



**2016**

# **Annual Report**



# UNIVERSITY BLUES ANNUAL REPORT – 2016

As I look back on the past 12 months at the Uni Blues, and indeed as I do every year, I always come back to the central question – was the season a success? This question inevitably leads me to think: what does success actually mean and how do we know if we've been successful?

Like many sporting clubs, success is typically measured on where you finished on the ladder. Fair enough, this is one of the fundamentals for fielding teams each week – we want to win. And in that regard we had mixed success in 2016: we celebrated the highs of another premiership from the mighty Blues Twos; after sitting top of the table in the seniors for the majority of the year and daring to dream of a seniors flag, we once again got pipped in the preliminary final. Meanwhile, our feeder teams in the thirds and unders faced a tough year but still managed to achieve some positives throughout the year.

When I then circle back to why our club exists and whether we were successful, I return to our mission "*Committed to success, bonded by our community*" and I know without a doubt we enjoyed tremendous success, as the Uni Blues community is one of the strongest you will find in any sporting environment.

Our community is built on the dedication of our volunteers, supporters, members, parents, sponsors and players (current and past). It's a unique community that is genuinely bonded and from which we field teams year on year providing long lasting friendships, deep passion and meaningful purpose.

Throughout the year I have received many compliments about the Blues and the way we conduct ourselves. Of course we want on field success, but the way we conduct and perform off the field in representing our club is something of which we can all feel very proud. On that note, I would like to thank our legion of dedicated volunteers who are the lifeblood of the club and offer their time so generously. To all those who have helped out in one way or another, be it as a once off or on a regular basis – your efforts are greatly appreciated and while it has been said countless times over the years, I feel the need to repeat it: when helping out at the Blues you get more out of it than you put in. The Club is always looking for its members and supporters to help out so if you have some spare time in 2017, I would encourage you to come down the Uni Main and lend your support.

I would like to note the following key points from the season.

## **On Field**

After steering the Blues to a Premier B Premiership in 2014 and two third placings in Premier Section in the past two years, our senior coach Quinton Gleeson is stepping down from his role. As a footy club we are in a much better position at the end of Quinton's stint as Senior Coach than at the start. Quinton has worked tirelessly from the moment he was appointed in 2013 with one goal in mind, that being to leave the Club a better place than when he took on the role. I am comfortable in saying that he has achieved exactly that and helped position the Blues to be a strong unit well into the future. Quinton's influence on the playing group extends beyond the efforts on field as he is one that actively embraces the Club's belief that the Blues is more than just a club for young men to play football – it is a club for young men to grow and develop in all areas of their life while playing a good standard of football. Whilst we are disappointed to lose Quinton's services as Senior Coach, we are excited to welcome James Walker to the position for season 2017.

We also say farewell from a coaching point of view to Unders Coach Jeff Scotland who, after four years at the helm of the Blues Under 19s, has decided to step away from coaching in the short term. The Blues have a lot to thank Jeff for as he has guided our Under 19s - one of the toughest if not the toughest jobs out our Club - through arguably the most difficult time in the Unders' history as we finished on the bottom of the ladder with only one win in 2016. However, the fact we did not have to forfeit one game for the whole year, even during the notoriously challenging uni holiday period, was testament to the hard work Jeff put in and the respect in which he is held by the playing group. We thank Jeff for his commitment and passion over the past four years and hope to see him involved in the Club in some capacity in 2017.

The highlight of the year was the premiership by the Mighty Blues Twos. Captained by Club legend Tom Girdwood and with new coach Jason Bek at the helm, the twos went one better than 2015, winning yet another Reserves Premiership for the Club. The Mighty Blues Twos overcame some late season stutters to get it right when it mattered most, playing their two best games of the season in the Preliminary and Grand Finals. Congratulations and thank you to Jason who fitted in perfectly to the Blues in 2016 and helped the boys develop their football from day one. Jason was ably assisted by former Premiership Coach, Bob Girdwood, whose help, as always, was appreciated by all.

Like the Unders the Thirds experienced a tough season finishing eighth. The many injuries during the middle of the season to the Senior and Reserves sides, hit the Thirds hard, however our Thirds are a resilient team who fought out every game to the end. A big thank you to coach Jason Evans and all the Thirds players for everything that they gave to the Club during the year.

