

# WEST PERTH FOOTBALL CLUB 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



## Rogers Cup Champions



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# The Board

**Club President:** Dr Neale Fong

**Vice President/Director of Football:** Jim Caffieri

**Director of Finance:** Adam Myers

**Director of Business Development:** Larry Lopez

**Director of Youth:** Claire O'Donnell

**Director of Womens Football:** Trish Medwin

**Director:** Kate Vivian

**Director:** Richard Cohen

**Director:** Graeme Yukich

**Director:** Pia Drummond

# Club Patrons

## **Number 1 Ticket Holder**

Honourable Peter Quinlan SC

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of WA

## **Club Patrons & Vice Patrons**

Club Patrons: Leith and Ross Kelly

Vice Patron: David Elsegood CMI

Vice Patron: Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas City of Perth

Vice Patron: Richard Homsany Cardinal Lawyers

Vice Patron: Gary O'Neill Kevrek Australia

Vice Patron: Honourable Peter Collier MLC

Vice Patron: Tracey Roberts MP Member for Pearce

Vice Patron: Ian Goodenough MP Member for Moore

Vice Patron: Emily Hamilton MLA Member for Joondalup

Vice Patron: Mayor Albert Jacob City of Joondalup

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# Staff

**CEO :** Joe McCarthy

**GM Football Operations:** Ryan Mackenzie

**Talent Manager:** Kris Shannon

**Football Operations Co-ordinator:** Cohen Stickland

**Head of WAFLW Development:** Luke Richardson

**Administration Manager:** Tracy Venner

**Project Officer:** Paola Zito

# Volunteers

**Game Day Volunteers**

**Match day Co-ordinator -** Tony Hristianopoulos

**Ground Announcer-** Alister & Frank Alvaro

**Photographer -** Brian Conduit

**Photographer -** Dan White

**Match Day Reporter -** John Townsend

**Parking Assistant -** Louis Zampogna

**Social Media & Videography -** Nerida Collins (WAFC)

**Gate -** Andy Gorton

**Gate -** Lucy Hristianopoulos

**BBQ Bandits**



# Coaching Staff & Trainers

## League Coaching Staff

Senior Coach: Darren Harris  
Assistant Coach: Andrew Strijk  
Assistant Coach: Blake Arnold  
Assistant Coach: Kim Rigoll  
Assistant Coach: Dion Fleay  
Ruck Coach: Ron Skender  
Interchange Steward: Roberto Pierio  
Team Manager: Vic Carbone  
League Runner: Dan Barnard  
Timekeeper: Trent Chisholm  
Property Manager: Ray Garcia

## Reserves Coaching Staff

Reserves/Development Coach: Jason Salecic  
Assistant Coach: Todd Martin  
Assistant Coach: Phil Johnson  
Assistant Coach: Steve Russell  
Interchange Steward: Gavin Lambert  
Team Manager: David Prout  
Timekeeper: Andrew Clarke



## Strength & Conditioning

Seniors S & C Coach: Corey Green  
Seniors S & C Coach: Bryce Williamson  
Colts & Futures S & C Coach: Stuart Chester

## Talent

Head Physio - Nathan Stephens  
Head Trainer- Alex Styan  
Head Trainer- Jess Fordum  
Sports Trainer- Kayla nan den Heever  
Sports Trainer- Brandon Landsdown-Goodman  
Sports Trainer- Zoe Courtney

## Talent Coaching Staff

Colts Head Coach: Ryan Lasscock  
Assistant Coach Mids: Paul Downer  
Assistant Coach Backs: Ryan Fong  
Assistant Coach Fwd: Ben Horgan  
Assistant Coach Dev: Luke Richardson  
Assistant Coach Rucks: Ron Skender  
Colts Runner: Brendan Long  
Colts Runner: Chris Kuenen  
Timekeeper: Alan Veipch



## Futures Coaching Staff

Futures Head Coach: Steve Chapman  
Assistant Coach Mids: Mark Hutchings  
Assistant Coach Backs: Aidan Lynch  
Assistant Coach Fwd: Josh Wooden  
Assistant Coach Dev: Mitch Drewett  
Welfare Officer: Matt Lownes  
Team Manager: Chris Erikson

## Medical Team

Club Doctor - Dr Greg Smith  
Club Doctor - Dr Chris Barr  
Physiotherapist - Aaron Thomas  
Head Trainer - Maddie Simon  
Sports Trainer - Isis Ross  
Sports Trainer - Isabella Bernardini  
Sports Trainer - Tom Murphey  
Sports Trainer - Renae Eichner  
Sports Trainer - Bart De Vita  
Water Carrier - Andrew Collett



# Coaching Staff & Trainers

## WAFLW League Coaching Staff

Senior Coach: Clint Degebrodt  
Line Coach: Fiona Boucher  
Line Coach: Donna Field  
Line Coach: Dean Smith  
Development Coach: Bianca Webb  
Team Manager: Jen Bennett

## WAFLW Medical Team

Head Physio: Brendan Aitkins  
Head WAFLW Sports Trainer: Matteo Bresciani  
Sports Trainer: Tom Pappa  
Sports Trainer: Laura Eaton  
Sports Trainer: Georgia Giamov  
Sports Trainer: Carly Ruggiero  
Sports Trainer: Jayden Mitchell  
Head Rogers Cup Sports Trainer: Breanna Entwistle  
Sports Trainer: Omar Azizi  
Sports Trainer: Katelin Bertolami  
Sports Trainer: Brooke Hurst  
Sports Trainer: Lucas Durkovic

## Strength & Conditioning Staff

WAFLW S & C: Megan Kaufman  
Rogers Cup S & C: Giorgia Neill

## Academy

Manager: Dave Burton  
Line Coach: Ray Bartholomew  
Development Coach: Jen Dwyer  
Development Coach: Brooke Hongell  
Development Coach: Hannah Phillip  
Development Coach: Jacinta Jensen  
Head of S&C: Sharni Burgess  
Welfare & Wellbeing: Krystal McClusky  
Photography/Videography: Brian Conduit  
Photography/Videography: Kane Roper

## Rogers Cup Coaching Staff

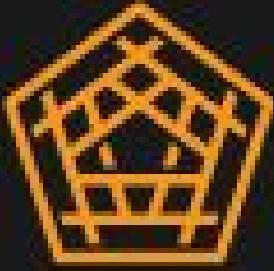
Senior Coach: Scott Kounis  
Line Coach: Damon Brimson  
Line Coach: Brett Foster  
Line Coach: Lea Caccamo  
Development Coach: Lisa Pignatiello  
Team Manager: Lisa Bennett  
Leadership Coach: Karly Guadagnin  
Resilience & Wellbeing Coach: Travis Fitch





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# President's Report

Dr Neale Fong



I think all members would agree that season 2023 was somewhat of a letdown from the stellar performance of all men teams in 2022. That said our Reserves side got to a grand final only to narrowly lose, and the Rogers Womens team won a great premiership, making it two in three years. The club always knew that going back-to-back in the League was going to be difficult. A number of early season injuries and departures probably destabilized our league side and the mid-season slump which basically left us out of the final five at season end, has taught us many lessons. Overall, we see the season as a lost opportunity. But on the upside, we produced great debutantes, had some classic encounters and continued to build a positive club culture.

