



# THE WANDERER

*Official newsletter of Hurlstone Park Wanderers FC*

## 2025 END OF SEASON EDITION



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## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Rosalie Viney

Welcome to our final newsletter of the year. This particular newsletter is coming right at the end of the year, while we are planning for season 2026. For most of you it will seem like some time ago since you thought about winter football, and indeed, many of you have played in the various summer football competitions across the Football Canterbury footprint, including the local Football Canterbury competition, which it was lovely to have at Beaman Park this year (big thank you to the team from Cooks River Titans who did the heavy lifting on management of the grounds and canteen).

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### KEY EVENTS:

- Registrations opening up early January – please keep an eye on your emails and socials for more details
- Team Formation is happening early February – it is important to attend this session for accurate team placement for season 2026

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**RELD**  
GROUP





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For our committee, we are very proud of a great season for the club, and busy planning for season 2026, which is now just around the corner.

I want to congratulate all of our teams on a fantastic season. We had plenty of success, as outlined in this newsletter, with several teams winning the minor premiership or the championship and a few teams who really punched above their weight with the double! It is always wonderful to see this success, and for the committee, it was fantastic that we were able to get to many of these finals games to be able to celebrate or commiserate with our teams. It was said at many a presentation during the finals – but it is worth saying again. Many players never get to play in a grand final, so it is a huge achievement and the reward of many weeks of hard work and training and teamwork to get there – and those teams should be proud regardless of the result.

We highlight these teams in this newsletter, but I have to give a special shout out to our Gear Coordinator Dave Tartak – a committed player, coach and volunteer. This year Dave's Dees (a name that reaches back to the formation of the team many many years ago from women who had been in

mothers' group together), under Dave's skilled coaching, were both minor premiers and champions in the 35W/2. And then Dave backed it up by his own team bringing home the 50/2 silverware. We believe Dave is still wearing both medals under his t-shirt 😊, as he certainly should.

We also had two teams who did us really proud by making it through to the semi-finals of Champion of Champions – our Premier Men's Team (Bill Brackenbury Cup) and our 18/1s. Both played fabulous semi-finals and were incredibly unlucky to miss out on qualifying for the finals, and both represented Hurlo with distinction. Congratulations to both these teams on this outstanding effort.



And while it is wonderful to celebrate these achievements of our teams – I also want to applaud the amazing hard work, the team work and the Hurlo spirit of all our teams. It is great to see teams make finals, but it is also really special to see teams that pull together, that play with pride and give their all, and get to celebrate different



achievements - scoring a first goal, making an amazing save, pulling of an unexpected win against the top team, or being incredible in cheering for and supporting their team mates. We truly are a community club and that means that we celebrate participation in this amazing sport.

I also want to give a shout out in this newsletter to the fact that Hurlstone Park Wanderers (in conjunction with Cooks River Titans) hosted a massive 22 grand finals on the last weekend of winter football across four fields at Beaman Park, as well as hosting presentation rounds for the under 8/6s, the u12/1s and the under 9/2 girls. This was an incredible team effort from our committee and other volunteers and ensured that finals went ahead despite the disruption across the last month of the season from weather (yet again). Thank you to everyone who assisted across the finals and particularly that challenging last weekend.



While the 2025 season is well and truly over there are a few highlights that we should celebrate, which we will highlight in this newsletter. In June ran a fantastic

Silent Sidelines campaign to raise awareness of the importance of positive sideline behaviour. This campaign was masterminded and led by our fantastic Coach Coordinator Terry Wong, who really lives his commitment to fair play and promotion of participation and fun alongside skills.

In July we were awarded our Club Changer 2 Star status, an award that recognises our commitment to improving all aspects of our club, particularly across diversity and inclusion, fair play, good governance and promotion of women's football (we are now of course working towards our 3 Star status). We were also extremely proud to have been shortlisted for the inaugural Football NSW Club of the Year award, and to have been selected as October Club Changer of the Month (an award that particularly recognised our Silent Sidelines Campaign), and then to be named as one of the top 20 national Club Changer Clubs of the year. This recognition of the efforts and contribution right across our club is wonderful - and it comes right home to all our members who really embrace the values of the club. So I'm signing off this President's message with a huge vote of thanks to all our members, but particularly to our Committee, our Age Coordinators and all our wonderful volunteers. You are Hurlo!