### **Uni Oval**

The state of our oval has been a hot topic around the Club, the University and the competition as a whole for many years. However, never has there been a more controversial year in regard to the oval than what we faced in 2016 culminating in being forced by the VAFA to move our crucial round 17 clash against Old Xaverians three days out from the game. Unfortunately, this incident will go down as one of the more disappointing episodes that I have been a part of during my time as player and official of the Blues. While I will not use this space to recount the events that led to this decision to be made by the VAFA, I would like the Blues Community to know that since the decision we have, along with great help from the University Blacks and the Melbourne University Football Club (MUFC), pursued the VAFA on the reasons behind the forced move and have pressed for answers on what that decision means for future games at the Uni as well as any other grounds which may be deemed "unfit" for play.

Whilst I still do not have the answers that I believe are warranted, we have received a commitment from the VAFA that it will respond to our questions and request that a transparent and consistent process be applied in relation to any games that may be relocated in the future as a result of any ground being deemed unfit for play.

I would like to thank Andrew Donald, President of MUFC, and Nick Carah, President of University Blacks, for their unwavering support and commitment during a very strenuous time for our Club.

### **Social events and fundraising**

The Blues social calendar is always a busy affair and 2016 was no exception.

The highlight and marquee event remains the Blues Ball, which raised a significant amount for the Club. Thank you to our hosts Jeremy and Jamie Mugavin, and to all who supported our major fundraiser for the year.

The Blues Business Breakfast continues to grow and establish itself as a popular and strategic function. Emma Welsh from Emma and Tom's Life Juice was a much enjoyed speaker while James Dunn again did a superb job hosting the event.

The Pavvy played host to two supporter lunches during the year, with the Women in Football and the 1996 Reserves Premiership reunion seeing over 150 of the Blues Community enjoy the comfortable surroundings of our wonderful Pavilion.

Rebecca Maddern was a fantastic guest speaker for the Women in Football lunch and Mel Jones equally so in her role as host for the afternoon. The lunch, held just after the announcement of the eight AFL women's teams was attended by a number of Melbourne Uni Women's footballers including President Laura Kane and Western Bulldog 'priority player' Emma Kearney.

The 1996 Reserves Premiership reunion saw many of the 1996 team return to the Pavvy - many for the first time since the refurbishment - to tell tall tales of how good they all were 20 years ago. Thanks to Premiership coach Barry Neivandt for organizing the reunion.

### **Sponsors, donors and members**

As costs associated with running an amateur football club continue to rise, the importance and value of our sponsors also increases and, quite simply, we would struggle to survive without the generosity of this group. Our sponsors and donors are mentioned individually within the body of this report and I thank them all for their ongoing support and commitment.

Thank you to the Uni Blues members, not only for your financial contribution but for your support at games and in other areas of the Club. It was great to see so many old and new faces throughout the year and we hope that this support continues to grow as we look to solidify our position as one of the VAFA's Premier Clubs.

As this is my final report as President of the Melbourne University Blues Football Club, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the many people that have assisted me during this time. The support and advice received has helped me no end. I have enjoyed many aspects of the Presidency over the years not least of all meeting many of the player's parents and reconnecting with many past players.

Thanks once again for all the help that I have received and I look forward to sharing a beer in the Pavvy in the future while reminding you all of what is the best travel magazine in Australia

Go Blues!

Joseph Sturrock  
**PRESIDENT**  
**MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BLUES FOOTBALL CLUB**

## University Blues Office Bearers and Club Awards 2016

President	Joseph Sturrock
Vice President	Tom Hutchins
Club Secretary	Stephen Meade
Commercial/Finance	Andrew Wilson
Finance	Piers Flanagan
Player Management	Chris Reid
Football Director	John Kanis
Football Operations	David Phefley
	Jack Heinz
	Henry Weddell

### Other Committee:

Treasurer	Bernie Angel
Recruiting	Tim Rourke

### Sponsors

Abercromby's Real Estate	Olympic Park Sports Medicine Centre
Megabolt	Muirfield Financial Services
Six Degrees	Four Square Construction
Get Lost Magazine	Management
Grin Creative	The Clyde Hotel
Brighton Ford	

### Donors

Peter Brukner	Diana Tapsall
Tony & Karin Heinz	Rod Hager
Warwick & Tom Hutchins	John & Dianne Carmody
Hayden & Sally Torney	Helen & David Phefley
John & Sue North	
Tony McInerney	Blues 25 & Blue Bloods