We farewell senior coach Darren Harris this season and again we congratulate Darren on another good stint with our club. The seamless progression of Jason Salecic into the senior coach role has gone extremely well and we look forward to Jason putting his mark on the club and its playing fortunes. New football manager Ryan Mackenzie and all of his support team have also made a great debut and we look forward to his strong leadership in the football department.

Our women's program has been well led by Luke Richardson and the win/loss ratio this year was a pleasing result. Along with the Rogers team we have a great future in Womens footy.

Off the field we have had a solid season with great game day events and a wonderfully successful gala auction mid-year. Special thanks go to Paola Zito for her management of this event and the great financial result. Our club puts a lot of effort in how we present ourselves off the field whether it be our heritage displays, venue presentation, events or merchandise. Tracy Venner and Joe McCarthy Must be congratulated and thanked.

The board welcomed four new members this year in Graeme Yukich, Pia Drummond, Claire O'Donnell and Trish Medwin. They have all settled in well and have undertaken solid roles in contributing to the Club. Ongoing board members Jimmy Caffieri, Richard Cohen, Larry Lopez, Adam Myers and Kate Vivian have been loyal hard-working. On behalf of all the members thank you.

Joe McCarthy, our loyal and hard-working CEO is leading well and has established himself as a leader in the WAFL. He is unassuming and tireless in his dedication to make our club great.

For our sponsors – major and minor, we value greatly your support which for 2023 has been a record amount. Without our sponsors we certainly would not have seen such a strong financial recovery as we have.

There were many issues facing the WAFC and 2023 saw the introduction of many innovative marketing and game-day activation ideas which our club has led and gained from. We thank the WAFL for their leadership and support in this space.

And last but not least to you our members, fans and supporters. Thank you for your loyalty and passion for the Red and the Blue. Our players and families love your passion for the game we all love, and which they try and excel at, for personal and team goals, but also to bring joy and fun for you.

Lets get into Season 2024. Men and Womens and Futures programs will be accelerated to bring the Falcons success.





the Herdsman

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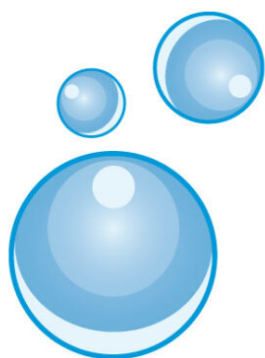


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# CEO Report

Joe McCarthy



2023 from an on-field perspective was a year of mixed results. From a WAFL perspective we didn't achieve our goals for the league team, however another grand final appearance by the reserves

shows the great depth and future of our men's football program. We do not accept missing out on finals football and we have internally owned this outcome and set new procedures in place to make sure the 2024 season see us return to the pointy end of the season. However, we continue to celebrate our amazing Rogers cup program- 2 flags in 3 seasons is an amazing result and Scott and his coaching team have done a sensational job. Well done to all the girls involved, do not underestimate the history you have created, and we look forward to seeing the program shine in 2024. Our WAFLW team also experienced greater success in season 2023. With a new head coach and being led strongly by Luke Richardson we believe we are very close to finals football for our girls in 2024.

I must thank all of our sponsors who help our football club function. Without all your support we can't put teams out on the park each week. You are all recognized within this yearbook and thank you for being part of the West Perth family. To my operations team we are small, but we really do get the job done! Luke, Paola, Tracy, Kris, Cohen and Ryan thanks for all your hard work. Thank you Joe Murray for your work and support on match days. Also, a special mention to Mitch our district officer, Mitch you do great job promoting football in our zone. To Neale and the board thank you for all the support and guidance you provide to make sure this great football club remains at the top of WAFL and WAFLW football where we belong.

2024 is shaping up to be exciting! We will have new lights at Pentanet Stadium, we will be able to play night WAFL and WAFLW football which will be huge for our club. Our 2nd Hall of fame induction evening will be hosted during the 2024 season. We will also be welcoming Joondalup United to our facility for their 2024 season, this will be a mutually beneficial partnership and will open up further commercial opportunities for the club.

Finally, to you, our members. Thanks for sticking with our club in the good times and the bad. You are the fabric of our club and without our passionate membership base our teams would be playing to empty seats. The red and blue family have helped turn our club around and now we have solid financial footprint we can begin to grow our facility as we strive for future premiership success.

I look forward to seeing you all back in 2024.

# Mens Football Report

Ryan Mackenzie



2023 was not the season we had hoped for, especially after our 2022 premiership win. Missing out on the finals in the League was an unexpected outcome, considering our fantastic preseason. However, I couldn't be prouder of the entire football club, from the board down, for working together and finishing the season strong with six consecutive wins. We managed to defeat finalists Claremont and East Perth, as well as Grand finalists Peel Thunder in the run home proving our best can still be the best.

Unfortunately, we faced some challenges beyond our control, with significant injuries to Mark Hamilton and Nathan Alexandre. These were further compounded by long-term injuries to recruits Bailey Thompson and former WCE player Zac Langdon. Additionally, Mitch Dobson was unavailable due to work commitments, putting our depth to the test this season. However, this adversity also provided a great platform for our future, with ten debutants: Zac Langdon, Rohan Scurria, Riley Sprigg, Darcy Dixon, Jack DeMarte, Kane Bevan, Zarne Robis, Ryan Hudson, Griff Julian, and Dan Gathercole.

Our development side once again made it to the last game of the year. Although we fell short on the day, it showcased the depth and exceptional young talent we have at the club. Trust, resilience, spirit, and selflessness are not only our club values but also perfectly describe our incoming coach, former premiership captain Jason Salecic. The succession plan has provided a unique opportunity and the perfect apprenticeship for Jason to lead the side back to the finals next year.

Connected by red and blue, there are so many great people at the football club, and many of us have been fortunate enough to be part of that journey under our outgoing coach, Darren Harris. He might say the club owes him nothing, but the club owes him everything, the impact he has had on so many people, both in football and in life would suggest different and he will leave a legacy that will forever be at West Perth.

