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# ***AROUND THE GROUNDS***

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## **Grand Finals everywhere**

Well at this stage we are unsure of the locations however we can advise that the following teams have sealed their respective grand final berths:

**16 Girls A's & 16 Girls B's** – both these teams have not tasted the sour flavour of defeat nor should they, fingers crossed;

**AAWD's** have also qualified to play in their grand final

These men's teams will play this Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August:

**17B's** – 1:35pm at Ilinden Sports Centre followed by

**AAC 1's** – 3:35pm at the same venue

**AAG 2's** - TBA

Please come along and support the teams. Check the website for further details.

Still alive and kicking are the:

**AAWB's**

**O35 C's**

**12 Girls**

Good luck to all teams.

This year we have decided to split our end of year presentations.

The **junior presentation** from U6 through to U17s, will be held as normal at Lugarno Public School on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October.

The **senior presentation** will be held at Grandviews Bowling Club on Saturday 31 October from 4.00pm.

We hope to see you at a Grand Final where the orange will rule!!

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## **Match Reports:**

### **6 Bee 3 v Sans Souci**

**Goal Scorer:** Michael Nicholson

**POTM:** Pip Finn

Well what a massive end to the season! I think everyone is a little sad that our season has come to an end so quickly (though I'm sure the parents won't miss the cold nights at training and the early morning games)!

We played Sans Souci for our last game of the season and what a game it was! Even though half of our team was unwell, they all still played exceptionally well. Mikey ran nearly the length of the field to score a brilliant goal.

Miles had some great defensive techniques to stop our opponents getting goals.

Oli had an awesome kick across the field, as did Mikey, getting so close to another goal. Catherine had another great game, she is always in there doing her very best every week.

Final score: Draw 1-1

Well done to Emma and Charlie also, who played so well on their last game. Congratulations team, looking forward to next year!



### **7 Bee 2 v Sans Souci**

**Goal scorers:** Liani / Josh / Chris

**POTM:** Liani, Olivia, Josh, Chris, Sam & Lucas

It was a very warm day for this season's final game against Sans Souci at their home ground on Saturday. What can we say, it was an absolutely fantastic ending, again the game was a pleasure to watch and see everyone participate so well. They say not to judge a book by its cover and our team certainly lived by this saying on the weekend. Despite the impression that the off field photo may imply (see above), there was no monkey business on the field, and our team can be extremely proud of their effort against a team that were much taller in stature. Straight from the kick off it was evident that we were not going to be "intimidated" by the taller opposition.

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Chris once again started shots on goal and quickly found the back of the net several times. Josh, once warmed up, also started in on the action with a goal. We played well in the centre field, equally important we proved we could defend and not leave an open goal. The score says it all with our ability to shoot goals, a result of our passing and "hustle" from the mid field to the front. Special mention of this is made to both Olivia and Liani, who are always in the middle, willing to give every tackle their very best, and follow through with passes up front. It is truly amazing to see you both playing so well. Everyone let off a roar for Liani's amazing goal which was a direct

result of her tackle followed by a nice long range shot. Sam was always there and made some great tackles, and a couple of great shots. We all missed Lucas for our last games but know how well you would have played, and we look forward to seeing everyone together again at the presentation.

End result: Win 6-0

It has been an amazing year I think - as a team you have all learnt so much and all play a great well balanced game. We now look forward to our break, some free weekends or maybe a new sport in the summer months to come. Thank you all for a fantastic season, special thanks to all the parents who made the games and the training sessions so worthwhile. Thank you to the coaches and managers and all who helped out. We look forward to seeing everyone back again.

To Liani, Olivia, Josh, Chris, Lucas and Sam, you have made a fantastic team and I hope you have all enjoyed the effort, training and weekend games. Most of all, I know you are all great sports and you know how to play as a team – congratulations to you all on a great effort.



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## **8 Bee 2 v Banksia Tigers**

**POTM:** All

Our team members took to the field with the knowledge that this would be our last game for the 2015 soccer season.

It was an opportunity to showcase our improved soccer skills and perhaps leave on a high note.

I am pleased to report that all our team members should be proud of their efforts and a reasonably good team, the Banksia Tigers, were defeated 6 goals to one.

Jack opened the scoring with after a strong run through several players. His brother Cooper, quickly followed suit and then the goals just kept coming! Alek had a wonderful game and thrilled the crowd with 2 great left foot strikes. Max had his usual "Energiser Bunny" game and scored a great goal and was also first back with Jack in defence.

The surprise goal of the day came from Samuel, who, having won the ball, followed up with a long high kick 20 m out from goals and scored. Well done Samuel, something to remember!