### Club Support Staff:

Social Functions	Jack Townley
Match Day Social	Tom Girdwood/Al Evans (Bar Manager), Tony Heinz (Match-day Pavilion), Helen Phefley, Karin Heinz, Mary Donaldson, Bronwyn Nice (Afternoon tea)
Player Recruiting/Welfare	Justin Quill, Chris Reid,
Football Manager	David Phefley, Edgar Guerrero
Team Managers	Michael Robin and Tony McInerney (Senior), Gerry Westmore and John Carmody (Reserves), Josh Tinner (Thirds), Bernie Angel (Unders)
Support Staff	Frank Benjamin, Julian Mitchell, Jim Hayes plus many other volunteers

## **Coaching Staff**

Seniors	Quinton Gleeson, James Walker, Ben McKinley
Reserves	Jason Bek
Thirds	Jason Evans
Under 19s	Jeff Scotland, James Cameron

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## **Medical Staff**

Doctor	Liam West, Michael Steinbeck; Jacob Jewson; Tony Heinz
Physiotherapists	Johanna Cross; Mick Girdwood; Simon Lumb; Kara Giannone; Zuzana Machotka
Physio Assistants	Lizzy Carty, Keith Cheung; Regan Connell; Tim Gibbins; Sarah Parkinson; Brandan Smith; Arthur Too, Fiona Yeaman
Trainer	Ray Scanlon

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## **MUFC Board**

John Carmody, Andrew Donald, Steve Longley,  
Joseph Sturrock, Nick Carah, Simon Costello,  
Andrew Henderson, Laura Kane, Ashley Bye, Bridget Barker,  
Shona McInnes/Peter Huntington and Rob Hanna

## **Seniors**

Senior Captain	Hugh Vickers-Willis
Senior Best & Fairest	Will Cuningham
Senior Runner-up Best & Fairest	Patrick Hayes
Alan Salter Award	Angus Nice
Jack Coventry Defensive Award	Marc James
Best First Year Player	Connor Lappin
Senior Best in Finals	Dan Batarilo & Tom Quinn
Runner	Justin Quill
Interchange Steward	Tony McInerney

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## **Reserves**

Reserves Captain	Tom Girdwood
Reserves Best & Fairest	Dirk Heinz
Reserves Runner-up B & F	Tom Girdwood
Reserves Coach's Award	Charles Fry
Reserves Best in Finals	James Carr
Reserves Runner	Tom Lanyon/Tim Blakey
Reserves Goal Umpire	John Carmody, Jim Hayes
Interchange Steward	Michael Robin

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### **Thirds**

Thirds Captain	Chris Pyke/Will Van de Pol
Thirds Best & Fairest	Hamish Seller
Thirds Runner-up B & F	Chris Pyke
Thirds Coach's Award	Sam Briggs

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### **Under 19's**

U19 Captain	George Osti
U19 Best & Fairest	Matthew Blair
U19 Runner-up B & F	Travis Scotland
U19 Coach's Award	Brett Scotland
U19 Goal Umpire	Bernie Angel

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### **Club Awards**

Chris Brown Trophy – Best Clubman	Jeff Scotland
Ted McNamara Trophy – Best Team Player	Jamie Mugavin
MUFC Life Membership	Tom Girdwood

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### **VAFA Representatives**

VAFA – Senior (Vic Country)	Hugh Vickers-Willis, Jeremy Mugavin
VAFA – Under 19 (Vic Country)	Matthew Blair

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## **Games Milestone – 2016**

**200 Games:** Dirk Heinz

**100 Games:** Will Cuningham; Edward Long, Will Dan de Pol

**50 Games:** Angus Adams, Sam Briggs, George Chisholm, David Cumming, Jack Curnow, Ryan Eade, Angus Ford, Jamie Mugavin, Andy Wettenhall, Cameron Williams, Jack Wood

## 2016 Senior Best & Fairest

Votes		Player	Games Played
56	1	Will Cuningham	20
41	2	Patrick Hayes	18
39	Eq 3	Marc James	20
39	Eq 3	George Cameron	15
39	Eq 3	Jeremy Mugavin	18
38	6	Connor Lappin	17
33	7	Hugh Vickers-Willis	16
30	8	Clayton Hinkley	14
24	Eq 9	Joel Moloney	17
24	Eq 9	Tom Quinn	19

