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# ***AROUND THE GROUNDS***

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Welcome to the First edition of the Around the Grounds newsletter for 2017.

Hope everyone has a great season.

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## **Match Results:**

Saturday					Sunday				
AG/Div	Home Team	H	A	Away Team	AG/Div	Home Team	H	A	Away Team
AA/C	ASOW	1	0	Lugarno	AAW/B	Arncliffe Aurora	1	2	Lugarno
AA/D	Penshurst West	1	3	Lugarno	O35/B	Lugarno	0	2	Forest Rangers (1)
AA/E	Rockdale Raiders	3	1	Lugarno	PWL/1	Lugarno	2	8	Connells Point
AA/F	Lugarno	0	2	Connells Point (2)	U14G/A	Lugarno	2	1	Rockdale Suns
AA/G	Glory FC	5	2	Lugarno	U16G/A	Lugarno	3	3	Forest Rangers
AAA1/1	Lugarno (1)	4	2	Penshurst West					
AAA1/1	Rockdale Suns	2	0	Lugarno (2)					
AAAR/R	Rockdale Suns	1	2	Lugarno (2)					
AAAR/R	Lugarno	2	3	Penshurst West					
U12/C	Lugarno	4	2	ASOW					
U13/B	Connells Point	0	12	Lugarno					
U15/C	Lugarno	3	0	Bexley North					
U16/B	Forest Rangers	0	4	Lugarno	Friday				
U18/A	Connells Point	4	2	Lugarno	O45/A	Hurstville Minotaurs	10	0	Lugarno

## **Canteen & Field Set Up for next weekend:**

	Team	Time	Duty required
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	AA F	7am – 12 noon	Set up fields; Canteen set up; BBQ duty; Canteen duty
	13 B	12 noon – 5pm	Pull down fields after checking with canteen re: posts required for Sunday games
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	15 C		Set up Fields 4 & 6 (fields must be set up ½ hour before game)
	AA F		Pull down Field 6; return posts to lock up area
	AA G		Pull down Field 4; return posts to lock up area

## **Match Reports:**

### **6B 2 v Connells Point**

Today's season opener for Lugarno's 6B2's started promising with a goal scored by Jett.

Connells Point was a challenging team to play, full of quick players. All the boys worked hard and played a great game.

Perfect way to start the season.



### **6B 3 v Connells Point**

**POTM:** Lucian Kotevski

After nothing but rain for weeks, it was great to finally hit the pitch for 2017. All the kids were super enthusiastic and ready to go from the outset. Being our second year together and after some promising results in the trial games we were confident going into the game.

Connells Point started strongly, held out only by some excellent and committed defence by





Samuel. Samuel put his body on the line all game and without him Connells Point would have had many more goals. A huge improvement by Samuel this year, great game.

Although we conceded a few early goals, Jarvis continued to attack using his electric speed to his advantage. He made plenty of long sideline runs to keep us in the game. Zac Boyle was also very aggressive today, ripping in to plenty of defensive midfield work and coming ever so close to scoring an awesome solo goal in the first half.

The player of the week Lucian had an awesome game. For his first year of playing (and



without any practice sessions due to weather) he has fit right into the team and picked it up super quick. He made some nice runs and some powerful clearing kicks.

Hunter came on and came ever so close to scoring in the second half, hitting the post once and narrowly missing another. We ended up conceding a few more

goals towards the end but it wasn't from lack of trying. All the boys really played well even with the score mounting against us.

Congratulations to Connells Point, they were a strong opposition but I saw enough in our boys that we'll definitely have a good season ahead.



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### **7B 3 v Forest Rangers**

WOW, what a game.

One training session and the girls went great. Awesome running and defence by all the girls made sure we were in control for most of the game.

Looking forward to next week for more fun and soccer.

Good work girls.



### **8B 1 v Kogarah Waratah**

**Goal Scorers:** Ashton Frawley 2 / Remi Theophile 1

**POTM:** Ashton Frawley

What a fantastic start to our 2017 Season! Welcome to everyone and hope you enjoy playing with 8B1.