Jack did something similar from half way but the Banksia goalie made a good save.

Rex saved a certain goal and played a good game - he does not mind being in the middle of a scrap.

Patrick was unlucky not to score and played to his usual high standard and made several penetrating runs.

Clark played well and always tried hard. Lachy was unlucky not to score - he placed himself in position several times for an opportunity, and the goal was often within reach, but it was not to be this time.

I am pleased that everyone shook hands after the match which shows we have good sportsmen playing in our team. The coach mentioned that our passing game was good - in the hot weather we let the ball do the running!

Parents and players now face the challenge.... What are we going to do with our Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings during summer?

Thank you to all players and parents for your support to our team, by any measure we had a very successful season.

### **8 Bee 3 v Banksia Tigers**

**POTM:** Vinnie

Our last game of the season was played at Scarborough Park on a 'Summers like' Winter day. The kids were all excited to play, with Noah deciding that he would be goalie in the first half. Our team played very well, so Noah was not very busy this week!

The last game saw the kids working well as a team, talking to each other and thinking about where to pass the ball. All the hard work that has been put in at training was paying off!

Vinnie was trying very hard in the mid field even though he was not feeling 100%, he thinks about where the ball should go, and passes it to his team mates. Olivia and Michael scored our two goals, a result of the team getting the ball to the front for them to take their opportunities.

Diana was strong as always at the back and even made some very strong breaks to the front, nearly scoring herself.

Linden had a strong game, along with Ryah in the mid field. Their fast feet and determination made it difficult for the other team to get the ball.

Jamie, Vas and Emmy did a great job in the back and the mid field, helping to stop the Tigers from scoring.

The full time whistle blew and the kids celebrated with cupcakes made by Linden's family.

We have had a great year and hope to keep the team together as Under 9's in 2016.



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## **9 Bee v Sans Souci**

**POTM:** Everyone

After an early morning start for field set up and canteen duty, our last game of the season was on our home turf with the full squad available. Even the weather played along, with a glorious day, reminiscent of summer.

The 9Bs started strongly, but Sans Souci were just as good and kept us on our heels. Peri, Willis and Anthony had some great attacking runs up the wing



but it was proving hard to find space in the middle against the Sans Souci defense. Peri chased down everything, Willis dribbled around players like a pro and Anthony put the boot in for some strong kicks, but none of them found the right mark. The field was long and the team did a lot of running up and back. That nice warm weather was starting to take a toll and for the first time in a long time,

substitutions were welcomed by most as a well-deserved rest.

Cameron and Callum played an excellent game in defense, despite a few knocks Callum soldiered on. He's tough and you just can't keep him down. Cameron played a roving role. He has some good speed and we were thankful for it with a few quick turnarounds when we needed covering defense. Bailey and Sebastian shared the goal keeping and defensive roles. Both did an awesome job and made great saves as well as good defensive positioning. Emily was back to full health and made the most of her last game with some great plays in the middle, as did Ashton. Both were key players in winning possession and feeding the ball up forward.

Despite our best efforts, we weren't able to crack Sans Souci. The only goal in the match went against us late in the first half. There were shouts of protest from the team after some said the ball had gone out just before the goal, but we have to play to the whistle, and the goal was deemed good. We have had a great season and although we couldn't finish it with a win, we had an awesome game against worthy opponents, and good fun. Well Done Team.

## **9 Fox 1 v Ramsgate RSL**

**Goal Scorers:** Lucy Woods / Anthony Pejovski / Mitchell Woods

**POTM:** Hunter Solomons

The Foxes headed to Peakhurst Park for their last game of the season, against a skilful Ramsgate team. Although Lucy, Anthony (2) and Mitchell scored the goals this week, as a team Hunter, Finlay, Owen, Emmanuel, Daniel, Tom, Michael and Nick had a fantastic season. Most of all the kids had fun at training and on game day.

Sport is not always about winning (although it feel good when you win), it's about spending time with your mates and creating new friendships, not only the kids but also for the parents.

On behalf of the team, a HUGE thanks goes to Harry for coaching and all the parents that assisted at training and came to watch the team each week.

Great year Foxes, you did us proud!!!

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9Fox 1



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### 10 Bee 2 v Forest Rangers



We were met today with an absolutely beautiful winter's morning as we started to assemble down at our home ground to face the local derby of Lugarno -v- Forest Rangers. As usual the kids looked excited and fired up as they started to prep and warm up for game, but there was a little bit of sadness as this was also going to close out the season which was hard to compute as it seemed like only last week we were meeting for the first time!

