



# THE WANDERER

*Official newsletter of Hurlstone Park Wanderers FC*

## 2025 MID SEASON EDITION

### JOIN OUR WHATSAPP COMMUNITY

This will allow us to communicate any field closures and other information more quickly. Please go to [https://chat.whatsapp.com/JM2vaB3GQwoGrEXoY\\_AoVMb](https://chat.whatsapp.com/JM2vaB3GQwoGrEXoY_AoVMb) to join the community and receive announcements.

## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Rosalie Viney

Welcome to our May newsletter. It has been wonderful to get the season underway, to welcome our new Little Lions to the club and to see our fields in action. It has of course also been quite a frustratingly wet start to the season, something that may feel a bit like Groundhog Day for some of our players and supporters who have been around for a few years. Somehow the start of the season also seems to be an invitation for the heavens to open.

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### KEY EVENTS:

- MiniCubs program 2 (June-July) registration is open now!
- Silent Sidelines on 24/25 May and 31/1 May/June
- National Volunteer Recognition Week 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May
- R&W Cancer Council morning tea raffle tickets being sold - see Ewen and Beaman park canteens for more info (closes 22 May 2025).



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**RELD**  
GROUP





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We had two fantastic rounds before the Easter break, but as I am writing this we are looking at the likelihood of many more washouts this weekend. And we still have the other frustration that despite the wonderful work that has been going on to get the playing surface at Beaman Park in tip top shape.....we remain literally and figuratively in the dark about when we will be able to start training in all that wonderful, brightly lit space.

I want to assure everyone that these frustrations are out of our control, out of Football Canterbury's control, and out of Council's control. We continue to work closely with both FC and with Council to provide as much opportunity as possible for training and games. This means that some games may be moved - particularly for the younger age groups to give as many teams the opportunity to play as possible (remembering that washed out games are not rescheduled). And we really appreciate our teams and our coaches being patient with the training schedule and continuing to focus on that short pass work that is an important football skill!

There are some exciting events coming up over the next month. May 2<sup>nd</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> is Female Football Week (yes, I know that

that is longer than a week, but it means there are two weekends to promote and celebrate girls and women's football). HPW has a fantastic and proud history in promoting girls and women's football and we continue to have more senior women's teams than any other club (five in AAW, six in O35 and three in U19s), as well as two teams in every age group except u15 girls (one team) and u16 girls (one team) - this is the result of a long tradition of encouraging girls and women to start playing and to keep playing that started in our club well before me or my kids were involved. This year we are hosting a fantastic night celebrating women's football for the u16s and above at Ewen Park on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May - there will be a bbq, games and opportunities to mingle with team mates and with players from other clubs. We hope our senior women's teams will make this an opportunity to celebrate the grand tradition of the Hurlie Girlie Night! There are also other great events throughout FFW - check out the details in this newsletter.

We also have many teams that are starting their State Cup campaigns over the next few weeks. State Cup is a Football NSW Knockout Competition that runs throughout the winter season across clubs from all football Associations. This year we have 7 teams competing in the State Cup (only Division One teams can enter) and we wish them the very best. We will post about the State Cup games on our social media, and it makes a huge difference to teams if they feel they have a sea of blue and white support,

so would encourage our community to get along to local State Cup games - it's an opportunity to see community football at its best!

Some of you may have noticed that the Canterbury Referees Association are celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> season this year. This is an incredible history, but also a reminder that without referees we have no game. The CRA have been officiating at our games, training new referees and supporting our competitions since the game was in its infancy. I suspect they have been copping backchat and dissent for just as long - and that is not a history that any of us can be proud of. So at your next game, take the time to appreciate and thank the referee. They will probably make a mistake or two in the game (or you might think they did, but you might also be wrong) but, hey, so will you. And as a club, we want to be contributing to the development of referees rather than to them quitting! As well, let us know when you see a referee doing a great job - it is so important that we give positive feedback.

In this newsletter we introduce some more of the people around our club, we let you know about upcoming events, and about some great events that have already happened.

As always, we want the newsletter to be about our teams - so please send us your stories. Let's hope the weather gets better soon and we can all catch up down at the park.

Yours in football,  
Rosalie  
HPW President

# VALE PAT JENKINS



The HPW community was very saddened to learn of the passing of our much loved volunteer and canteen lady Pat Jenkins. Pat was part of the Pat and Rod dream team who gave countless hours of support to the club as volunteers, and were a huge part of our community. Pat will be fondly remembered by many of our young folk (some not so young now) as the friendly face in the canteen at Beaman Park and at Ewen Park. She also did much of the ordering and accepting of deliveries over many years, and often had to be reminded that maybe she shouldn't climb up a ladder to stock the shelves! Pat took her role at the club incredibly seriously, and provided amazing support with an incredible amount of goodwill and commitment.

