



# TUGGERANONG UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

## FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

To our valued TUFC Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy new year, trusting that 2019 will be a good one for you, and that you all had a very good break over the Christmas period.

The 2018 season was another productive one for the club with the following events some of the highlights:

- A number of our teams played finals football, notably, and for the first time in over a decade, our NPL 1<sup>st</sup> Grade team played in a final. They narrowly missed out on getting through to the Preliminary final losing on a penalty shoot-out. All those at the game will agree it was Tuggies game for the taking, but as it was, luck simply did not go our way.
- Congratulations to the State League 5 team who once again showed their prowess in securing a grand final victory – very well deserved following a fantastic season.
- The NPL14's made it to the Grand Final, only to lose narrowly to their opponents from Belconnen – a great effort and something they should be very proud of !
- The new TUFC canteen at the Wanniasa precinct was completed and put into operation. This was the culmination of many hours of hard work by the Board and other members of the club. This now allows the club to have a dedicated office and shop separate to the canteen and is something we've been striving to achieve for a number of years
- At the national level, after many years of delay we finally saw much needed reform to the FFA Board. This allowed fresh elections and a change in leadership as well as an overhaul of the various FFA governance committees, including the FFA Congress. Interestingly our own member federation, Capital Football, voted against a number of these reforms !

On a personal note, as announced at last year's club presentation events, and, after well and truly more than a decade in the job I have decided to stand down as President of the TUFC. Today, *Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January*, marks my final day in the role and it is with more than a tinge of sadness this day has come. Over the years we have achieved a lot together and I am very proud of each and every one of those



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achievements. The two highlights for me are without doubt the FFA Cup campaign in 2014, whereby we made it through to the round of 16 and took on the Melbourne Victory at Viking Park in Erindale, and the most significant task of reunifying the club in the same year and truly making Tuggeranong UNITED! I will provide more detail around these as well as other highlights at the upcoming AGM.

The TUFC board recently endorsed current Vice President, Stan Mitchell, to lead the club in the interim between my departure and the next AGM, which I anticipate will be in March or April. Stan will be well known to many of you, having been involved in the club for a considerable number of years as a coach. I ask that you get right behind Stan as he leads the club and continues its progress as the premier club in the Tuggeranong valley.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Andrew Rose, our long term treasurer who has also decided to stand down later this month. Without doubt, the treasurer and indeed secretary roles are two of the most important jobs in the club. As such I would like to put a call out to you, our TUFC family, and see if any of you, who have CPA qualifications would be willing and able to fill a casual vacancy from Andrews departure up until the AGM.

The TUFC board have had a productive year and for the first time in many years we have a full complement of 11 board members who bring with them a wide range of skills that the club will no doubt benefit from.

For many years, the club has quite heavily subsidised the respective NPL and NPLW programs and done so since their inception. This however is no longer a viable proposition to continue to do so and as a result, the board has made the decision to address this imbalance.

While we understand that players and parents want to know 'what do I get' for my fees, the reality is it costs significantly more money to fund these programs than what we generally charge. As an example, the board is happy to provide the following information:

- Ground Hire (TUFC spent more than \$100k last year on ground hire for *NPL* & *NPLW* alone)
- Suitably qualified coaches, in line with the FFA National Guidelines
- Physiotherapy and other sports medicine professionals
- FFA & Capital Football registration fees (making up more than one third of the charges)



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- Referee fees
- Football Equipment (to support the high quality programs we produce), including ground maintenance and improvements

Whilst we appreciate that these fees have risen substantially – they simply had too ! I can advise that the National Average NPL Youth Registration cost is \$1284 for Females and \$1442 for Males and we know that the highest Capital Football NPL Youth Registration cost is in excess of \$1,000 (Source: Capital Football).

The club does not wish to see the cost of registrations being an impost for participation and will enter into payment plans for those that require it.

The Club has left the Community League and Miniroos registration fees the same as 2018, but there will be a modest increase of 5% in all junior registration fees to meet the increases levied by Capital Football and the ACT Govt.

Over the years, successive TUFC Boards that I have led have attempted to identify other avenues to generate income so we are less reliant on sponsors and player registrations. This has been a very difficult task, but not something we should simply give up on. Without this, I fear the club will continue to be confronted with the significant challenges of meeting its financial obligations into the future, particularly if it wants to continue to provide such valuable programs to the community.

In closing, I would once again just like to thank each and every person involved with Tuggies for allowing me the opportunity to be involved with such a great organisation. There are some fantastic people involved with this great club and I feel very privileged indeed to have lead the club over such a long period.

**Jon Thiele**  
**President**  
9/1/19