And looking forward already to Season 2026. Have a restful break, but start planning as well for your own season 2026, in whatever capacity.

Yours in Football  
Rosalie  
HPW President

# REGISTRATION 2026 UPDATE

Stay tuned on our social media and look out for the email in your inbox with details from our Registrar about how to register for season 2026.

This year there will be some changes. Following on from the adoption by Football Australia and Football NSW of the Play Football Platform, for 2026 everyone will need to register via Play Football.

We will send details early in the new year once our registrations have been set up, but everyone will need a Play Football log in (many of you will already have this from Summer football competitions, or from the previous version of Play Football).

As some may be aware, other Associations moved to Play Football in 2025, and we are hopeful that this will mean that the teething problems have been sorted out.

There are some changes that will affect how flexible we can be with registration. An important difference is that we cannot offer a "pay later" option in the same way that we have before, so players and families will need to be organised around registration, which will require a credit or debit card. In addition, we will have less lassitude with approving registrations close to team submission time, so teams need to be organised if they are to be submitted -

this is most important for the adult teams, who often come together quite late in terms of having numbers.

We anticipate registration going live in early January.

## AGM UPDATE + CONSTITUTION CHANGE

This week you will have received notice of our Annual General Meeting, which has been held over to 29th January 2026 to allow for all our documentation to be finalised.

Importantly, the Club's Committee is proposing the adoption of an updated Constitution (replacing the current Constitution which was adopted in 2016). The new Constitution confirms with recommendations of the Office of Fair Trading and our governing bodies, and will set us up for the next decade or longer. This will be a Special Resolution which will be proposed and voted on at the AGM, along with the election of new office bearers and the receipt of our financial and other reports.

All members are welcome to attend the AGM, which will be held on January 29<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in joining the Committee either now or in the future, please get in touch. Even if you think you are not ready to join the Committee, we'd love to hear from you as we have Working Groups planned for activities for the 2026 Season.



# SAFETY TOPIC - WWCC

## ⚽ End of Season Reminder: Working With Children Checks ⚽

As we conclude another successful soccer season, we extend our sincere thanks to all our **managers, coaches, and volunteers** for their dedication, professionalism, and contribution to the safety and success of our club community. Your ongoing support ensures our players and families enjoy a safe, inclusive, and positive environment to grow and thrive.

As we prepare for next season, we remind all team officials and volunteers involved with players **under 18 years of age** that it is a mandatory requirement to hold a current **Working With Children Check (WWCC)**. This check helps us maintain the highest standards of safety, integrity, and trust within our club.

If your WWCC has expired or you have not yet completed the process, please apply or renew as soon as possible via **Service NSW**:

👉 [Apply or Renew Your Working With Children Check - Service NSW](#)

### Summary of the process:

1. Submit your application online through the Service NSW website.
2. You will receive an application number by email.
3. Visit a Service NSW Centre with your proof of identity to complete the process.
4. Once cleared, you will receive your WWCC number and expiry date via email.

Note: You can also add your Working With Children Check to your [Service NSW App](#) on your mobile device, so you always have a record of your details.

Your WWCC number and expiry date will be required when registering as a team official or volunteer. This number is then verified against the WWCC database to confirm its validity.

The safety and wellbeing of our junior and vulnerable members must always remain our highest priority. Ensuring that every adult involved with our junior players has completed a valid Working With Children Check safeguards our participants and strengthens the integrity of our club community.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued commitment to providing a safe and supportive environment for all players.



# CEC BARLOW AWARD RECIPIENT - GERRY CHOATE

After all his incredible efforts over many years (and still ongoing) it was great to see Gerry recognised with a Cec Barlow award. Because not everyone will know how much Gerry contributes, here is our nomination statement:

*Gerry Choate is our Vice President, our Disciplinary Committee Chair, and our Mr Fix It. A problem solver with a can do (or hey, it's already done), a builder of things, the person who is always available with his truck, with his tools and with his skills.*

*Gerry's first involvement with the club was like many other volunteers, as a manager of a team. Even then he was the person who appeared with a way to solve an immediate problem. When he joined the committee, he brought that willingness and knowledge to his position and has given countless hours to making our facilities and our club better.*