We started off the season with a new team, bigger field, longer halves and a goalie!

The kids were super excited to play after all the wet weather we have had. We haven't been able to train at all due to all the rain, and thankfully the Council opened the grounds for Game 1 of the season.

The kids played really well considering we have moved to a bigger field and our halves are now 20 minutes each. Everyone was also good sports in offering to play in goals - Emma and Charlie played really well in goals, thanks kids!

Final score – Lugarno 3 – Kogarah 2

Looking forward to next week!







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## **9B 1 v Hurstville Minotaurs**

**Goal Scorers:** Tristan / Josh / Abbie / Lachie

**POTM:** Josh (Manager's choice) & Tristan (Coach's choice)

With all the rain recently the game was looking doubtful, however with the sun gods on our side it was the U9B1's 2017 season underway!

With very little 'ball time' in the lead up to the season I was unsure how we'd fair... But never doubt the U9B1's as they started as they left off from last season.

With the 'Big Man' Oska between the sticks and Romeo, Elle and Lily putting in the tough tackles it was always going to be difficult for the opposition to score. Although against the run of play a great move by the 'white shirts' created an opportunity, which saw them take the lead.



This was like waving a red rag to a bull and our little champions seemed to take the intensity up a notch with some great passing and some fine footballing skills on show ... that even Messi would have been proud of!

As I said, I'd love to take acclaim for the fine footballing skills on display but having had one training session in the lead up to the

season it has nothing to do with me... great work kids!

With Michael stamping his authority in the middle of the park and Tristan, Abbie and Josh pressing forward at every opportunity it was only a matter of time before we broke the dead-lock.

Josh picked up the ball and seemed to skip around the white shirts, before laying off the ball to the 'Drag Back' king Tristan who opened the 2017 season with a finely taken goal!

Not long after it was Josh's turn to add to the score-sheet. Not to be out done, up stepped Abbie after some near efforts who smashed the ball into the corner of the net to make it 3-1 to Lugarno!

The fine passing and skills continued in the middle of the park and down the wings. With the time running down on the clock, a great ball came into the middle of the box which bounced nicely for the 'home-grown' Lachie to latch onto and smash the ball past the keeper to opening his scoring tally for Lugarno!

It was a great game to watch from the sidelines and it's nice to finally get the season underway.

The trophies could have gone to anyone today, but the two standouts were Josh for his fancy footwork and dribbling skills who took out the Managers Trophy of the week and Tristan for his finely taken goal and tracking back to help out in defence and midfield for the Coaches Trophy of the week!

Well played all... it's great to be back... And of course great to seeing that 'The Dab' has already reached Gannons!

Here's to a great season ahead!

## **9B 2 v Forest Rangers**

**Goal Scorers:** Edward 3 / Cooper 3 / Manny  
**POTM:** Cooper

We have a great start to our season with everyone keen to have a run.

Everybody played so well it was a pleasure to watch their enthusiasm. There were plenty of goals scored, including an amazing goal from the corner in the first half, scoring him Player of the Match. Brodie bagged 2 while Sam score 1 off a great penalty right in front.

Liani, our only girl player, played another tough game and gave it her all. Sam and Josh played exceptionally well in goals to assist with the overall win.

Congratulations team.





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## **10B 2 v Bexley North**

This year our team has the addition of 4 new players, a few of which have never played before. We welcome Jennifer, Zack, Riley and Jayden to the team!

We were all very happy when the Council gave the green light for the first day of competition. The kids were all excited to start their year as Under 10s on the midi field.

With a larger field comes more room to move the ball around and make passes. The kids were up to the task and passed the ball around like pros.

Keeping position is a new challenge for the kids and they did it really well.

Jamie had a quiet game in goals, but when the action came to him, he did a great job.

Diana and Sam were solid in defence as they have been in previous years.

Riley, Jayden and Zack all made great contributions to the game in the mid field, you would never have known that this was Riley and Jayden's first game!