## 2016 Reserves Best & Fairest

Votes		Player	Games Played
47	1	Dirk Heinz	15
43	2	Tom Girdwood	21
30	3	James Carr	15
27	4	Sam Smith	15
25	5	Will Hartnell	14
22	Eq 6	Jack Wood	17
22	Eq 6	Rich Langham	13
21	8	Louis Wardle	11
19	9	Ed Ratcliffe	17
18	Eq 10	David Withers	20
18	Eq 10	Paddy Gardiner	11

## 2016 Premier Thirds Best & Fairest

Votes		Player	Games Played
24	1	Hamish Seller	12
23	2	Chris Pyke	10
21	3	Jared Crawford	12
20	4	Jack Heinz	6
19	5	Harry Sullivan	13
18	Eq 6	Will Van de Pol	15
18	Eq 6	Al Evans	6
17	Eq 8	Angus Adams	14
17	Eq 8	Sam Briggs	14
16	10	Tyson Deane	11

## 2016 Under 19 Best & Fairest

Votes		Player	Games Played
43	1	Matthew Blair	16
41	2	Travis Scotland	18
36	3	Henry Bennett	13
25	4	Brett Scotland	18
21	5	George Osti	10
19	6	Luke Bell	12
18	Eq 7	Tom Wilson	14
18	Eq 7	Jack Sheridan	10
17	9	Al Saunders	16
16	Eq 10	Will Lawrence	17
16	Eq 10	Ed Warmsley	15

## 2016 VAFA Woodrow Medal

Votes	Player	Votes	Player
15	Jeremy Mugavin	11	Marshall Rippon
10	Marc James	6	Will Cuningham
4	Cameron Williams	3	Thomas MacKenzie
3	Ryan Eade	3	Dale Hinkley
3	Paul Bunn	3	Clayton Hinkley
3	George Cameron	2	Pete Summers
2	Patrick Hayes	1	Hugh Vickers-Willis



## University Blues Players 2016

	Sen	Res	3rds	U19
Adams, Angus	0	4	14	0
Anders, Sam	0	0	0	1
Auld, Troy	0	1	6	0
Baker, Dominic	0	0	0	10
Barlow, Nicholas	0	0	0	8
Barr, Cameron	0	0	0	17
Batarilo, Andrew	0	7	1	0
Batarilo, Daniel	14	3	0	0
Batarilo, Thomas	12	2	0	0
Bell, Luke	0	0	0	12
Bennett, Henry	0	0	0	13
Binns, Alec	0	0	0	17
Blair, Matthew	0	0	0	16
Blakey, William	5	8	1	0
Bowman, Liam	0	0	0	5
Brambley, Isaac	0	2	5	0
Briggs, Sam	0	4	14	0
Browning, James	0	0	0	15
Bunn, Paul	9	2	0	0
Burn-Francis, Timothy	0	0	4	0
Buttolph, Nicholas	0	0	17	1
Cameron, George	15	0	0	0
Carr, James	4	15	0	0
Carter, Gordon	0	0	5	0
Catalano, Joshua	0	0	0	15
Chisholm, George	0	11	2	0
Chomley, Bernie	0	0	11	0
Chrimes, MacKenzie	0	0	0	13
Clements, Sam	0	0	1	12
Condon, Edward	0	0	11	0
Connell, Samuel	0	0	9	0
Connell, Regan	0	0	7	0
Coughlin, Alexander	0	0	0	6
Crawford, Jared	0	4	12	0
Cumming, David	11	6	0	0
Cunningham, William	20	0	0	0
Curnow, George	0	2	0	0
Curnow, Jack	0	1	12	0
Deane, Tyson	0	5	11	1
Dhaliwal, Inderpreet	0	0	13	0
Eade, Ryan	8	0	0	0
Egan, Luke	0	0	1	10
Evans, Alastair	0	3	6	0
Fairbairn, Rory	0	5	0	0

