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AROUND THE GROUNDS

WELCOME to Season 2016 – hope all had an enjoyable first round last weekend.

This Friday, 8th April, we have the U6 night commencing at 5.30pm for a 6pm start. There will be fun activities for the U6 players, and it is the Club's formal welcome for our new U6 players and their parents, and an opportunity for their parents to meet LFC Committee members.

If you're looking for something for the kids to do in the school holidays, our Coaching Director conducts Fun Football camps right here at Gannons Park. A great way for the kids to improve their football skills in a fun way – see the website for more details.

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AROUND THE GROUNDS – 2nd & 3rd April 2016

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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/B	Bexley North	0	2	Lugarno	AAW/B	Carlton Rovers	4	4	Lugarno
AA/C	ASOW	0	4	Lugarno (1)	AAW/C	Carss Park (1)	12	0	Lugarno - 18G
AA/D	Dolls Point	8	0	Lugarno	O35/B	Arncliffe Aurora (1)	9	1	Lugarno
AA/E	Scots FC	1	2	Lugarno	PWL/1	Scots FC	7	2	Lugarno
AA/F	Lugarno (1)	3	2	Connells Point	U13/G	Lugarno	7	0	Ramsgate RSL
AA/F	Forest Rangers	0	1	Lugarno (2)	U16G/A	Forest Rangers (1)	1	2	Lugarno
AA/G	Lugarno	2	0	Forest Rangers (1)	U16G/C	Banksia Tigers	0	7	Lugarno
PL1/1	Carlton Rovers	4	1	Lugarno					
PLR/R	Carlton Rovers	0	0	Lugarno					
U12/B	Hurstville Glory	6	0	Lugarno					
U13/C	Lugarno	3	2	Bexley North (1)					
U14/C	Lugarno	0	6	Connells Point					
U15/A	Lugarno	2	0	Connells Point (2)					
U17/18	Forest Rangers (2)	3	1	Lugarno	O45/A	Lugarno	1	9	Scots FC

Match Reports:

6B 3 v Forest Rangers

After a few fun practice runs it was great to finally take the field for our first game of the season at Gannons Park.

We faced a very competitive and more experienced Forest Rangers side, however I was really pleased with our effort on the day.

We started enthusiastically with both Zachary L and Zachary B giving some excellent clearing kicks through the midfield, and helping us stay with them early on. After spending a fair bit of time in our own half, we were forced to dig deep in defence and unfortunately conceded a few early goals.

We saw some promising signs late in the first half, with the dynamic duo of Grace and Kyla helping us make a strong push into Rangers territory. We narrowly missed our first goal scoring opportunities of the year, but it was a great passage of play for the team as a whole.

The second half started similar to the first, with Rangers dominating both possession and territory. We kept our energy levels up regardless, and Samuel contributed strongly with some fantastic kicks and fast footwork.

Hunter did a great job making a few strong efforts to get back and stop a few certain goals, however the scoreboard kept ticking over as the hot autumn day took its toll on our Lugarno team.

It was a tough first outing score wise, however I think all the kids gave their best and hopefully they all had fun as well. I was proud of the team, and it was good to see all the kids smiling and shaking hands with their opposition at the end.

We look forward to next week, (and with the additional help of Jarvis as well) we will hopefully be able to work together to have another great game.

7B 3 v Forest Rangers

Goal Scorers: Miles Laney 2 / Catherine Kaniouris 1

POTM: Miles Laney

Well what a great start to season 2016! All our superstars were out in force today and were rearing to go for Game 1 of the season.

Amidst all the dust were their little feet kicking the ball and trying their hardest.

Mikey had some great kicks and tried his hardest to get some goals today. Charlie and Oli had some great kicks too, great start boys! Catherine was a gun today, firing all over the place and trying her hardest as always. Emma and Pip too had a great game. Miles had a cracker of a game, scoring 2 goals - well done Miles! A 3-1 win to us.

Looking forward to a fun season ahead - thanks to all the parents and grandparents who came along today to support our team.

7B 6 v Forest Rangers

POTM: Jake Eastwood

We were at home for round 1 of the season, with classmates on opposing sides.

A gutsy performance and all round inspiring team effort. Great defence shown by Joshua and Danny, with good ball control and attacking from Felipe and Jake.