With that said there was no softness in the warm up as we started

a little possession game which has been the main part of our warm up each week, and it is easy to see the



improvement in our boys as they try and protect the ball and move it amongst themselves against an attacker or two, and don't worry there are plenty of giggles and jokes after each pass!!

It was abnormally hot this morning but today was also the first week we had a full complement of troops for Jeremy to rotate through so we had plenty of opportunity to rest the boys as they needed.



Away we went, the first  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the game seemed slow, possibly from the heat, as both teams just settled into their stride and worked on possession which did lead to a couple of opportunities for both sides but no goals. As the half wore on we started to win the possession as the game started to be played in the Rangers half and noted the effort from Ross who seemed to pop up everywhere and also Liam who had 2 good carriers that led to attacking raids. Just when you started to feel a little comfortable with possession our opponents had a quick break against the play and took it 50 metres to find the first goal – 1 nil.

This stunned the boys a little and before we could try and work out what happened they found a second as they pushed their whole team forward – 2 nil.

Wow, as the boys regrouped behind the ball for the third kick off of the game you could see a steel forming in their stance and, as they kick off, they turned it on as they held the ball well and created opportunities across the park and not just for goals but possession which, as we always say, you can't lose with the ball.

Our first goal came from a great run as the ball was delivered through the middle to a running Zack who, given the right opportunities through a game, rarely misses and hammered this one home which led us into the break 2 – 1 - but we certainly finished on top for the half.

Jeremy assembled the boys for the last address for the season, which was a positive chat and to continue as they finished the half off.

Away we went and, as in the first half, the second half started a little slow again but we were very strong working the ball from the back and gave earlier opportunities to the boys up front to which landed one at Alexander's feet, who took it with a smile and knocked it home to level the scores at 2 – 2.



Our next came from a bit of messy play in our opponent's box which ended in our favour 3 – 2 but difficult to determine who had the last touch so we will count that on the score sheet as an own goal but more importantly adds to the teams score sheet 3 – 2.

Credit must be given to the opponents as they started push hard and were rewarded with a goal off a corner to level the score at 3 – 3.

But as they lifted so did we, which led to a very exciting last 10 minutes of the year. Johnathan took charge up front and carried our ball well and scored a screamer off his left foot which was the first left footer for him this year and the boys took the appropriate celebrations after the goal 4 – 3.

The closing minutes were tense as our opponents wanted to level it up and we wanted to close with a goal, end to end stuff with enormous energy displayed but again our determination showed out as there was no give as we held the ball well and worked it forward again to find Alexander who closed the score sheet and game out at - 5 – 3.

A deserving last game, win and celebration as the boys met the Rangers mid field, shook hands and came across to meet the assembled parents who cheered them on.

What a game and what a great bunch of kids – Well Done.

Stay tuned for the closing report with the stats and player profiles.



## **12 Girls v Oatley RSL**

**Won 1 - 0**

**Semi Final**

**Goal Scorer:** Alanna Caracoglia

**POTM:** Luci Berroa

The semi-final game against Oatley RSL started as a wet morning, forcing the referee to check the overall condition of the field before giving the go ahead for the game to proceed. The team was excited to play finals football once again and, after last season's grand final appearance, it was a moment to be relished.

After deciding on the starting line-up and submitting the game sheet to the referee, two warm-up injuries caused the starting line-up to be suddenly changed moments before kick-off.

Lugarno started with a 4-4-2 formation that saw Angela in goals behind a defensive structure comprising of Alana P, Mia, Charlie, and Taylah. The midfield comprised of Tamar, Luci, Capri and Kiera. Alanna C and Alanna Cogle paired up in attack. The interchange players for this game included Simone, Zena, Madelen, Jade and Nadine.

The team was instructed to play the game in the opponents half, maintain structure, support each other in play by giving options to the ball player and be first to the ball.

Kick-off saw Lugarno go on the attack and successfully position themselves in the opposition half. Determined running and hassling ensured the opposition was camped at their own end for long durations. The occasional counter attacking football launched by Oatley RSL was effectively neutralised well before the Lugarno danger zone by some exceptional defending from the Lugarno defence. With the midfield battle being won by Lugarno, the ball was being played deeper and deeper into the Oatley RSL half. The Lugarno attack was persisting with their go forward orientation but they were being frustrated by some desperate defending from Oatley RSL. A number of corners were secured during this period of play but a combination of hesitant shooting and good fortune was preventing the ball from crossing the line and into the nets.

With the team remaining positive and in attacking mode, Tamar took on the Oatley defence, cut inside then delivered a perfect cross to Alanna C who was centrally positioned and, without hesitation, used her left foot to score a superb goal for Lugarno's opening goal in the 17th minute. Well done mum - the new football boots were worth every dollar!

