

POINTS POST 2017 Full Time!

Season's final siren!

WOW, it's the end of the 2017 season already. Well, not quite the end. As I type this report, there are two teams getting ready to battle their way into the Grand Final. Kyle has written a great report about our momentous finals campaign so read further down to get the complete wrap. **GOOD LUCK** to our U13's and U14's this weekend.

It's been a great season, a season that has shown that



we are a great family club where everyone is willing and able to show that true **DOCKERS SPIRIT**. To all our volunteers, we say **THANKYOU**. Thank you to the committee, coaches and managers. Thank you to canteen helpers, BBQ

cookers, time keepers and fruit bringers. Thank you to **ALL** parents and family members who jump in the car every week to bring their little (and not so little now) Dockers to training and travel all around the Sydney precinct on game day. Without you the season would not have been possible.

The season isn't completely over; I tell I lie. There is still our trivia night this weekend and of course our Dockers presentation day BBQ and AGM on September 10 @ 10:00. Make sure you lock it in your diaries if you haven't already.

Let's go around the teams for a final look at their season starting with some very poignant words Kyle Mahoney

1.2.3. GO DOCKERS!

FINALS CAMPAIGN

North Ryde Dockers have for the 1st time in my recollection (+10 yrs. at the Club) have three teams in a single year who have made it through to Semi Finals.

Congratulations to 12's, 13's and 14's for making it through to the Semi's and good luck!

With only four teams (U11's upwards to U14's) eligible to play semi-finals it is certainly a 1st to have 75% of our teams in a relatively small club playing for the premiership.

It's worth noting that our U11's team finished in 5th, only one spot out of finals, so it was close to a 100% strike rate and this 5th place from a team that did not have enough players to field a team early in the year. Pleasingly player numbers for the 11's are now good and it showed in the 2nd half of the season results. I'm sure as those kids move into 12's next year, they will have plenty of success a head of them. This year's crop of 10-year old's is quite possibly one of the stronger groups of young recruits to come through in many years, so look out for them next year in their debut year of competition football. Our under 9's, with three new and very competent coaches at helm have also come along nicely, and they, along with our great new crop of Auskickers who recently made their exciting debut on the SCG at half time of the Swans /Dockers match will ensure a rosy future ahead for North Ryde Dockers Junior AFL. As for our Semi-finalists;

Our all-conquering U14's are playing finals for the 4th year in a row which is a super result after being moved down from Div 1 to last position in Div 2 and having to play catch up to the rest all year. Talent and effort have certainly contributed to this, but much of their success has been bought about by the longevity of the team (kids and parents), coming back each year to the Dockers and supporting one another, so let's keep that going with all our young age groups as they grow.

This is a factor that is coming to bare fruit in our very skillful U13's team who played finals last year and are back in the mix to go all the way this year. There is a lot of experienced heads on field and on the sideline and I've no doubt this will make them a force to be reckoned with this year.

It's the first year of Semi-finals for this year's U12's, but likewise coaches, Matt and Sean have years of experience and I'm sure they will guide the 12's to play their best footy when it counts. This very capable team will have many years of finals ahead of them if they stick together and continue to build on what they've achieved so far this year.

We wish all three teams good luck for a campaign that takes them well into the finals series. Let's get along to games (see website for details) to cheer them on.

Whilst this article is to acknowledge and celebrate the success of our club and our kids, it's also worth recognising there are many measure of success and winning is just one.

Our most important measures of success are the **SMILES**, **LAUGHTER** and the **GOOD TIMES** that our kids and our dedicated parents enjoy, and by this measure, we are the most successful little community club in Sydney and of this, we can all be proud. Thanks to all, including our fantastic Volunteers that help to make it all possible.

So on that note, Congratulations to all Dockers large and small on the 2017 season and I hope to see you all back in 2018 (and please bring some friends to share in this with us)

Go Dockers

Kyle Mahoney

Dockers Coach Coordinator

AUSKICK

Great first time season for many of our Auskickers. We had a wonderful coach, Alex, who put her heart and soul into teaching our kids the skills required to move into the next age group.

On 13th August, our little Dockers were lucky enough to hit the SCG at half time of the SWANS v Fremantle game. They did a wonderful job. There were certainly plenty of proud parents too.



The day after, was our Auskick PARTY DAY. For our last home session, we had a visit from the older Dockers in U14's who came and helped and played

with us, as well as helping the U10's run out for their game. Oh, and did we mention cupcakes and lolly bags!!

As a first time parent I have to add that this is an amazing club and on behalf of the Auskick parents I would like to say a huge thank you for all that you do for the club.

Thanks Elaine



U9's

Well what a year it was for our fantastic team of U9 players. All the girls and boys had an amazing season and by the end had made such amazing improvement



in their skills. Each week they played with such passion and vigour and were never despondent from losing a match. Each week the team song was sung louder and louder! This team had a number of players come through from Auskick the previous year and it was great to see how quickly they picked up the rules of the game.



One particular game no doubt will stand out with the kids and that was the rain-soaked Friday night match against St Ives. Each one of them got out there and played with the usual determination and spirit that they do each Sunday (in usually much warmer, sunnier weather!) and to the parent's horror, went home a lot muddier!