There were several highlights throughout the season, as is the case every year. Andrew Strijk was our 2023 ball legend, Tyler Keitel won his third Bernie Naylor medal for leading goal kicker, Aaron Black played his 250th game for the WPFC, and Luke Meadows capped off a brilliant season by winning the Breckler Medal.

Personally, I would like to express my gratitude to everyone at the football club for welcoming me and making me feel a part of the team, including president Dr Neale Fong and the board, the players, supporters, sponsors, coaching staff, and support staff.

A big thank you also goes to Jim Caffieri and Joe McCarthy for their support as Football Director and CEO, guiding me through my first season. I would also like to extend my appreciation to all the volunteers of the football club. Without you, the club simply wouldn't exist. We thank Vic Carbone for his 38 years of service and wish him all the best. I'm sure we will still see him at games in the future.

Lastly, we are always striving to improve, and I can assure you that no stone will be left unturned in our endeavour to be successful both on and off the field next season. What better way to start that campaign than with the welcome home to Connor West after his time at the WCE.

I look forward to your continued support and seeing you next season.



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# Men's Senior Coach Report

Darren Harris



2023, has been a year of great learnings. The thing that makes me really proud to belong to the WP football club is that all our people were in it together. Yes, we challenged each other to be our best, but the key people and pillars of our club's success, Fong, Cafferri, McCarthy, McKenzie, Harris, Salecic, Green, Black and Munns (leaders appointed by WP) did not lay blame but rather focused on improving together. The success of leadership is the behaviour of the followers. We had the weight in numbers to ensure we got back on track to win the last 6 games. However, that wasn't enough, but it is often under pressure where we learn what our values look like and reflect on what's important. Well done to all those who stayed on the bus.

To the players, partners, families, sponsors, supporters, volunteers, and staff, all the little things add up. This is a great football club, connected by Red and Blue. Your time, support and patience are what makes us great. WE cannot thank you enough.

My Breckler speech really captured my reflections on 2023, so rather than reinvent the wheel please see below.

'I just want to start by apologising for Gael and I not being there tonight, but after 26 years of coaching I chose Gael. She is an absolute ripper and the brains of the organisation. My partnership with her has helped me 'Be the best I can Be' and I will always be indebted to her for her continued support and belief in me. We are most proud of our children Molly, Tadhg, and Sam, the 3 premiership wins that WE are easily most proud of.

Thank you to Vic for reading this for me and being a great friend. My Mum Marg told me to study harder at school because I would never make a living out of football. I did however make many lifelong friends and it is just beautiful to watch Vic and my Mum be such a great partnership late in their lives.

2023 didn't have the same ending as 2022 for our football club, the scoreboard doesn't tell the full story. When I arrived at the West Perth at the end of 1991, I could never have imagined how this decision, for Gael and I, would be the best one of our lives.

1992 culminated in West Perth's 3rd wooden spoons in a row. But the great Jeff Gieschen had started the heavy lifting that would see this football club win 5 League premierships in 30 years at Joondalup Arena. 1975 to 1995 had been a long time between premiership success, but we, the players, wanted to get back to the era of 69, 71, 75.

Why were they so successful? Great men is the answer, led by the greats Whinnen, Dempsey, Farmer, Watling, Curley, Logan, Valli, the list goes on and on. John Dimmer was the catalyst for the next great West Perth era. 1995, 99 & 2003 would see us win premierships underneath his mentorship. Mifka, Trewhella, Logan, Fewster, Rigoll were some of the new names that would join the other West Perth Legends. What were the biggest themes driving this success? Success that saw the club become so respected, as both people and footballers, by the WAFL competition?





MINDSET and STANDARDS. You cannot have one without the other.

While 2023 didn't result in a premiership on the scoreboard, it did reinforce the West Perth Legacy culminating in wins for the last 6 games of the home and away season.

MINDSET has a few critical elements. You have to want to BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE and to 'Buy-In' to something that is bigger than yourself. It is a WE mindset.

"Selflessness is the sole of teamwork and the most critical component for team success. The team that has 'what is best for the group' as the central driver will succeed". WE play to WIN. Yes, WE want to win premierships, but we want to do this with great character and humility.

STANDARDS – This is action based and requires the mindset mentioned above. It requires TRUST in people to deliver an outstanding program, like Corey Green, Aaron Thomas, Greg Smith, Maddie Simon and their incredible staff have done this year. Also, attention to great training programs, as delivered by Blake Arnold, great leadership provided by Jason Salecic, Ryan McKenzie for his fresh eyes on the club, Cohen Strickland for his countless hours helping players and coaches and the enthusiasm of our Coaches at all levels who just keep giving back. Tracy Venner, Kris Shannon, Ryan Lasscock and Luke Richardson also run outstanding programs that help the success of our club. Well done.



'It's the little things that are the big things' so, at the end of the day success is the result of the language and actions of responsibility. And a little bit of luck! It comes from a hungry, driven group of people who want to win for their football club and their mates. This is the West Perth Spirit.

IN 2023- our standards and mindset dropped away. Not dramatically, but enough, and for long enough, to impact the success of our season. What WE did right? Ultimately, we took responsibility, we stopped laying blame, we started to have the conversations and got back to our pre-premiership standards. We rewarded our values and effort and that's why we bounced.

The challenge for 2024 is to maintain this pre-premiership mindset. History tells us that we are only custodians of this great football club for a brief time. Take your opportunity, give it your best and I promise that the club, and your teammates will reward you two-fold. I know that Jason Salecic will be the best he can be. He lives the values of the West Perth Football Club and is hard-working, determined, and loyal. You only need to look at how he coached the development team, their buy-in and his post Grand Final speech. He cares; However, he can only be successful with the support of all the people in this room. Support that I will always be grateful for. The board, the administrators, the support staff, the volunteers, and the players. That support is one of the things I'm most grateful for from this football club. Without that, there is no success. Without Mindset and Standards, it will only be words.

There is a lot of people to thank, and I will get to you all personally. Hopefully our players also get to you and thank you for your contribution. To all the award winners, congratulations on your recognition for living our values.

In 1991 I joined the WP family, a Wodonga boy who was down on self-belief and looking for some purpose. He could not have predicted how indebted he'd feel to this football club for helping him believe in himself and in the power of people and legacy. Yes, WE want to win premierships, but we also want to develop good people and community. I know we can tick both those boxes.

- I look forward to changing roles.
- I want to continue being Trusted for my character.
- I want to help the team.
- I want to win more premierships.
- I'm not giving in.
- I love this football club and I love its people!