Brooklyn came close to scoring his first goal of the season, better luck next week buddy.

What a terrific way to start the season! A 5-0 win!



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8B 1 v Peakhurst United

Goal Scorer: Tristan

POTM: Joshua

With all the hard work done in pre-season training by the kids, it was now time to take the short trip across to Peakhurst for our first game of the season.

Sun shining, football kit washed, boots cleaned, manager **Bec's** organisational work behind the scenes and **Julia's** tasty oranges ready for halftime energy.... the anxious wait for the referee to blow the whistle!

What a fine footballing display put on by the U8B1's for the large travelling Lugarno fans... it was real 'edge of the seat' stuff! Every player is worthy of a mention....

With **Oska** pushing forward at every opportunity he was unlucky not to be on the score-sheet a few times, **Michael's** set up pass for **Tristan's** finely taken goal, **Piper** showing off her fine dribbling skills around the Peakhurst midfield, **Lachie** and **Lily** with their robust tackling in the middle of the park and **Abbie** nearly scoring one for herself too!

Special mention to our 'man between the sticks' and player of the week **Joshua** for a fine goal keeping display. He commanded his goal area like a true professional! A 1 all draw was a fair result, but without the excellent saves it could have been a very different result.... my hands are sore from all the clapping!!

What a great game of football (or should I say Soccer) from all the kids – we have a great little team and we are going to have some fun this season! Well done.



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9B 2 v Carrs Park

Goal Scorers: Michael 2 / Samuel

All the kids were really excited to get back on the field and play on Saturday, and as soon as the whistle blew we could all see that the passing drills at training were paying off.

Our team were looking for one another, keeping their positions and passing the ball. Both Vinnie and Vas were very unlucky not to score today, with Vinnie's long shot being stopped by the keeper and Vas's hitting the post. Michael had a bit more luck with 2 of his shots going straight past the goalie. Noah had a great half in goals, saving everything that came at him.

We went into the second half up by 2, Carrs Park came back with lots of energy and scored their first goal quickly. A few more attempts at goal were saved by Jamie, and then after he saved one, he quickly passed the ball to one of his backs, they passed it up the field and Samuel scored his first goal of the season!

The kids were thrilled with the result of their first game (a 3-1 win) and look forward to more training sessions and games in 2016.

10I v Rockdale Suns

Goal Scorers: Emmanuel Elazzi 2 / Alex Noun

POTM: Emmanuel Elazzi

Game On!!!

Our first game of the year at Gannons saw a late kick off against the Rockdale Suns. Our recruitment team searched the globe for one extra player to join the under 9 Fox team from last Year. Alex Noun was the player the recruitment team found and with a goal in his first match it was clear he will fit into the team well.

Just to demonstrate how tight the team are and how much fun they had last year, every player backed up again this year - Finlay, Mitchell, Owen, Lucy, Anthony, Hunter, Nicholas, Emmanuel, Daniel, Tom and Michael.



It was a game of two halves, defensive in the first and then attack in the second. Our Player of the match Emmanuel nailed 2 goals and Alex closed out our third late in the match.

A HUGE thanks to Harry for stepping in as coach again this year, the game plan was spot on this week. Looking at the large crowd of parents and grandparents on the sideline, our team are sure to be well supported this year.

Back to Gannons again this week for our game against Sans Souci.



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11B 2 v Rockdale Raiders

Welcome to the 2016 season and playing group for the under 11B2's. It has seemed like an eternity between our last game of 2015 and today but good things always come to those that wait.

It is great to see that 95% of our team has returned and also includes a new face.

Our line-up includes and welcomes back Ross, Daniel, Jonathon, Cody, Liam, Sean, Luke, Zack, Nathan, Alexander and welcomes Tommy to the playing group for the first time

It was decided early this year we would start working on the three P's – Position, Passing and Possession as we move through this year, which should set us up well when we move on to the larger field next year. Our AROUND THE GROUNDS – 2nd & 3rd April 2016

training was based around these principles and after the final whistle today I would have to congratulate the boys as they really demonstrated they understood the play and executed this throughout the game. We also added another challenge for the day as our structure was based around a 3 4 1 with the idea to try and keep the ball and have plenty of challengers around the middle of the park and again seemed to be well accepted as we dominated possession for large periods of the game.