We also had the opportunity to play a Saturday afternoon game which was again a lot of fun. All in all, a fantastic season for the U9s, here's hoping all our players continue on next year improving their skills and having fun. A big thank you to our wonderful coaches, Sean, Mel and Mehernaz who all worked tirelessly each week to train and nurture our team to become the mighty U9 North Ryde Dockers who all had such fun playing this year.

U10's

We had a bit of a lull after the June school holidays and after a pretty disappointing game, the team came back with a vengeance.

We've had some team members in Harrison and Callum, have a cracking second half of the season. This was cemented with a couple of repeat best on grounds performances. We saw some impressive feats of defence from the Coburn brothers showing their stuff and regularly shutting down opposition teams.

Our last two games against St. Ives showed us that there is still a way to go but the gap is definitely closing in our favour.



Congratulations to William Kellett for making his 50 game!! Here's looking forward to 2018.
Cheers,
Doug.

U12's

The under 12's finished the year on a 6 and 2 run to make our first finals. Beating Minor Premiers Willoughby. A highlight, a close less than a goal loss to 2nd placed Canada Bay also momentous and more importantly needing to come from 4 goals down against Mosman in our last game to make finals.... 6 straight goals! The character of this group had been defined.

To the Semi Final away at a difficult Cherrybrook, against a team we had lost heavily to twice this season and a howling wind to make it even trickier. The influence of the wind and both teams Coaches desperately wanting to close down play when playing into it, made it a very scrappy games. Apologies for the spectators, but to try and win sometimes you need to take lessons from Paul Roos..

Looking at the score breakdown.

Dockers into the wind held Westbrook to 4 behinds (to nothing) in the first quarter. 4-0

They held us to a goal and 3 behinds (to nothing) in the 2nd. a 4-9 lead to the Dockers at half time.

Quarter 3, the Dockers U12's again facing the teeth of the wind again our resolute defence was outstanding holding them to a single goal and 4 behinds. (again to nothing)

Showing through 3 quarters neither team had managed a single point kicking into the wind... 15-9 down and the opportunity was there. Last quarter, wind behind us but it was Westbrook who sneaked a running goal when we had two players on the ground injured – Westbrooks only score of the quarter..

We managed 5 behinds with all the momentum and field position. To say we were unlucky is probably fair. To say we could have stolen it, maybe we could have on another day. To summarise and say we learnt a lot and will be better for it next year – Absolutely.

The look in the watery eyes of the team as they trudged off the field made the parents both saddened but immensely proud of the effort put in. A best of the year performance.

Thought I'd close off the season with a thank you. Thanks to the parents for getting the boys and Lily to training early, for the commitment to the games, helping out Barb with goal umpiring, BBQ etc. etc.

The 3 Coaches and 2 Managers enjoyed the year thoroughly and to get to a first final for the majority of these kids, many playing footy for the first time a deserved result. Looking forward to seeing you all again in 2018.



Dockers U12 Coaches and Management Team

U13's

The regular season is over and the U13's Division 3 team is playing finals footy again this year.



What a tremendous effort for the boys to climb back to great form after 3 close loses in the back end of the

season to be placed 3rd on the table at the end of the regular season.

The coaching staff of Graeme, Craig and Mark did a fantastic job in keeping the team focused as we had boys come down with injuries and bouts of the flu which made their job harder in positioning players every week.

I have watched the boys this season bond very well as a team and they all have become good friends and I hope this friendship between the boys continue and they play on next year together which will make this team very formidable.

Finally, I want to make a special mention to all parents of this team who have supported myself and the coaching staff throughout the year and made our jobs easier from volunteering for canteen\BBQ duties to being goal and boundary umpires, scorers and water carriers.

I hope you are all proud of the boy's achievements as we are and hope to see you all in 2018.

Nick
Andriopoulos
Manager
U13's



U14's

The final few weeks of the year have seen the U14's storm home into the finals. Of course there are our stand out players every week however the strong performances shown over the last several rounds have been strong all round team performances. Everybody pitching in to get the job done.

The fight into the finals is an outstanding achievement. We have proven that no one can keep us down. The maturity and dedication the boys have shown



has made the coaching team very proud.



The boys have also showed their maturity and kind nature by helping around the club and coach other teams.

A special shout out to Ian, Kyle and Brad. Every week they lead this team with passion, grace and dignity, laying the pathway for the boys to perform at their best. Thanks also to Warren and Sarah for keeping us all organized. Thank you to the team's parent group, thank you to those who are happy to put their hands up each week always rallying around to get the jobs done.



Swans Academy Open Athlete Trials

The month July saw the Sydney Swans Academy open athlete trial held for next year's 11's/12's and 13's age groups. Well done to all of our Docker's boys who trialed and a big congratulations go to Aarish Mistry and Callum Irish who were selected for the Academy. It's a great experience which I'm sure they will enjoy.

For those who did not make it this year, take on the feedback given, keep practicing and come back to trial next year.

In exciting news 2018 will see the Swans Academy commencing for youth girls for the 1st time, so there's plenty of opportunity for all.

Kyle Mahoney

Thanks to all who contributed to the newsletters throughout the year.

Look out for the "extra time" edition to catchup on all the action from Trivia night, Grand finals and presentation day.