Thank you all, Darren



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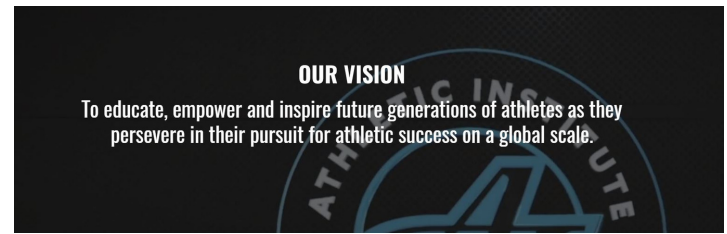
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# Reserves Coach Report

Jason Salecic

Our development program was a pleasure to coach this year, we aim to develop not only the players knowledge and skills but also build their understanding of what we value at the West Perth Football Club and from my perspective I believe the growth in all areas has been significant which was reflective of how we performed throughout the course of the year.

We finished on top of the ladder with a record of 12-4 and ended the year playing in the Grand Final at Optus Stadium unfortunately we couldn't get the result against Swan Districts, but we learnt a lot of lessons on the day and throughout the year which has contributed significantly to the development of our players.

We had 48 players represent the club at Development level and we were able to integrate a substantial number of graduating colts into the senior program, with the support of several senior players the transition for the colt's players was made easier so I would like to thank those players who helped with that transition.

We also had 10 players make their league debuts. Zac Langdon (11), Riley Sprigg (51), Darcy Dixon (42), Rohan Scurria (27), Griff Julian(43), Kane Bevan (31), Zarne Robis (5), Ryan Hudson (34), Jack Demarte (56), Daniel Gathercole (47). With the exception of Zac, who has played at AFL level it has given those players the opportunity to understand what it takes to play WAFL League football.

Personally, I would like to thank all the people involved in helping our football club run day to day without our staff & volunteers our club cannot operate, and our players and coaches would not have the support required to be at their best so I would also like to acknowledge and thank the coaches and support staff who have supported me this year.

Todd Stewart (Backs), Phil Johnson (Mids), Steve Russell (Forwards), all the players that also helped on game day when they were injured or didn't play and Daniel Barnard for filling multiple roles. Senior Coaches who also helped on game day along with Cohen Stickland who does a mountain of work to support all the Coaches and Ryan Mackenzie. Team Manager David Prout & Brett Dyke who filled in for David when he was needed at League level, Gavin Lambert (Interchange). Strength and Conditioning Team Corey Green, Bryce Williamson, and Ashton Stampalia, Physio's Aaron Thomas & Tom Murphy, Maddie Simon, and all our trainers who prepare the players to go into battle.

Football operations Manager Ryan Mackenzie our Office staff and Directors for the continual support.

Finally thank you to all the Families, Partners, Supporter's and Sponsors for being there to support our football club and the players we really do appreciate it.

Enjoy the off season and we look forward to seeing you in 2024.



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# Talent Manager

## Kris Shannon

The year 2023 presented a set of challenges for the West Perth Colts group. Despite finishing fifth on the ladder, the team exhibited resilience and determination throughout the season.

In the elimination final against Subiaco the Colts team showcased their skills and gave their all for three quarters, unfortunately running out of steam towards the end. This marked the fifth consecutive year that the West Perth Colts have participated in the finals, providing invaluable learning opportunities for all players, especially the four 16-year-olds who played in the final against Subiaco. The experience gained this year will undoubtedly contribute to their growth as footballers in the future.

I would like to extend my congratulations to all the graduating players and wish them the best of luck as they embark on their journey towards playing senior football in 2024. Additionally, I am eagerly looking forward to witnessing the potential of the strong Colts group for the upcoming year.

The Futures team had a remarkable season, winning five out of six games and securing the top position on the ladder. While winning games is not the primary focus at this level, it was commendable to witness the dedication and approach of the boys in every match and training session. This exceptional group has set a high standard for future teams. A special congratulations goes out to the ten players who represented West Perth in the state 16s and 18s competitions this year. Their selection is a testament to their hard work and talent. This year, our development squads transitioned to an Academy model for the first time.

Approximately 120 players from the 14s and 15s age groups participated in the Academy. The 15s age group, in particular, experienced an extended six-month program, offering them an enhanced foundation for their return to the Futures program in December. We believe this change will contribute to their future success.

The Yilgarn Falcons program underwent a transformation from a talent-focused program to a participation-driven initiative. The West Perth Football Club, along with key stakeholders, spent a week servicing primary schools in our country zone in the wheatbelt. In October, our Academy team participated in a game against the Yilgarn Falcons. We plan to continue this model next year and aim to add another game, further strengthening our relationship with the Yilgarn Falcons program, whilst still using this program to Talent ID our country players.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the coaches involved in all our programs. Their dedication and efforts have been instrumental in the success of our teams. I would also like to express my gratitude to all the volunteers who selflessly contribute their time and energy to ensure the smooth running of our programs. Without their support, none of these initiatives would be possible. I would like to acknowledge Ryan Lasscock, who has made the decision to step aside after seven years of service as the Colt's Head Coach. Ryan's contributions have undoubtedly left the talent program in a better position, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

The West Perth Colts group faced challenges in 2023, but they persevered and achieved notable successes. The experience gained by the Colts, the outstanding performance of the Futures team, the representation in state competitions, the transition to the Academy model, and the impactful Yilgarn Falcons program all contributed to the growth and development of our players. We extend our gratitude to the coaches and volunteers who made it all possible. With great excitement, we look forward to the upcoming year and the promising future of the West Perth Colts group.



# Colts Coach Report

## Ryan Lasscock

Season 2023 was filled with plenty of challenges for the Colts program. However, with every challenge, we were able to problem solve and find ways to improve and develop. With a large turnover from the 2022 squad, we were given the chance to reset and start fresh with a new group. We played 53 players over the year, with 29 young men given the opportunity to represent the WPFC for the first time. 7 of these players were from our successful Futures program.

From early on, it was clear there was a gap between the top 4 clubs and the rest of the competition. The pleasing thing from a coaching perspective was our ability to improve when we played these top 4 teams a second time. While not getting a win against those sides, our improvement was clear to see, and the way we played was competitive. Unfortunately, our structures and effort would fall away for 5-10 minutes, and the good sides would hit the scoreboard.