Pat and Rod were recognised for their long service as volunteers with a Cec Barlow Volunteer Recognition honour from Football Canterbury in 2016. An incredible spritely octogenarian, Pat continued to volunteer with us after Rod passed away, and through her own health ups and downs. She will be missed by us all, as a much-loved member of our community.

Our thoughts and sympathy are with her children and grandchildren, in whom Pat and Rod also instilled a love of football.

# SILENT SIDELINES

## Silent Sidelines: Letting the Kids Lead at Hurlstone Park Wanderers

At Hurlstone Park Wanderers (HPW), we're passionate about developing not just great players—but confident, independent young people. That's why we've introduced the Silent Sidelines initiative across selected rounds during the season.

**This season it's happening on the weekends of 24/25 May and 31 May/1 June for all U6-12 games @ Ewen & Beaman Park.**

### What is Silent Sidelines?

Silent Sidelines is a simple but powerful concept: during games, spectators—including parents and carers—are asked to remain quiet throughout play. No shouting instructions, no calling out to referees, and no cheering until halftime or full time. The only voices on the field should be those of the players and coaches.

### Why are we doing this?

Because sometimes the best way to support is to say nothing at all. Silent Sidelines aims to:

- Give players space to think, problem-solve and make decisions without outside influence.
- Reduce pressure and anxiety caused by well-meaning but overwhelming sideline commentary.
- Encourage respectful behaviour from adults toward officials, coaches and other spectators.

- Foster leadership and communication among the players themselves.

### What can you do instead?

We still want you there—your presence matters! You can:

- Show your support with claps, especially at breaks and the end of each half.
- Offer encouragement and praise after the game.
- Let your child know you're proud of their effort, regardless of the score.
- If you really have difficulty keeping silent (we know it can be really challenging for some), please take advantage of the lollipops available over these weekends to keep your mouth occupied 😊

Silent Sidelines is part of HPW's ongoing commitment to **positive youth development, inclusivity, and a culture of respect**. By creating a calmer game-day environment, we help our players grow in confidence and love for the game.

Thank you for embracing the silence—because sometimes, silence speaks volumes.



# BEAMAN PARK OPENING

It has been fantastic to have Beaman Park on board this season, especially as the work on drainage, re-surfacing and grass has made it one of the more resilient fields against the usual April and May wet weather weekends. This week our committee members joined Football Canterbury and Cooks River Titans for the official opening with Mayor Bilal El-Hayek (and a bunch of school kids who use the park for school sport!). HPW is very appreciative of the amazing investment that City of Canterbury Bankstown have made to turn the former Beaman Swamp into a wonderful grass field, and the advocacy of Football Canterbury. For the club, this is one of the final steps in our facilities plan that was developed more than a decade ago (building on at least another decade of hard work and campaigning for improvements at Ewen and Beaman). When those lights finally get turned on (yes Ausgrid, we will keep mentioning it!) we will have incredible high quality space for training as well as for games.



# FEMALE FOOTBALL FESTIVAL WRAP-UP

HPW was delighted to host the evening Football Canterbury Female Football Week gala event for the adult women players on Friday 9th May 2025. More than 70 older girls and women across the football community came along for a night with heaps of fun and football. There were small sided games, face painting, walking football (our President is still bragging about what she is hoping is not her only goal this season, in the walking football!), and football kicking competitions. It was great to see the Bill Brackenbury Pavilion and the fields in full use, especially with the additional chance for an 035W/1 game on Ewen 2 as part of the action. Everyone who came along was incredibly appreciative of the excellent souvlaki dinners cooked by our amazing volunteers, VP Gerry and O45 player (who may have been volunteered by our Comp Sec) Alex for stepping up to staff the BBQ. And our MPIO and Committee member Edel was the lucky recipient of the WSW jersey prize (as the most vehement WSW supporter in the crowd).



A big thank you to Fiona from Football Canterbury for all her organisation and to the fantastic crew of coaches, including our very own Briana for their enthusiastic support. And yes it turns out face painting is for adult women as well!

# WOMENS FEMALE FOOTBALL FESTIVAL GALLERY



All photos from [@photographedwithlove](#)

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we meet, train and play

# FOOTBALL FOR FEMALES WITH DISABILITIES

From Thursday the 6th of March to the 10th of April, we successfully ran a 6-week Football for Females with Disabilities program at Ewen Park. Ambulant girls and women with disabilities over 12 years old were given the opportunity to take part in this free, inclusive program aimed at skill development for people who may not otherwise have many opportunities to play football!