Lifted by the goal, Lugarno continued pushing forward in search of a second but, despite their superior ball possession and field position, the score remained 1-0 at half-time. In the second half a more defensive orientation was adopted by Lugarno with Tamar taking up the goal keeper gloves, Charlie and Nadine were positioned in the centre of the defence supported by Alana P and Taylah.

Oatley RSL as expected were more attacking oriented in the second half as they chased the game but, to their credit, Lugarno prevented not a single shot on target courtesy of strong and committed defending. The only times during the second half that the Lugarno goal keeper Tamar touched the ball was when she was retrieving it for goal kicks - the end products of some harmless shots. The opposition did manage to win four corners in the second half all of which were cleared without any issues.

Lugarno had a number of goal scoring chances in the second half but the elusive second goal did not come. In the dying minutes, with Oatley RSL pushing all their players forward in search of the equaliser, Lugarno kept their structure and some brilliant clearances from the back prevented the opposition from getting the equaliser.

The final whistle brought both joy and relief to Lugarno and their supporters as, despite their total dominance of the game, the 1-0 score line kept the opposition in the game until the final whistle.

In what was a great team performance characterised by determination, focus, and some great team football, the girls came off the field winners and with deserving smiles.

Angela in goals in the first half had a quite time as she was well protected by the Lugarno defence. In the second half she was in the middle of the action chasing and putting the tackles in. Alana P, Taylah, Nadine, Charlie, Mia, and Madelen all had fine games at the back. Tamar was busy in attack in the first half before becoming the goal keeper in the second half. Luci had her best game of the season constantly first to the ball, making determined runs and heading the ball countless times. Capri was busy in the middle of the park using her pace effectively to hassle and pressure the opposition while Kiera was focussed and full of determined running, and engaged in some decisive clearances.

Alanna C and Alanna Cogle ensured the game was played at Oatley RSL's end through determined running and play. They constantly pressed the opposition, forcing them into inferior play options. Simone also had an outstanding and memorable game taking up the ball down the right flank and coming back to help the defence stop Oatley RSL's counter attacks. Jade and Zena were deployed in midfield and attack roles during different phases of the game with both girls putting in a solid display.

The entire team deserves praise for the great win as every player put in what was asked of them and more. But one player who suffered an injury during the warm up is deserving of additional praise for the defensive effort she put in during the dying moments of the game when Oatley RSL had all their players in advanced positions in search of the equaliser. This phase of the game saw an injured Nadine as the last person in defence to protect the crucial 1-0 lead supported by Alana P, Charlie and Taylah all of whom superbly maintained the defensive structure until the final whistle.

Well done team for a successive finals appearance - you are now just one win away from another grand final appearance.



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**14 Girls v Arncliffe Aurora****Drew 0 - 0****Semi Final**

What a game it was - the girls lifted and put everything into it.

Without sounding biased, we were the stronger team but we didn't take our chances.

The girls deserved it more today - just the bounce of the ball didn't go our way.

Still hard to stomach that we drew but are out due to who finishes higher on the table.

That being said I would like to thank each of the girls and how proud I am of every single one of them as you couldn't get a better team bonding like these young ladies are.

Until next year have a great off season and see you all again.

**AAG (1) v Penshurst West****Drew 3- 3****Semi Final****Goal Scorers:** Anthony 2 / Jackson

Well, the carnival is over! After a 4-2 win over Kogarah in the semi, we needed another win to take us through to the Grand final. What a great game at Poulton Park. The weather was more suited for the beach than football and both sides used their full bench of reserves, making changes regularly. It was a very even match with Lugarno scoring first with a fantastic strike from Anthony Smith on the run, up into the top of the net early in the first half. Unfortunately, Penshurst's passing game remained tight and allowed them to see some space and equalise. Anthony scored again in his typical clinical fashion, to which Penshurst again came back. Jackson put in a cracker over the goalie's head late in the match to raise our hopes of a win, only to see Penshurst break down the right hand side a few minutes later and put one in, despite the desperate dive from Max in goal. My voice had nearly gone by this stage! Full time, 3 all.

The noise from the Lugarno supporters was tremendous, revving the guys up for extra time. We had our opportunities, but ran out of time as Penshurst slowed play down, to suit themselves. No additional score and we ended our season with a performance to be proud of. Everyone put in a fantastic effort and should be proud of their achievements this season, it was a great group to be involved with. Thanks to the supporters who turned up in full voice and the club committee members who were there to support, advise and encourage. Good luck to the AAG(2)'s in the final!

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