Vinnie showed skill in the mid field, passing the ball up to his forwards, and almost scoring a few times himself.

Linden scored a great goal and did a solid job with Vinnie in the mid field.

Jennifer was awesome in the midfield, it was her first game also and she was in the thick of it, passing the ball around, making a great contribution to the game.

Olivia and Michael, our strikers, also scored (Olivia x 2 and Michael x 1). They were tireless as always, always passing and getting into position for each other.

Our last team member Ryah was away, we look forward to her joining us again next week. Well done to the team on a great first game of the season!



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## **14A Girls v Rockdale City Suns Won 2 - 1**

**Goals Scorer:** Alana Petanceski 2

**POTM:** Alana Petanceski

Lugarno faced another finalist from the previous season in the opening game of the season, when it faced Rockdale City Suns on Gannons 6.

All players, with the exception of Anastacia, were available for the game ensuring the team went into the game with the luxury of four interchange players.

The opening exchanges proved pretty even and goal scoring opportunities were created at both ends. With both teams adopting an attacking mentality, the game was played end to end helping to



engage and entertain the vocal supporters of both teams. Some of the supporters even commented after the game they had not heard or seen such noise and passion at a junior girl's game.

Lugarno gained the upper hand when they secured successive corners half way through the first half. Alana P stepped to take the corners and succeeded in scoring both goals through acute deflections that gave the Rockdale City Suns goal keeper no chance at preventing the goals.

The teams went into the half time break with Lugarno ahead 2-0. At the half-time break the team was instructed to focus on support play and to communicate more frequently in defence and attack mode. With the second half commencing and the opposition focussed on chasing the game, gaps started appearing in their defence which allowed Stephanie, Tamar, Jade, Taylah and Bryana to create goal scoring opportunities.

A defensive lapse by Lugarno gifted the opposition a goal with ten minutes remaining in the game. To manage the situation some strategic positional changes were employed which succeeded in the team managing the final moments of the game.

Alana P, Josephine and Celine were solid in defence throughout the game, successfully halting the opposition's attacks while Madelen in goals remained alert and made a number of important saves. Alanna Caracoglia, Tamar, Alana C, Taylah and Charlie alternated between defence and attack as necessitated by the changing game dynamics.

Bryana, Zena and Mia put in solid performances in midfield. Upfront Jade and Stephanie made determined runs taking the play deep into the opposition's half.

A great start to the season with the team registering a close entertaining win over one of their key rivals from the previous season. The second half was proving comfortable until the final ten minutes of the game which provided some nervous moments for the team. To their credit Lugarno was able to remain composed and ended the game on a positive note by launching the final attack of the game.

The team managed to score both of their goals from set plays, which are important elements of the game. The focus at training will now shift to scoring from open play to enhance the overall attacking potency of the team.

### **16A Girls v Forest Rangers Drew 3 - 3**

**Goal Scorers:** Yasmine / Sarah / Monique

**POTM:** Tia

What an exciting way to start the season.

Not being able to train 3 new players who haven't played before.

We started off a little on back foot due to lack of fitness and touch due to not being able to train.

We went down 1-0 to a silly mistake, then we hit back with Sarah converting her first goal of the season. 1-1

Then the girls feel asleep after the break and we conceded 2 quick goals 3-1 down.

Then we changed our formation to a 3-4-3 and went for it.

Yasmine scoring her first ever goal made it 3-2.

Then 5 minutes later Monique took a 25 yard free kick and it sailed top corner 3-3.

Tia, man of the match with her work rate, and back 3 of Aylssa, Sienna Jasmine defended hard and our keeper Sofia Roy was solid in goals.

Olivia as always was everywhere and Monique put her hand up and played few different positions during the game very well.



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## **16B v Forest Rangers**

**Won 4 - 0**

**Goal Scorers:** Danish Baig / Jordan Apostolas / Kane Spiteri / Harrison O'Brien

**POTM:** Stephen Theodoridis

Despite the heavy rain of Thursday night, round 1 proceeded as planned as Lugarno FC faced rivals Forest Rangers on Gannons 1. The ground was mostly dry but the playing surface proved very slow due to the long grass which proved more awkward than some of the opposition's defenders.