In total, we had six participants with varying disabilities and levels of experience attend this program, and they were all united with a common goal- to improve their football skills or have a go! We received positive feedback from this program, with one player saying she wanted to do football for 20 years but never had an opportunity to as an ambulant female with a disability. This shows the demand for programs like these, and we hope to run one again in the near future.



ParaMatildas Rae Anderson and Tahlia Blanshard coached this program, giving the participants a chance to learn from Australian Representative Cerebral Palsy Football players! Hurlstone Park All Age Women's player Tamsin Colley was amongst the participants, and she got a lot of enjoyment out of it as did all the players! This program was made possible by the CommBank Community Grants program, which removed the barrier of cost to these females with disabilities who wanted to have a go or improve their football skills in a fun and inclusive environment!

Excitedly, we are looking to run another program before the end of the year. If you know anyone who might be interested, get into contact with Terry Wong at [terry@hpwfc.com.au](mailto:terry@hpwfc.com.au)



# HURLEY BURLEY WRAP-UP

One of the highlights of the pre-season is the Hurly Burly Cup. This fantastic festival of football started out as a fun pre-season game between two over 35 teams, organised by Marin Sardelic from Hurlo and Nathan Ruff from Burwood (an ex Hurlo player) – it was a bit of fun given that Nathan had jumped ship to start the season with this friendly rivalry game, but being Marin and Nathan, they also made it a charity event – something dear to their hearts. These two mates have always had their hearts in the right place and see the opportunity to make their community sport also a way to raise much needed funds for important causes. Over the years it grew, and the Hurly Burly Cup is now raising thousands of dollars for Chris O'Brien Lifehouse and St Vincent's Hospital, supporting the care of patients in need, and Heartbeat of Football. Sadly, Marin passed away last year, but his spirit and passion lives on in all his football friends and in the Hurly Burly Cup, and his energy will always be remembered.



This year Burwood hosted the now annual event at Blair Park, and it was a fantastic atmosphere across the two days, involving an incredible 36 teams, 16 games and 430 player across every age group from u8s through to over 50s. Most importantly it raised over \$10,000



for charity, and Heartbeat of Football made sure that many of those players and supporters (including both Presidents) head their heart health checked! Check out the photo of the signature board where many of the players (including some who may have been playing in disguise – we see you Sam Kerr and Taylor Swift!)



And yes, we will boast a little – for the first time in history, Hurlo took home the mighty hand carved trophy, and yes, it went straight to the Trophy Room where it will remain in pride of place until next year, when we are hoping to make the event even bigger at Beaman Park. Big thanks to Burwood for hosting this year, to Nathan and the Burwood committee for all their hard work, to Dare and others from the HPW committee who provided support and organisation, and to Marin's family who came along to provide their support and for the trophy presentation. It is a wonderful way to honour Marin (Muddy's) memory.

# LEARN HOW TO SAVE A LIFE IN MINUTES!

Join us at the Ewen and Beaman  
during training nights in June  
(Dates & times to be advised)

for a quick, hands-on session  
on using our defibrillators

**It's simple, life-saving,  
and could make all the  
difference when it  
matters most**



# MEET OUR AGE COORDINATORS



JO BRADSHAW -  
UNDER 10 MIXED

## **How long have you been with Hurlo? And in what roles?**

My eldest son has been playing with the club now for 3 years. He's now in U10. My youngest played little lions for the last couple too. This is my first official role other than Saturday soccer mum.

## **How long have you been an age coordinator?**

Only since the start of this season!! I'm still very much finding my feet.

## **What is a fun fact about you?**

Not a fun fact but I am going to self promote!! I have a big birthday this year, so I'm doing something crazy and running A LOT to raise funds for a charity called DEBRA. My youngest son suffers from this rare, genetic disorder called Epidermolysis Bullosa - his skin is very fragile. It's a charity very close to our hearts and so I wanted to raise some much needed \$\$\$\$. I've already completed the Hoka half marathon a couple of weeks ago, and I plan to do the Gold Coast Marathon in July and the City to Surf in August. You can follow my journey as I'm very uncomfortably posting regularly on @jo.runs.4.eb on Instagram. I'd love some support from this community. You can also sponsor me at <https://goldcoastmarathon25.grassrootz.com/debra-australia/jo-bradshaw>

## **What does being a volunteer mean for you?**

Clubs like ours don't survive without a committed volunteer force. What I'm doing is very small in comparison to most of the people you see around at Ewen and Beaman on Saturdays and Sundays. That team of people are incredible. I figure that I'm already involved by being at the game and supporting our team so helping out is not that much extra. It's good to support the club in a small way and see how much work goes in to it.