	Sen	Res	3rds	U19
Fang, Julian	0	0	5	0
Flanagan, Piers	13	0	0	0
Flanagan, Simeon	0	0	1	14
Foott, Tom	0	0	1	0
Ford, Angus	10	3	0	0
Francis, Nicholas	0	0	0	11
Fry, Charles	0	21	0	0
Gardiner, Patrick	3	11	0	0
Garrick, Lachlan	0	0	14	0
Geappen, Tim	8	0	0	0
George, Davis	0	0	0	1
Gill, Samuel	0	0	6	0
Girdwood, Thomas	0	21	0	0
Goodear, Sam	0	0	0	1
Gordon, Justin	0	0	0	2
Hanlon, Nicholas	0	0	0	12
Hannemann, Thomas	0	0	5	0
Hart, Matthew	3	10	0	0
Hartnell, William	0	14	0	0
Hayes, Patrick	18	0	0	0
Heinz, Dirk	5	15	0	0
Heinz, Jack	0	2	6	0
Higgins, Declan	0	0	1	0
Hinkley, Clayton	14	0	0	0
Hinkley, Dale	9	0	0	0
Hodge, Tom	0	0	1	0
Hosking, Tim	0	1	14	3
James, Marc	20	0	0	0
Jess, Jacob	0	8	2	0
Jongebloed, Benjamin	0	7	3	0
Keach, Edward	0	0	0	6
Kelly, Maxwell	0	1	0	0
Koroneos, James	0	6	0	0
Langham, Richard	0	13	0	0
Langley, William	0	17	1	0
Lappin, Connor	17	3	0	0
Lawrence, William	0	0	0	17
Long, Edward	0	20	1	0
MacKenzie, Thomas	17	0	0	0
Macky, Ranald	0	0	4	0
May, William	0	0	8	0
McCoy, Luke	0	1	7	0
McFarlane, Will	0	1	0	0
McMahon, Riley	18	1	0	0

	Sen	Res	3rds	U19
Mikelsons, Andre	0	0	0	3
Moloney, Joel	17	0	0	0
Mugavin, Jeremy	18	0	0	0
Mugavin, Jamie	8	13	0	0
Nagle, Thomas	0	0	4	0
Nice, Angus	19	0	0	0
Nielsen, Samuel	0	0	0	1
Osti, George	0	0	0	10
Parry, David	0	0	9	0
Preece, Taylor	0	14	0	0
Pritchard, Michael	0	13	5	0
Pyke, Christopher	0	0	10	0
Quinn, Tom	19	0	0	0
Ratcliffe, Edward	0	17	0	0
Reid, Ben	0	0	0	6
Richardson, Nicholas	0	0	0	5
Rippon, Marshall	17	0	0	0
Robinson , Benjamin	0	0	0	1
Sambevski, Nathan	0	4	6	0
Saunders, Alastair	0	0	0	16
Saunders, Sebastian	0	0	0	16
Scotland, Brett	0	0	0	18
Scotland, Travis	0	1	0	18
Seller, Hamish	0	6	12	0
Sheridan, Jack	0	0	0	10
Silvestro, Thomas	3	1	1	0
Simson, William	0	0	11	3
Smith, Sam	4	15	0	0
Smith, Bart	0	0	0	6
Steel, Jack	0	0	1	0

	Sen	Res	3rds	U19
Steinfort, Hugo	0	7	1	0
Steinfort, Maximilian	0	0	12	0
Stewart, Lachlan	0	12	1	0
Stewart, Frazer	0	0	4	0
Sullivan, Harrison	0	1	13	0
Summers, Peter	10	0	0	0
Taylor, Jeremy	10	0	0	0
Telford, Samuel	0	0	0	4
Thomson, Zack	3	13	0	0
Tiller, Caleb	6	0	0	0
Townley, Jack	9	0	0	0
Tyndall, Jarrod	0	0	1	12
Van De Pol, William	0	0	15	0
Van De Pol, Daniel	7	11	0	0
Vickers-Willis, Hugh	16	0	0	0
Vickers-Willis, Tim	1	4	1	0
Walder, Liam	0	1	15	0
Walmsley, Edward	0	0	1	17
Walsh, Sam	0	0	6	0
Wardle, Louis	0	11	2	0
Welleman, Thomas	0	6	3	0
Wettenhall, Andrew	0	13	1	0
Williams, Cameron	15	0	0	0
Wilson, Thomas	0	0	0	14
Withers, David	0	20	0	0
Wood, Jack	3	17	0	0
Wood, Alexander	0	0	9	0
Zawertailo, Eli	0	0	0	1

	Sen	Res	3rd	U19	Total
Players used	41	59	62	44	146