Lugarno deployed a 3-2-4-1 formation for the game with Will starting in goals, Harris, Harrison and Mark in defence, Mitchell and Issac started in defensive midfield, while Peter, Jordan, Kane and Alex comprised the normal midfield and Omar was the solitary striker. The interchange players for the game were Raffi, Stephen and Danish.

With the football season finally kicking off, Forest Rangers had the better of the opening exchanges as they launched a number of attacks at the Lugarno defence. Despite the early dominance in possession, Lugarno remained comfortable effectively neutralising the opposition's attacks and launching their own counter attacks.

Gradually the team gained control of the game and with greater ball possession and ball movement they started playing the game in the opposition's half, creating a number of chances in the process for Jordan, Peter and Kane.

The sustained pressure resulted in a brilliant individual goal to Danish in the 28th minute who took on the Forest Rangers defence before cleverly kicking the ball past the advancing goal keeper. In the dying minutes of the game both Danish and Jordan came close to adding a second goal but Forest Rangers survived to go into the half-time break down by a goal.

Lugarno became even more dominant during the second half and the early dominance was rewarded with goals to Kane in the 42nd minute, Harrison in the 48th minute and Jordan in the 53th minute. Three goals in the space of 18 minutes to make the score line 4-0 allowed coach Hagop to experiment with different combinations for the remainder of the game.

While Lugarno ended up winning the game comfortably at the end, the team showed a lot of character to bounce back strongly from a slow start. In the end the score line flattered Forest Rangers with Lugarno failing to capitalise on a number of great goal scoring opportunities.

Lugarno's two new players Danish and Jordan both scored great goals and created numerous goal scoring opportunities. Will in goals remained focussed when the opposition was dominating the early phase of the game and directed the defence throughout the game. Harris, Mark, and Harrison had solid games in defence with Harrison also regaining his striker powers by scoring Lugarno's third goal and Stephen put in an outstanding performance in defence. Mitchell, making a welcome comeback from a broken leg last season, gained game confidence by lasting the entire game. Issac, Raffi, Alex, Peter and Jordan played in midfield at different phases of the game putting in solid performances while Kane played in attack and defence and virtually everywhere on the field to support the team dynamics. Omar, as the lone striker, pressed and pressured the opposition



defence and constantly forced the opposition defenders out of position, creating gaps for the second phase attackers.

From a football perspective the team did not panic when the opposition dominated the start of the game and through hard work and determination not only regained the ascendancy but finished well on top of the opposition. As the season progresses and as the team also gets fitter, the overall team play will become more coherent and fluid. Fitter players will also start making better football decisions so there are a lot of positives to take out from the opening round.

A memorable win, a clean sheet and comprehensively defeating our rivals in the opening round the game definitely proved priceless!

**Game stats:**

	<b>Lugarno FC</b>	<b>Forest Rangers</b>
<b>Total shots</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Shots on target</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Goals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Corners</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Possession</b>	<b>55 per cent</b>	<b>45 per cent</b>



**AAF v Connells Point                      Lost 0 - 2**

After a fairy tale run to the premiership last season, the AAF team knew this year would bring new challenges... and that was evident early on.

Within the opening 10mins, a rare moment - right back Peter G limped off injured. With a reshuffled backline, key players missing and a "limited" pre-season, we were clearly off the pace. Connells dominated play and deservedly took the lead by heading in a corner from close range just before halftime.

The second half continued much like the first. We didn't create enough goal scoring chances as Connells dominated possession. Yare's goal-line clearance and Kotta's run/tumble down the sideline provided a few laughs for the boys. Connells didn't let up and sealed a deserved win with a second goal. Full time 0-2.

Overall, a tough day at the office for the Lugarno boys...but a good effort nonetheless. Despite the loss, our new signings made their mark on the game and will be valuable to the team going forward.

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