*As Chair of our Disciplinary Committee, he brings a no-nonsense and incredibly fair approach that has developed enormous respect from our teams - he listens, he understands but he maintains a strict adherence to zero tolerance of indiscipline, and has contributed to a culture of fair play.*

*But perhaps Gerry's biggest contribution is his vision and capacity*



*in relation to infrastructure. Gerry has been the mainstay of our facilities committee and his effort and energy, his liaison with Council and his understanding of all aspects of building has made a huge contribution to the realisation of the long held dream of the Bill Brackenbury Pavilion at Ewen Park. Gerry worked tirelessly with Council, with Football Canterbury, with the Project Managers and the builders to make sure that the new club house, canteen, change rooms and storage had everything it needed. To see this you just need to check out Ewen Park on a Saturday morning. Portable storage for minigoals? Gerry! Locked storage for kit? Gerry! Shelving for nets and match day equipment? Gerry! Bespoke brackets for easy storage of PVC goals? Gerry. And that is just the storage areas.*

*In 2025 Gerry has once again shown his capacity to manage challenging situations, being our key liaison with Council to move forward the lights at Beaman, to deal with damage to fields and to keep our teams happy.*

*Every club needs a Gerry, and HPW is very very lucky indeed to have the original!*



# SPREADING THE HURLO SPIRIT THROUGH THAILAND

## So, What Happened To The Old Kits?

A few years ago, we came up with the idea to distribute football and sports equipment to schools in the far North East of Thailand where Wan comes from (Khonkaen/ Koraat area). We begged quite a few old balls and training bibs in good condition from Hurlo, deflated the balls, packed them in our bags and headed to Thailand. We used our own money to buy some volleyballs, table tennis bats, balls and nets, and made up about a dozen packages. We tend to travel a lot in remote areas up in the North East, way off the western tourist trail, and pass by many schools in rural areas. We kept a few of these bundles in the back of the car, and would simply stop at remote schools, Wan would find the principal, and we donated the equipment which was always gratefully received. We met lots of fantastic kids and teachers this way, and had a lot of fun in kick arounds with locals. I have to say their standard of play is insanely good, and is often played in bare feet or simple sandshoes—they play for love and fun. They'd wipe the floor with most of our club!



The kindly class of Baan Pon Tong nursery school in Chaiyaphum province. That's our nephew and his mum marked at the back. His nickname? Kick!

In 2025 Hurlo was introducing the permanent kit change, and we approached the club to see if we could



A Police charity match team in Chonburi.

redistribute the better old jerseys to Thailand. Gerry, Rosalie and the committee were enthusiastic, and with the help of Gerry and Adele we dug in the piles of blue and white and made up a huge 110kg bundle of Hurlo kits to send to Thailand via bulk shipping—the club generously paid the shipping costs.

We sent them to our sister Da in Chonburi, who is a very senior police woman. With the help of police volunteers, she sorted the kits into team lots, and then asked colleagues for recommendations of areas in Thailand for them to be sent. Police enthusiastically recommended remote areas, again mainly in the rural North and North East. The kits travelled all over via bus transport, and were distributed to schools by local police. As you can see from the photos, they went everywhere and were welcomed by adults and children alike.

So, if you're ever lucky enough to visit the rural areas of Thailand (no beaches or bars—just buffalo, rice fields, and silk farms!) you may be lucky enough to see a few familiar Hurlo kits being used in soccer matches. Now THAT is a travelling Hurlo tale!



# SPREADING THE HURLO SPIRIT THROUGH THAILAND



The senior boys soccer team, Loei province.



The junior mixed soccer team , Kalasin province.



Junior competitors in Baan Lak Roi



A girls soccer team at a high school in  
Phitsanaluk province.



Junior students at Baan Hin Saw primary school  
with their sports prizes.



The winning girls Volleyball team at a high school  
in Mukdahan province



Students at Baan Lak Roi primary school dressed  
for their sports carnival.

A big thank you to Mark, Wan and the Slocum Family for organising this and sharing the Hurlo spirit across the globe.



A few members of the Baan Nong Kwan village  
soccer team in Chayaphum province. A village of  
25 houses. Our sister in law lives here. These  
blokes work hard in rubber plantations and  
pineapple fields, and are really fit!