Today's game was action packed and with a score line of 9-1 it is difficult to sit down and condense that into a small report so I might just run through some stats;

Goal scores for the day;

Jonathon – 4 goals

Cody – 3 goals

Alexander – 2 Goals

Now we all know that every goal follows some general play build up and today that came from all areas, our black line of Liam, Luke, Tommy and Nathan controlled and stifled our opponents attack and fed the mid-field well and, as we advanced the ball through the mid-field, it was clear that opportunities would appear if we showed the patience required.



We were very strong through the middle with Jonathon, Daniel, Cody and Ross as they chased and controlled hard and won and controlled the ball most of the time as we pushed up the field. This created the opportunities to which we cashed in throughout the morning.

It was a great season opener and if we continue to develop as a group it should see us play some great soccer as the year rolls on.

Well done Boys – you did yourselves proud today.



13C v Bexley North (1) Won 3 - 2

Goal Scorers: Billy Finn 2 / Josiah Montoya

Pre-season games help the boys gel as a squad and assist the coach to work on his formations, placing the boys into their suited positions. The team look the part and I'm sure we'll have an enjoyable and hopefully successful season ahead of us.

A nice sunny day kicked off the match at Gannons Park which proved to be an entertaining game of football. Nervousness may have crept in soon after the start of play, seeing Bexley North put through a long range kick to find the top right hand of the goal, Bexley North one up. Our boys regain composure and begin to settle into the game with play moving up and down the park as both teams increase their confidence.

At the 10th minute mark we see an impressive play form from the midfield when Billy puts through a quality pass to find Josiah, a couple of quick taps followed by a nice chip over the opposition goalie's head, sees the ball land in the goal, Lugarno equalise. The game continues with both teams challenging each other to edge ahead, a number of opportunities present but the defensive line and goal keepers on both sides do a great job of deflecting any real threats. Just before the half time whistle, Lugarno win a corner which Jake lines up and lofts the ball expertly into the goal area, for a patiently waiting Billy who heads the ball which then falls neatly inside the Bexley North goals, Lugarno 2-1.

The second half begins and the pressure from Bexley North is mounting, Lugarno does well to contain the play, and to also produce some excellent football with both Logan and Alex rattling the opposition defence with some near misses. At the 40th minute, and in similar fashion to our first goal, we see Jake push through a solid pass from midfield to find Billy, who progresses forward and then glides the ball over the goal keeper's head to once again find the back of the net, Lugarno 3-1. Both teams continue to challenge each other and you could see the heat was taking a toll on the players as tiredness was creeping in. At the 50th minute mark Bexley North scores the final goal of the game, but Lugarno holds out in the final 10 minutes to close out the game with a tidy 3-2 win.

From the sideline we saw a team that performed well together, the defensive, mid and attacking lines all played with focus and determination. Well done team.

13 Girls v Ramsgate RSL Won 7 - 0

Goal Scorers: Stephanie Konjarski 4 / Jade Reno / Taylah Samardzioski / Alana Petanceski

POTM: Stephanie Konjarski

A great start for the season for the under 13 girls as they started their football campaign with a comprehensive victory against Ramsgate RSL.

Deploying a 3-1-4-2 formation the team dominated proceedings from kick-off as they positioned themselves deep inside the opposition's half and launched attack after attack. The dominance in possession and positional play was deservedly rewarded when Tamar made one of her penetrating runs on the left wing, before delivering a perfect cross for an alert Taylah positioned in the centre of the penalty area, to open the team's scoring for the game and the season.

With the team going wide in attack, Stephanie went on a decisive run on the right wing, progressed to the penalty area before crossing for Jade who kicked the ball in for Lugarno's second goal. As the team continued to dominate procession and field position, Stephanie received quality passes which allowed her to break away from the Ramsgate defence to score two goals to make the score 4-0 at the half time break.

Continued dominance saw Lugarno awarded a penalty early in the second half which was coolly converted by Alana P before Stephanie added two more goals mid-way through the second half to end the match with a personal best of four goals for the game.

