women's Leading goalkickers

Seniors: **Laura Jago (26)** (also league
Leading Goalkicker)

Reserves: **Jess Schumann (23)**

Love footy? Over 35? Over 45?

If you can play, why not play **fortnightly**.
We want you at the mighty **Brunswick
Mudlarks**- Over 35's AFL in the Inner North.

We're part of the booming Victorian Masters
League, and play once a fortnight, for an 11
game season. The rules are slightly modified
to prevent injury and to promote **fun** and
fitness.

We currently field three teams – 35's, 45's and
50's. So, if you've played before or perhaps
just 'retired' from open age, check out
www.brunswick.mafv.com or call/text our
Secretary Kevin Walker on **0457 002 775**.



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