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 CHAMPIONS



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**Under 18 Division 1**



**Under 16 Division 1**



**Under 15 Girls Division 1**

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**Under 16 Girls Division 2**



**Over 50 Division 2**



**Over 35 Women Division 2A**



**All Age Women Division 5B**



**Over 35 Division 6**



**All Age Male Division 7**

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



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 MINOR PREMIERS

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**Bill Brackenbury (Premier Men's)**

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**Under 18 Division 1**



**Under 14 Girls Division 2**



**Under 16 Girls Division 2**



**Over 50 Division 2**



**Over 35 Women Division 2A**



**Under 13 Division 3**



**Over 35 Division 5**



**All Age Women Division 5B**

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



# OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

We followed up our Centenary celebrations in 2025 with a great year of football, with fantastic achievements across the Club. Here are some of the highlights, month by month.

In **February**, many of our committee members and other club leaders had the fantastic opportunity to attend the NSW Club Development Conference. Our Coaching Coordinator, Terry Wong had a feature role as a panellist speaking about our experience with the Club Changer program.



In **March** we joined with our neighbouring club and long time friends Burwood FC for the biggest and best so far Hurly Burly Charity Gala Weekend. Across the weekend we had 14 games between Burwood and HPW, featuring our young and not so young teams, and raised over \$10,000 for important charities that are close to the hearts of everyone in our clubs. And for the first time in history, the coveted hand carved trophy has been gracing the Hurlo club rooms for the 2025 season. We will be hosting the 2026 event at Beaman Park, so it will be even bigger and better. We also ran the first of two very successful program for girls and women with disabilities - this program has developed under the leadership of Terry Wong,



Robin Hawkes and our very own ParaMatilda Tamsin Colley, who is now an accredited coach for the program.

**April** was of course season launch, but also therefore the beginning of The Great Wet. Always challenging, this season we navigated an incredible number of washouts, particularly in the latter half of the season. It was fantastic to have Beaman Park back in action for game day football, giving us much more scope for home games, and also making it much easier to work around the season washouts. If only we had the lights on.....



@photographedwithlove

**May** is always a big month in football, with the celebration of Female Football Week. It was a pleasure to host the Football Canterbury Gala night for women at Ewen Park, and to have so many of our women players attending.



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# OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

Across the **end of May and the beginning of June** we ran our Silent Sidelines campaign to promote positive sideline behaviour and a better experience for all our players and match officials. While some of us definitely found it challenging to keep quiet, it really brought home the message that the only thing that we should hear at football is applause and cheers for great effort and great play. The campaign became a case study for the Office of Sport.



In **June** we were delighted to be awarded our Club Changer Two Star Award – recognising the programs and activities the club is putting in place to promote football and club development. We are now working towards our Three Star Award, and hope to achieve that in 2026. And the other hugely exciting highlight of June was to finally, after much work, celebrate lights at Beaman (as featured on our 2025 commemorative t-shirt) – making a huge difference to our training schedules to have so much more training space.



The weather of course continued to challenge us in **July**, but we pushed on and also had a wonderful night celebrating and thanking our many volunteers at the Henson Hotel. A great opportunity for our volunteers to chat and share their experiences.



And so it was onto finals in **August**. Congratulations to all our teams who were minor premiers (listed elsewhere in this newsletter) and to our Champions. The finals in August were bookended by two of our adult women's teams – the 35/W2 bringing home the first silverware, and the AAW5 taking out the very last grand final of the 2025 season, but there were many others along the way. Also a shout out to Tamsin Colley who represented Australia in the InterContinental Cup for the ParaMatildas in August in the UK.





# OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

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In **September** our Vice President (and now Football Canterbury Board member) Gerry Choate was recognised for his incredible service with a Cec Barlow award at the Football Canterbury Volunteer Recognition Dinner. During September, our Bill Brackenbury (premier men's) and under 18/1 teams had a fantastic run representing the Club and Football Canterbury in Champion of Champions - both teams made it to the semi-finals, which is a huge achievement, and played incredible close semi-finals, doing us proud.

We were very honoured in **October** to be named as Football NSW's Club Changer of the month, and also to be selected as one of the shortlisted finalists for Football NSW Community Club of the Year.

## HURLSTONE PARK WANDERERS NAMED CLUB CHANGER CLUB OF THE MONTH



In **November**, our young players (and two very excited u9 Age Coordinators, Catherine and Steph) had the thrill of being half time heroes at the Matildas vs New Zealand game on the Central Coast - this again was recognition of our club changer achievements, but also a fantastic opportunity for the kids to be in great seats for a fantastic win from the Matildas.