Whilst the KPI of a colt's program is not based on winning games and playing finals, it is still a key fundamental of development and part of the process of developing a winning culture. To be able to find ways to win 7 games and play finals for a fifth consecutive year it is a credit to everyone involved in the program. Playing finals football is such a great learning opportunity. While we didn't get the job done against Subiaco on the elimination final, I'm sure everyone was proud of the boys' effort. We were the youngest team in the finals, with 4 16-year-olds in playing in our final.

Throughout any year, as a playing group you are met with challenges along the way, and how you respond to these challenges is often a reflection of your leadership group. Again, the playing group got it right and our Leadership group for season 2023 did a quality job. Captain Bailey Long, Vice-Captain Tjad Gianoncelli, Callum Smith, Jye Skender, Trent Hiscock and Darcy Keenen led the group through some tough times. To keep the group together, not let our standards drop and finish the season in fifth spot was a great achievement. I am sure you learnt plenty throughout the year. Well done gents.

Our end of year function – the Dominish Medal, had a new twist this year. It was great to have our Rogers Cup team join us, hopefully the first of many.

Congratulations to Coach Scott Kounis, players and staff on an outstanding year. You achieved what every team hopes to achieve – the perfect year. Undefeated and Premiers. The grand final was an amazing day, and the fact we were able to have 28 colts' players there to support was awesome. The One Club philosophy on full display.

Our award winners showed what the colts' program is about. Finding players and helping them succeed. To Callum Smith – our Dominish Medal winner – it was great to see his talent on display over a full year. It is tough when combining School & club football. Selection at Centre Half Back in the WAFL team of the year shows the impact Callum had on the competition this year.

In his first year in the program, Matt Galjaardt completed an amazing year in finishing second. This recognition, along with selection in the WALF Colts team of the year shows Matt has a very bright future at the club.

Our third-place finisher – Odin Jones. We have all been aware for a long time the talent this young man has, and to finally see it in a red and blue jumper was pleasing. Odin's start to the year was rewarded with selection in the State 18' program. Unfortunately, a knee injury in the final session before the first game would rule him out for the entire carnival. However, Odin hit his rehab hard and managed to play the final 6 game of the year. An invite to the State Combine was a fine reward for his efforts.

Congratulations to all the other award winners, from both the Colts and Rogers Cup programs.

We were able to promote three players into the senior program this year. Well done to Jye Skender, Callum Smith and Camden Pires for playing reserves football this year. From last year's group – Congratulations to Kane Bevan, Griff Julian, Riley Sprigg, Jack Demarte and Dan Gathercole on making their League debut in 2023. I am certain there are still more debuts from the 2022 group to come in season 2024.

I am very lucky to have quality people around me in very important roles. We have the best support team in the competition, and the players are very lucky to have these people involved.

To our passionate coaching staff who are so invested in the program – Ryan Fong, Paul Downer, Ben Horgan, Luke Richardson & Jay Carroll – thank you for all your help and support. Chris Keunen and Ron Skender – our tall's have never had such quality support in such an important area. Chris Erikson – thanks for keeping me in line and on time. We can never thank our support staff enough.

To our medical team, thank you. We were challenged early with our injuries, but to get them all back on the park and ready to go was first class. Nathan, Jess, Brandon, Zoe and Kayla, you all did an amazing job, and the boys will be forever grateful for your dedication to our program. Stu Chesser – Head of S & C – congratulation on an amazing first year in the role. It was very pleasing to see your development over the 12 months. All the best in your new role.

The talent pathway is only as strong as its connections between each program. We have been very lucky to have Steve Chapman this year, and Ash McKeown previously, lead our futures program. The way the boys are developed is first class, and our results at Colts level is a direct result of the time and effort put into our futures program.

Thank you to our President Neale Fong and the board of the West Perth Football Club. Your trust in me, and our program is greatly appreciated. Ryan Mackenzie, Cohen Stickland, and Tracy Venner, thank you for your support this year. Congratulations and a big thank you to Darren Harris. Your guidance and support over the past 2 years will never be forgotten. Well done to Jason Salecic on your appointment as Senior coach for 2024 and beyond. The club could not be in better hands.

To the parents, families, and partners who have supported the players in their victories and struggles throughout the season – THANK YOU. It means a lot to have you ride the journey with us.

Over the past 2 years, I have been lucky to work with one of the best Talent Managers in the WAFL. Kris Shannon – your commitment to the Talent program has been amazing. You fight the fight, and make sure that the Talent pathway is being fully supported at every level. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with you and develop a friendship that I hope will last for a long time.

It seems like only yesterday I was given the opportunity to come back to the West Perth Football Club as coach of the Colts Program. When I reflect on the past 7 years, I am filled with pride and excitement. It has been hard work, but I leave knowing the Talent pathway is in good hands, and is set up to continue to produce quality young men, and quality footballers for the West Perth Football Club

To Mum & Dad, thank you for everything you do for our family. Still not sure why you come and watch me coach, but I love that you do. You have backed me in every step of the way – from a WPFC Colts player back in 1995, to Colts Coach in 2023, and everything in-between. Finally, a big thank you to my team. Liz and Harper – Thank you for all your love, support, guidance, and advice. You both have sacrificed so much to allow me to do this job. I will never be able to repay you. Good luck to everyone in season 2024.





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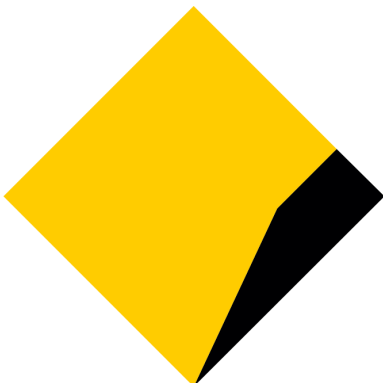
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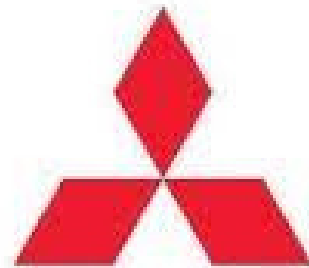
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# WAFLW Football Report

## Luke Richardson



“A year with an increased expectation to succeed, it was important from the moment we commenced pre-season that standards lifted, that our engagement was stronger and that we truly committed to the idea of beating true for our red & blue.”

When we compare our second season within the WAFLW competition with those of more recent entrants into the competition we can truly be proud of the levels of development and success seen in season 2023. Winning 5 games in 2023 means we are tracking exponentially towards sustained success with South Fremantle, the more recent entrant, taking 3 seasons to win their first game.

I want to make it clear to our members and supporters that we are not content with a 5-win campaign, although in our second season. Our goal is to be the best we can be and to embrace a bold hunt for silverware and this will come through developing a strong premiership model inclusive of a formidable game-plan and a calculated list management strategy.