From a footballing perspective the opening game was a perfect start for the team and every player made a positive contribution to the final result. The team maintained positional play throughout the game; the players supported each other both in defence and attack; and the fact that three of the goals came from crosses into the penalty area represents team play and good football.

Mia played with great determination during the entire game getting to the ball first and making decisive ball distributions; Tiana, the youngest player in the team, was full of running and was very energetic taking on players twice her size; Capri chased and closed spaces in midfield and got a number of great kicks in; Tamar made a number of decisive runs, created three goal assists and went close to scoring on a number of occasions; Alanna ran with great determination and had a great game upfront, constantly pressuring the Ramsgate defence; and Celine was solid in defence helping the transition from defence to attack; Anastacia playing in central midfield stopped Ramsgate RSL from threatening the Lugarno defence and helped launch Lugarno attacks.

Charlie, timing her tackles with perfection, had a great game in defence before transitioning to goal keeper in the second half; Nadine, playing as sweeper in the first half and as attacker in the second half, excelled in both roles; Monique, who played as first half goal keeper, did not see much action in goals but she was in

the thick of action in the second half when placed in the sweeper's position; Taylah used her pace to constantly outpace the Ramsgate defenders and kept up the attacking pressure; Jade had a good attacking game, scoring a goal and coming close on a number of other occasions; Alana P put in a solid performance in defence and was a key player in set pieces; while Stephanie used her pace to constantly go around the Ramsgate defence to deliver crosses before being at the end of well executed passes herself to score four goals and be named player of the match.

Well done girls for a great start to the football season.



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15A v Connells Point (2)

Won 2 - 0

Goals Scorer: Kane Spiteri 2

POTM: Will Simmons & Kane Spiteri

Having finished runners-up last season the team was rewarded with grade A football for this season. With the core of the team not having played in that division, this season represents a new experience given the competitive nature of grade A football.

The first game placed Lugarno FC against their nemesis Connells Point on a hot day. With four players unavailable for the opening game, hot weather was not the only factor in consideration.

Opting for a 4-3-3 formation Will start in goals supported in defence by Nick, Raffi, David and Harrison. The midfield comprised of James, Harris and Kane, while the three person attack comprised of Omar, Stephen and Issac. Mark was the sole interchange player.

During the opening ten minutes the early exchanges were pretty even until Lugarno established their superiority over the opposition and started dominating field position and creating scoring chances. The reward for the dominant play came in the 14th minute when Kane received a ball from David and progressed into the penalty area, cut inside a Connells Point defender and had his shot deflected into the goal. Further goal scoring chances followed the opening goal without success until the pivotal second goal arrived in the 27th minute when James fed a well-timed ball to Kane who outpaced the Connells Point defence to create a one on one situation with the Connells Point goal keeper. Kane succeeded in getting to the ball first to head it over the advancing goal keeper for Lugarno's second goal.

At 2-0 Lugarno was in control of the game going forward and creating goal scoring chances while limiting the opposition's attack to set moves. One of those set moves, a free-kick just outside the Lugarno penalty area was brilliantly saved by Will who flicked the ball over for a corner kick.

Despite conceding a number of corners Lugarno defended well from the set plays of the opposition. Will was alert in goals and organised his defence; Nick, Raffi, David and Harrison defended with determination and remained focus; Kane, James, Harris and Mark controlled the midfield space and distributed the ball to the attackers; Omar, Stephen and Issac led the attack and placed the Connells Point defence under constant pressure.

At half-time the team was instructed to play a more compact game to minimise space and the focus was turned to counter-attacking football as Connells Point had to start chasing the game in the second half. Other tactical changes ensured that a more structured formation was employed for the second half to overcome the tiredness factor culminating from having just one interchange player available to the opposition's three.

The second half saw Connells Point adopt a more attacking focus as they chased the game. While the opposition dominated possession during the opening 20 minutes, the Lugarno defence held tight as some exceptional defending including a one on one save by Will and some good fortune ensured the two goal margin was maintained.

As Connells Point became frustrated at their inability to break down the determined and focused Lugarno defence, the game became more physical, testing the understrength and tiring Lugarno team.

Having succeeded in weathering the opposition's attacking onslaught, Lugarno started taking the ball to the opposition during the final 15 minutes of the game with Omar, Issac, Stephen and James being involved in goal scoring opportunities.