Finally, to top off a great year, we were thrilled to be named in **December** as one of the 20 top Club Changer clubs of the year by Football Australia.

It's been a busy year for the club, alongside all the regular games, the bbq volunteers, the fantastic effort by players, coaches and managers and all our committee.



# CLUB CHANGER RECOGNITION



As a club we are committed to the Club Changer program, which provides resources, guidance and support for clubs to improve governance, football development and create stronger clubs and programs.

Here is the link to the Football NSW story naming us as Club Changer of the month for October:

[Hurlstone Park Wanderers Named Club Changer Club of the Month - Football NSW](#)

It was a big thrill to be named in the top 20 national Club Changers of the Year, but also fantastic to see all the great work being done by other clubs. It is well worth visiting the Club Changer Instagram page to see the Hurlo story, but also all the other stories.

[View this story here](#)

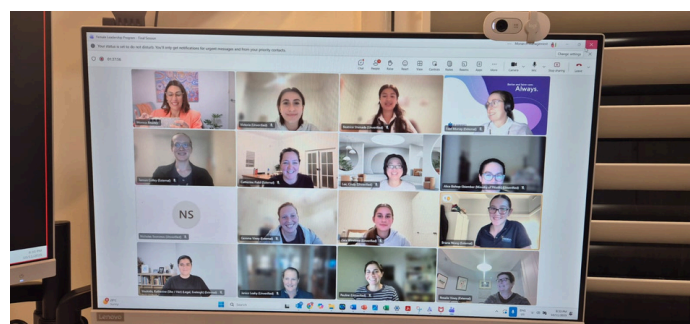
# FEMALE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

In 2025, we were very fortunate to receive an Office of Sport grant, which enabled us to provide valuable opportunities to develop the leadership skills of women and girls across our club

This funding supported one of our women coaches, Kylie Jacobsen, to undertake her C Licence, and allowed many women leaders—including age coordinators, committee members, coaches and managers—to attend the Football NSW Development Conference.

A particularly fantastic part of the grant was the delivery of a six-week leadership program for emerging women and girls leaders within our club. The program was facilitated by Monica Beazley, an outstanding leadership coach with deep experience in sport and a strong passion for supporting women and girls to reach their full potential. Modelled on a Football NSW program attended by our President, Rosalie Viney, we are proud to be the first club to offer this initiative, with Monica developing a bespoke program tailored to our club's needs.

Sixteen participants aged from 15 to 55 took part, reinforcing that leadership development is valuable at any stage. Through five online sessions and a full-day workshop, participants developed practical skills in confidence, communication, negotiation, feedback and managing challenging situations. The program also created a valuable space for women and girls in leadership roles—players, captains, coaches, managers and coordinators—to connect, share experiences and learn from one another.







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

## Key Takeaways from the 2025 FNSW Coaching Conference to Elevate Our Game!



The FNSW Coaching Conference provided our club with world-class insights on making Hurlstone Park Wanderers the best possible environment for football. Here are three key takeaways for everyone in the HPW community:

### 1. The Game is the Best Teacher

For all players, from MiniRoos up, the philosophy is simple: Less Talk, More Football. The most successful environments use simple, engaging, game-based activities, not complicated drills. Coaches will focus on maximising ball contacts and reinforcing decision-making. We encourage creativity and movement, not just following directions. Players, embrace the challenge—competition and variety drive true development!



### 2. Parents, Your Influence is Everything

Parents, your role is crucial: you impact a child's enjoyment, motivation, and retention more than coaches do. We are looking to implement Silent Sidelines early in the season to set a positive tone. Please avoid sideline instructions or "action verbs" (like "shoot" or "pass"). Instead, allow your child autonomy to make mistakes and learn. Post-match, wait for the player to initiate any conversation about the game.



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### 3. Respect is Non-Negotiable

Our goal is retention, and that includes keeping our young match officials in the game. Referees are learners, just like players. HPW is committed to creating the best sideline culture and showing respect for referees. Coaches, players, and parents must all model the behaviour we expect.

By focusing on these core themes—Game-Based Learning, Positive Parent Engagement, and Respect—HPW will continue to be a place where kids STAY because they love football.

Bring on season 2026!

Terry