2023 saw the farewell of inaugural WAFLW Head Coach, Stephen Hazell, with the club immensely thankful for his dedication to development of our playing list having seen success as their Rogers Cup Premiership winning coach in 2021.

With the appointment of Clint Degebrodtt, a 20-year veteran in terms of coaching and working in high-performing football environments through State Female Pathways, WAFL Talent Manager Roles and a Community Role with the West Coast Eagles – Our program is set to take a new approach in 2024 under his leadership.

As Head of Football, I am proud to represent our Female Football Program within the 4 walls of our club, particularly when I am surrounded by staff, SLT and Board which understand the importance of valuing our female athletes.

I want to thank our 2023 coaching group in Dean Smith, Fiona Boucher and Donna Field for remaining steadfast through this season. Your sacrifices to ensure our players are receiving the very best oversight is not lost on me, our club or our players.

With an expanded coaching team, a more experienced and talented list and heightened expectations, I am confident that finals are an achievable milestone for our WAFLW side in 2024.

### 2023 Leadership Group

Katherine Bennett & Brooke Hongell – Co-Captains

Taylor Ferguson – Vice Captain

Emily Bennett – Vice Captain

Karla Stagg – Emerging Leader

Louise McBride – Emerging Leader



# Rogers Cup Football Report

## Luke Richardson



As we closed out 2022, we made it abundantly clear that there were increased expectations on this group in 2023 after formulating a strong foundation in 2022.

Our Rogers Cup team maintained its 'core' in terms of list and was complimented by players coming back from WAFLW League, specifically talent identified from the community and from our industry leading Moora Citrus Female Football Academy.

No one would have predicted that this side would move through 2023 undefeated and become the eventual premiers – A feat only accomplished by WEST PERTH just 2 seasons earlier in 2021.

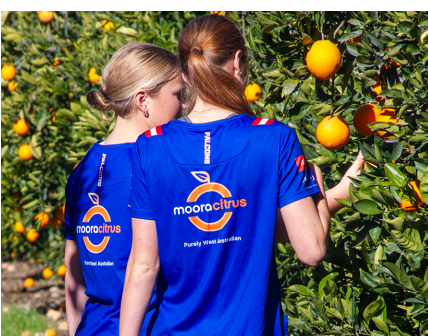
Our focus at this level is to develop first, with the judgement of our success not measured in our results but rather in how we nurture League footballers and produce talent which can immediately impact on the WAFLW League competition.

It goes without saying that there still remains a 'gap' between Rogers Cup and WAFLW League but we're confident that our club is closing this gap at an exponential rate.

Scott Kounis and his connected coaching team should be commended for steering this group to the ultimate prize. Brett Foster, Damon Brimson, Lea Caccamo and Lisa Pignatiello were pivotal in securing victory on Grand Final day, and it should be noted that Scott dedicated this win to our squad, citing "premierships are won by squads, not teams." In his post-game address to the playing group.

2024 looks to be even more exciting with again, the list remaining consistent in terms of 2023 campaigners, complimented by the large 2023 graduating class from our Moora Citrus Female Football Academy.

We will ensure there are no 'premiership hangovers' with our group very much of the understanding that there's an opportunity here to create a legacy for future generations of younger girls to witness, enjoy and to embrace.



### 2023 Leadership Group

Abbey Brimson – Captain  
Kaitlyn Roper – Vice Captain  
Olivia Colotti – Vice Captain  
Mia Russo – Emerging Leader  
Hayley Bidefeld – Emerging Leader







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WAFC - West Perth  
Development Officer  
Mitch Gupanis

During the 2023 season, there has been a total of 51 primary schools in the West Perth district that have experienced an AFL school clinic this year. Out of the 51 schools, 12 were visited by our West Perth Football club players. Premiership teammates Luke Meadows & Joseph Hinder, Young Gun Jasper Scaife and WAFLW star Bianca Webb taught our potential future Falcons all the basic skills of the game and spoke about what it takes to be successful at WAFL and WAFLW level while having a ton of fun with the students.

The clinics that they ran in term 1 and 2 this year was either as a Free One-Day clinic at the school during the Play AFL campaign in an attempt to boost participation numbers throughout not only in the West Perth District, but across the whole of WA or they delivered a clinic via the Sporting Schools program, where schools engage in high-quality clinics run over a course of 4 weeks to deliver a football program of their choice taught by our WAFL/WAFLW players.



Our players didn't just visit primary schools they also made visits to secondary schools and our junior district clubs. Luke Meadows participated in a Wellness Expo Day at Yanchep Secondary College where he shared stories about his football journey to the students as well as challenging them on the West Perth handball target to see who had the better skills! Meanwhile on the junior club front, the Auskickers at the Wanneroo Junior Football Club had a special visit from our players throughout the season, with Luke coming to the Auskick Come and Try day at the start of the year and the Rogers Cup girls showing their support to the all-girls Auskick program at Wanneroo which received great feedback from the club and the players themselves.



2023 was a fantastic year on the Auskick front as WA set a record for the most participants ever recorded in a season with more than 16,400 Auskickers across WA. West Perth district clubs had an increase of 45 participants taking the total number of kids playing Auskick to just shy of 1,600 for season 2023. The West Perth district also enjoyed another successful Auskick Gala Day held at Pentanet Stadium on Saturday 29th July. 8 junior clubs, 39 teams and over 400 kids braved the rainy conditions early to have an absolute blast playing on the main ground or the first time

and had a great time mingling with some of our West Perth superstars in what was an awesome day for all involved with the club. Little League was again another hit amongst junior clubs and those involved with all 8 district clubs experiencing a WAFL home game this season with all the big stage in which the girls loved the experience!

The season was a great success in my first year and I am already looking forward to reaching greater heights in 2024 to make the West Perth district the top place to be for all new footballers in WA.