# MEET OUR AGE COORDINATORS

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CAROLINE AOW -  
U12

**How long have you been with Hurlo?**  
**And in what roles?** Since my middle child was in Under 6s, he is now in Under 14s. Manager, fill in coach, Age Coordinator, Club Admin, Canteen, BBQ coordinator, GM - you name it, I've done it.

**How long have you been an age coordinator?** 5 years

**What is your favourite thing about being an age coordinator?** Seeing the kids develop as footballers

**What is a fun fact about you?** I never played or watched football till I started volunteering at Hurlo.



SINEAD SHEILDS -  
35 WOMENS

**How long have you been an age coordinator?** 20 years on and off

**What is your favourite thing about being an age coordinator?** I love being part of the HPW community, which has been a huge part of our family life for decades. All of the family have been, or still are, HPW players, including myself. Others have contributed before me and others will come after me. Right now its my turn! As well as being an AC, I'm on the HPW Committee and enjoy working with that incredible group of resourceful ppl to keep HPW running as well as it does.

**What is your favourite thing about being an age coordinator?**

I get to meet and spend time with lots of delightful and interesting people and families who are enjoying football in their lives.

# MEET OUR AGE COORDINATORS



**BRIANA WONG -**  
MINICUBS (3-5) + LITTLE  
LIONS (6/7)

**How long have you been with Hurlo? And in what roles?** A long time for my age! I started playing at HPW when I was six and continued until I was twelve, I also used to MiniRef and coach my younger brother's teams when he was little. Now, I'm running the MiniCubs program (it's the biggest it's ever been), coordinating the Little Lions, assistant coaching the 18/2s, admin and Game Leader mentoring. You can usually find me at Ewen Park on a Saturday morning—it's like a second home.

**How long have you been an age coordinator?** This is my first year for the Little Lions, and my third for MiniCubs

**Do you play?** Yes, SD Raiders U23s in the NPL

**What is your favourite thing about being an age coordinator?**  
Seeing many different kids grow into great footballers from a young age



**LAURA TOOSE -**  
UNDER 11 MIXED AND U 8 TO  
U14 GIRLS

**How long have you been with Hurlo? And in what roles?** Since 2019. Initially as a parent, then player, house leader, manager, coach, Age Coordinator, Committee Member and Treasurer

**How long have you been an age coordinator?** 4 years

**Do you play?** Yes. I play in AAW4A.

**What is your least favourite thing about being an age coordinator?**  
Probably the messages at 9am on a weekday asking if the fields are open for training 😊

**Whats a fun fact about you?** Before I started playing football in 2020, I'd never played a sport (and didn't know the rules). My day job is as a health lawyer which I find endlessly interesting, and I'm learning Vietnamese (slowly).

**What does being a volunteer mean for you?** That I can contribute to football remaining accessible to all.



**Terry Wong**  
**HPW**  
**Coaching**  
**Coordinator**

## **Let Kids Play: The Importance of Positive Sideline Behaviour at Hurlstone Park Wanderers**

At Hurlstone Park Wanderers (HPW), we pride ourselves on fostering a community where football is played with respect, inclusivity, and a genuine love for the game. A crucial aspect of this environment is the behaviour of parents and spectators on the sidelines.

### **Why Sideline Behaviour Matters**

Children are highly influenced by the actions of adults around them. Research indicates that when parents display negative behaviours—such as yelling at officials, criticising players, or showing aggression—it can lead to increased anxiety and decreased enjoyment for young athletes. Conversely, positive support enhances their experience and development.



### **HPW's Commitment to Respectful Conduct**

HPW has established clear guidelines to ensure that all members uphold our core values: fair play, inclusivity, and respect for all participants.

### **Guidelines for Parents and Spectators**

- **Encourage, Don't Instruct:** Allow coaches to guide the team. Your role is to support and cheer positively.
- **Respect Officials:** Referees and Game Leaders are integral to the game. Treat them with respect, regardless of decisions.
- **Model Good Sportsmanship:** Your behaviour sets an example. Demonstrate respect and

composure at all times.

- **Focus on Effort and Enjoyment:** Celebrate the effort and enjoyment of the game, not just the outcome.

### **Addressing Inappropriate Behaviour**

Should any issues arise, HPW encourages open communication. At the fields, Ground Managers are best equipped to handle concerns, and the club is committed to addressing any behaviour that contradicts our values. Please notify your Manager or Age Coordinator and they will bring it to the attention of the Club.

### **Creating a Positive Environment Together**

By adhering to these guidelines, we ensure that our children enjoy a supportive and positive sporting environment. Let's work together to make every game a celebration of teamwork, growth, and fun.

For more information on our policies and values, please visit our [Coach and Managers' Handbook](#).