The half-time score-line held until the full time whistle when a clearly exhausted Lugarno team came off the field. It was a great win characterised by great determination, some great passages of football but in many aspects it was also a gutsy win given the prevailing circumstances. The players played as a team supporting each other in attack and more significantly in defence. Defence is all about attitude and the team had the right attitude and focus for the opening game of grade A football.

Game stats:

	Lugarno FC	Connells Point (2)
Total shots	14	16
Shots on target	7	6
Goals	2	0
Corners	4	9
Possession	44 per cent	56 per cent

15 Girls v Banksia Tigers

Won 7 - 0

Goal Scorers: Olivia 3 / Jasmine 2 / Monique / Kiara

It was a good way to start the season with a win.

From kick off we were always in control - we were stronger all over park. But still a lot of improvement to come. But we are playing as a team - passing the ball, moving into space and creating chances.

Score line should have been a lot higher than what it was as our finishing wasn't the best.

But overall we did the job.



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AAC (1) v ASOW

Won 4 - 0

Goal Scorers: Gary / Juzzy / Hughy / Ton

As I prepared for a 10th season running this team, the preparation was not the best. Thorpy was a late withdrawal from the game as being taken out by his lounge and pulling a muscle. New signing Andrew, struggling with his own injury concerns, was given till kick off to prove his fitness. George, Matt, Ray and Nathan unavailable.

Never the less a strong line up was selected with the boys buzzing with confidence. Everyone showing a new and improved attitude.

ASOW started the game well. Strong on the ball with many fit and fast players. It took about 10 minutes for us to settle into the game taking control. The first half was a true arm wrestle - both teams having chances but no one could break the dead lock. ASOW had the clearer chances in the first half.

The second half started much the same as the first, both teams creating chances. Mid way through the half Nem collected the ball centre of the park, chipped it to Hugh down the right, he beat 2 players before being taken down in the area PENALTY! Gary stepped up dispatched down the middle 1-0!

For the next 10 minutes ASOW seemed to get on top of us nearly getting a goal back before Ricey somehow got his foot in front to block the shot at an open goal.

The second goal came when Ton won the ball on half way, running it into the box before crossing it for Justin to cooly slotted home for 2-0.

Minutes later after strong work from Nem, he was fouled outside the 18 yard box, Hugh stepped up curling the ball over the keeper with a screamer of a goal to make it 3-0.

Ton finished the rout with another powerful run into the box leaving players in his shadow to slot home to make it 4-0.

Atu returned from a year out to lead the team with a very dominant and strong display along side Nem in the centre of the park. Their strength offered structure to the team.

George M, handed a start on his debut, showed skill and desire to get involved causing the defence all sorts of issues - good runs and passing. Boz, starting up front after a top off-season, chased everything putting pressure on the sweeper - passed the ball well with his mids to create chances. He was moved to the backs where he had a very strong performance.

Hugh, starting wide on the right, was solid making great runs defending well and creating good chances for our forwards. Ton had a brilliant off season working on improving his defence. Ton made plenty of great passes and runs which their defence couldn't cope with.

Juzzy came on as a sub after 20 minutes, after landing from a month long US trip. Full of running causing the defence all sorts of issues.

Gary and Ricey, the old heads in centre back, were solid working with great work in front of them by the mids making their jobs easier.

Aaron our new right back was superb - defence was strong, his cover was spot on while his passing was pin point.



Andrew M came off the bench to make his debut and, although struggling with injuries, added strength and skill in the mids and up front.

Nick started in left back was solid, came back on later in the game up front offering some great passing and setting up more opportunities.

Stephen on debut was sensational in goal, guided the team well, was always well positioned and pulled off great saves.

A truly wonderful performance by every single player. We ran over the top of a fit team to record a stunning victory. The best start to a season in my 10 years!

Well done boys can't begin to tell you how proud I am!

Photos courtesy of Diane Redmond.

Ricey!



O45A v Scots

Loss 9 - 1

Goal Scorer: Martin Whitear

First game of the season and the fun starts early - people didn't get the necessary paperwork done - we need you (yes your responsibility) to ensure you send copy of ID and signed copies of forms the club requires to the Registrar – some didn't and/or were late and so we get hassles with cards not being available till the last minute. Massive thanks to Basil and Hagop for making it happen – well done guys!