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**Back Row: Dion Fleay (Ass Coach), Corey Rundle, Zac Guadagnin, Brock Lewis, Bailey Thompson, Mark Hutchings, Zarne Robis, Nathan Alexandre, Kellen Johnson, Sam Brunton, Blake Wilhelm, Griff Julian, Shane Nelson, Zac Fleiner, Corey Green**  
**Third Row: Blake Arnold (Ass Coach), Connor Klemke, Tom O'Donnell, Noah Pegoraro, Sam Rotham, Ryan Hudson, Logan Foley, Michael Mallard, Zac Patterson, Troy Yukich, Jasper Scaife, Riley Sprigg, Blake Garraway, Alec Johnson, Kane Bevan, Clayton Taylor, Jason Salecic**  
**Second Row: Tyson Moulton, Koopah Todd, Callum Johnson, Ben Johnson, Joseph Hinder, Mitch Pearce, Dean Munns (Captain), Darren Harris (Coach), Aaron Black (Captain), Luke Meadows, Aidan Lynch, Nathan Murray, Tristan Hogley, Mitch Dobson, Mark Hamilton**  
**Front Row: Daniel Gathercole, Keegan Knott, Darcy Dixon, Henry Ryan, Luke Reilly, Conal Lynch, Scott Nelson, Zac Langdon, Byron Sherwood, Jack DeMarte, Nate Dimanlig, Vaughn Williams Jye Skender**  
**Absent: Harry Cabalzar, Noah Farrow, Tyler Keitel, Sasha Kernutt, Sav Marafioti, Rudy Riddoch, Rohan Scurria, Tyler Mouritz Rowan Garlett**





## 2023 - WAFLW SQUAD

**B:** Dean Smith (Assistant Coach), Josie Byfield, Megan Norbury, Liliana Grassenis, Elissa Price, Jeevna Heer, Karry Plummer, Hannah Young, Angelina Wodcke, Chanel Scott, Claire Norbury, Fiona Boucher (Assistant Coach)

**M:** Luke Richardson (Head of WAFLW Development), Laura Butler, Nadia Parora, Taylor Ferguson, Karla Stagg, Bianca Webb, Brooke Hongell, Katherine Bennett, Liza Kneebone, Keeley Oakes, Natasha Spurr, Grace Betti

**F:** Emily Bennett, Jessica Roper, Kayla van den Heever, Ebony Jackson, Tia Bergin, Teal Bennett, Amber Rundle, Louise McBride, Georgia Cowman

**Absent:** Erin O'Brien, Lea Caccamo, Matilda Bain, Cameron Dawson, Georgia Bistrup, Harriet Jones



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Hazell, Parora, Price, Robis, Robinson, van den Heever







## 2023 - GOLTS SQUAD

**Back Row:** Darcy Keenan, Max Zivkovic, Tyrell Bropho, Kayde Sherwood, Camden Pires, Max Connell, Luke Ward, Jack Gillespie, Ben Tilyard, Mathew Galjaardt, Kani Kean, Tama Poharama, Tom Rance, Ryan Fong (Assistant Coach)

**Third Row:** Kris Shannon (talent Manager), Noah Vanderwiell, Kayden Vearing, Ashton Waters, Lochlan Gooden, Kyle Wilcox, Kayle Gerreyn, Odin Jones, Riley Hill, Patrick Atkins, Luke Foster, Eli Alexander, Isaac Hewitt, Jesse Taylor, Luke Richardson (Development Coach)

**Second Row:** Paul Downer (Assistant Coach), Judd Major, Regan Pope, Clayton Taylor, Jye Skender, Bailey Long (Captain), Ryan (Head Coach) Lasscock, Tjad Gianoncelli (Vice Captain), Callum Smith, Jayden Rigoll, Marcus Burns, Nicholas Davidson, Stuart Chester (S&C)

**First Row:** Tom Rintoul, Jacob Templeton, Cooper Smith, Tom Rooke, Jack Wooden, Jay Gault, Alex Campbell, Mitchell Lonnie, Lancelot Griessel, Baylee Payne

**Absent:** Ben Horgan (Assistant Coach), Codan Daddon, Trent Hiscock, Josh Grant, Nathan Dunne, Austin Crofts, Sam Angel, Callum Downey





## 2023 - ROGERS CUP SQUAD

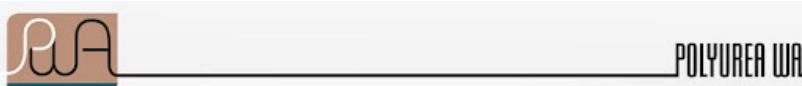
**B:** Damon Brimson (Assistant Coach), Maddison Taylor, Keeley Oakes, Chloe Shearing, Ashlee Hardie, Leuca Krmpotic, Isabella Hill, Sophie Fisher, Emily McGinn, Charlie Prentice, Molly Conroy, Paige Dodunski, Zara Deschamps, Brett Foster (Assistant Coach), Scott Kounis (Head Coach)

**M:** Luke Richardson (Head of WFLW Development), Claire Norbury, Jasmin Barnes, Bree Porritt, Samara Sallie, Tyra Smith, Abbey Brimson (Captain), Tayla Anthony, Amber Rundle, Heidi Clarke, Jekylah Garlett, Olivia Bonsack

**F:** Hayley Bidefeld, Kyra Abbott, Taylah O'Neill, Jamarah Woods, Ella Feist, Mia Russo, Cailyn Bennett, Kaitlyn Roper, Chloe Smoker



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## 2023 - FUTURES SQUAD

© Dan White Photography

**B:** Josh Wooden (Assistant Coach), Kris Shannon (Talent Manager), John Coleman, Harrison Stewart, Sebastian Hewitt, Judd Marcello,  
**Peter Young, Sam Elvin, Lochlain Carpenter, Bailey Thompson, Charlie Brunton, Alex Hunt, Boyd Fewson, Mark Hutchings (Head Coach), Aidan Lynch (Assistant Coach)**  
**M:** Mitch Drewett (Development Coach), Christian Dimitroich, Thommy Yang, Lachy Dunne, Tyson Harrington, Jacob Farrow, Jonah Klemke (Vice Captain), Steve Chapman (Head Coach), Cooper Bewick (Captain), Cameron Davies, Kylan Granland, Rhys Hards, Mitchell Thomas, George Sailsbury, Stuart Chester (S&C),  
**F:** Chris Davidson, Travis DiGiovanni, Damon De Winter, Sam Swadling, Aiden D'Aminco, Xander Glamunzina, Zane Gartrell, Amon Ross, Scott Rae, Will Rintoul, Jake Cooper,  
**Absent:** Jaxon Stewart, Cal Brandis, Austin Roberts, Jarrod Coppen, Bailey Moffatt,





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# 2023 Awards Winners

## Breckler Medal - League

**Breckler Medalist 1st place** - Luke Meadows

**Jason Salecic Medalist 2nd place** - Shane Nelson

**Ken Ashdown Medalist 3rd place** – Noah Pegoraro

**League Players' Player** – Shane Nelson



## Ennis Medal - Reserves

**Ennis Medalist 1st place** – Jack DeMarte

**Reserves 2nd place** – Luke Reilly

**Reserves 3rd place** – Kane Bevan

**Reserves Players' Player** – Kane Bevan



**Past Player Ass Encouragement Award** – Henry Ryan

**Rising Star** – Darcy Dixon

**Ross McMillan Volunteer of the Year** – Vic Carbone & Bart De Vita

**Ray Scott Medalist Leading Goal Kicker** – Tyler Keitel

**Wayne Dayman award Most Courageous Player** – Zac Guadagnin

**Carbone-DeVita - Best Clubman** – Scott Nelson

**Debutants** – Zac Langdon, Rohan Scurria, Riley Sprigg, Ryan Hudson, Darcy Dixon, Jack DeMarte, Kane Bevan, Zarne Robis, Griff Julian, Daniel Gathercole.

## **Milestone Awards**

Aaron Black - 250 games

Tyler Keitel - 150 games

Tyson Moulton, Mitch Peirce, Keegan Knott - 100 games

Sam Rotham, Ben Johnson, Noah Pegoraro, Tristian Hobley – 50 games

## **Retirements**

Darren Harris

Aidan Lynch

Blake Wilhelm



# 2023 Awards Winners





# 2023 Awards Winners

## WAFLW Awards

**WAFLW Fairest & Best** - Taylor Ferguson

**Runner-Up Fairest & Best** - Emily Bennett

**3rd Runner-Up Fairest & Best** - Jeevna Heer

**Coaches Award** - Erin O'Brien

**Players' Player Award** - Brooke Hongell

**Leading Goal Kickers** - Tia Bergin & Grace Betti

**WAFLW Volunteer of the Year** - Kane Roper

**Debutants** - Matilda Bain, Brooke Hongell, Emily Bennett,

Taylor Ferguson, Katherine Bennett, Natasha Spurr, Bianca

Webb, Liza Kneebone, Nadia Parora, Angelina Wodcke, Louise

McBride, Karry Plumber, Georgia Cowman



## Roger Cup Awards

**Roger Cup Fairest & Best** - Kaitlyn Roper

**Runner-Up Fairest & Best** - Mia Russo

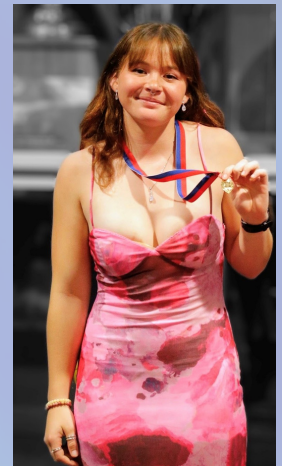
**3rd Runner-Up Fairest & Best** - Jekylah Garlett

**Coaches Award** - Elli Van Den Broeke

**Players' Player Award** - Abbey Brimson

**Leading Goal Kickers** - Chloe Shearing

**Rogers Cup Volunteer of the Year** - Lisa Bennett



## Colts Awards

**Dominish Medal Fairest & Best** - Callum Smith

**Runner-Up Fairest & Best** - Matt Galjaardt

**3rd Runner-Up Fairest & Best** - Odin Jones

**Rising Star** - Jack Wooden

**Players' Player Award** - Trent Hiscock

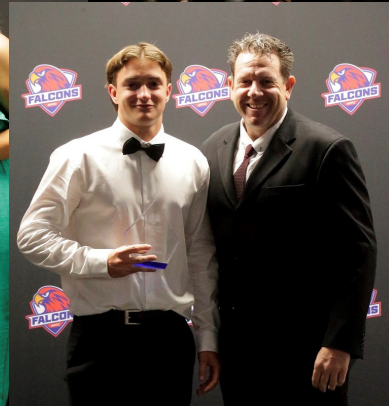
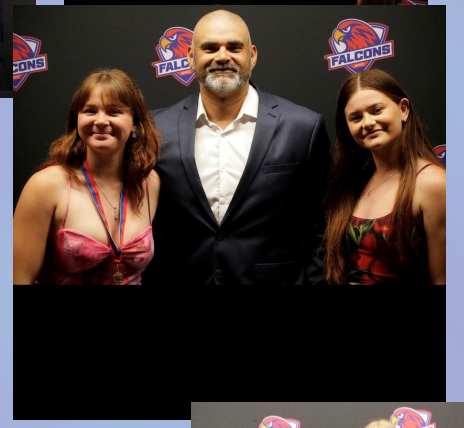
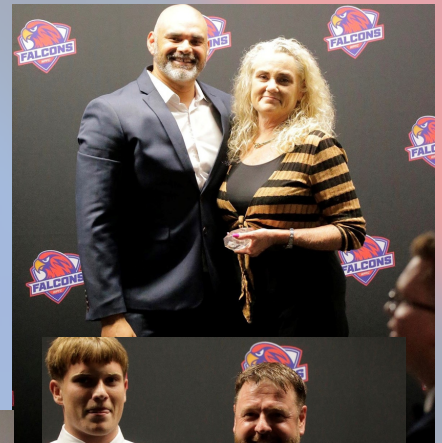
**Past Players Ass Encouragement Award** - Trent Hiscock

**Leading Goal Kickers** - Jye Skender





# 2023 Awards Winners







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AUSTRALIA'S URANIUM

# Life Member & Past Player Association

With so much expectation at the start of the season, things didn't exactly go as planned. The great run of success at the end of the season once again promises for better things to come in 2024. Congratulations to the Reserves for once again finishing on top of the ladder and reinforcing the fact that we have a very productive zone. Congratulations to Darren Harris on what has been a very productive career as player and coach at our club. He will still be in the wings, but has handed the reins to another local success in Jason Salecic.

The Past Players and Officials have had another productive year and continues to assist the club with fund raising.

The BBQ bandits have continued their support of the patio food bar. We have continued to provide and sell First Goal Kicker Raffles at all home game functions. Many thanks to those members who provided their assistance with BBQ's, gate raffles and luncheon raffles. These last 2 items are the main source of funds that keep us going and many thanks to the generous support of our members who regularly donate to our group.

This year we again provided sponsorship for a player in both the men's and women's teams and hopefully will continue to be in a position to provide this extra support on an annual basis.

Once again, our thanks to Sandy Hasler for her continued support with the catering of delicious sandwiches for our half time functions.

Best wishes to all members and supporters for the coming season and we look forward with great anticipation as the 2024 season approaches.

Congratulations to our Past Players and Officials award winners

- League Players Player – Shane Nelson
- Reserves Players Player – Kane Bevan
- Reserves encouragement award - Henry Ryan
- Colts encouragement award – Trent Hiscock

Stan Broom

West Perth Past Players & Officials Association

## Congratulations - Mel Whinnen







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**West Perth Football Club  
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