It really is like running an under 6 team sometimes.

When I did get the cards, the following really stood out:

John Hristias – seems to have used his wedding photo, nice suite mate!

Marty Whitear – looks as unhappy in the photo as he was when told we might not have his card ready the night before.

Nick Ivanovski – no card – seems he got a red card in the last game last season! Remember I've got a white beard and am keeping track of who's naughty and nice this year!

Greg Harris – seems to have used an old family photo as there's small hand/arm around his neck and he looks young.

Sam Ferrone – looks like he should be in a poker game.

Martin Davies – looks like the photo was last used as an audition for a part in the Adams family.

Glen Farrelly – not sure there's actually anyone in the photo it's so dark.

Ivan Jersek – used a webcam, seems to have distorted his smile!

Geoff Thom – great smile but are you awake? Or did the flash close your eyes?

Tino Tesoriero – another great smile but pink shirt??? Really?

Tony Bedingfield - another great smile with a flash reaction.

Denis Leftakis – nothing but Denis's head in the photo, so nothing to comment on apart from his curls.

Bass Masri – I think I know why you run in circles! You have one shoulder lower than the other or we've got another camera distortion.

Mark Perry – mesmerised by the camera

Paul McIntyre – are you winking at me?

Con Verteouris – is the tiling behind you the shower or toilet? Really, you wear orange shirts all year round???

Warren Carney – he wants to smile – go on Warren try... nope this getting photos done is boring!

Dom Rosario – go on camera you dare take a bad photo!

Tony Trajkcovski - I just can't help looking good in photos!

John Dodson – Wake up! The photo's over, there's a lot of flash reflection off the top.

Well that's everyone mentioned according to Maria's "how to write a newsletter entry" so we're done, nope you don't get off that lightly...

Who was it at training (it was dark and I didn't see) said "I ain't got no socks!" Last year's probably ran away on their own if they were still in your bag!

Well let's get on with the game – which from the score appears not to have been one in which we played very well, but nothing could be further from the truth, there some really great passages of play with really good passing and possession. Sadly Scots had more and wore us down repeatedly.

The game started with about even possession, an indicator was that most of it was in our half, although we seemed to be holding the ball well.

About 20 minutes in the first change was made and it didn't quite go as planned - the player slated to move to the middle came off, creating some disarray and that's when Scots pounced with a classic Scots goal. I won't bore you with the detail that saw us down 5-0 by half time. (Sam takes over the commentary – thankfully he brought the beer too ☺) Great counter attack Greg(Harry) down the right, great cross to Glenn, first touch let him down. Quick counter by Scots 6-0! Same Scots players combine and it's 7-0.

Great solo run by Marty Whitear and he beat two players on the left side with typical Marty pace to slot it neatly between the keeper and the post when he was on the line! 7-1!!!

Some great play with John H to Tino to Denis, through ball to Tony T, great shot just wide.

Scots then counter attack (again) and elicit a great foot save by John H.

(He's had quite a few that went unmentioned with one, two and seemingly three hands)

We have possession in between all these events, but another counter attack results in another Scots goal and, to give them credit, our goalkeeper stands no chance. 8-1. A couple of good breaks for Lugarno, but poor final passes near goals.

Another Scots counter and it's 9-1.

Another goal line save at the Lugarno end by Bass – those glasses are worth their weight in gold – despite that he looks as if he's about to dive underwater.

Then just as we were attacking – the whistle goes for full time – happens all the time when we were about to get on top!

Thanks to the O35s Tony Thommo, Dave M, Max, Goran and Carlos for great support from the sideline.

Warren we'll be needing a letter from your Physio explaining his game time requirements for your fitness ☺

Good Luck next week guys.

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LUGARNO CELLARS
Your local wine & craft beer specialists

The advertisement features two starburst graphics: an orange one for 'Weekly Specials' and a blue one for 'Great advice & service'. Below these is the business name 'LUGARNO CELLARS' and tagline 'Your local wine & craft beer specialists', along with the address '1020a Forest Rd Lugarno' and phone number '(02) 9533 2141'. To the right is a photograph of a wine glass filled with red wine against a dark background.



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