



# On the Mark

## Back to back premierships glory!

The boys from Manly Bombers' under-13 Division One have claimed premierships glory for a second consecutive year.



The under-13 Division One side celebrates premierships victory.

The Manly side put in what coach Stephen Porter could only describe as an "awesome" performance to claim a huge grand final victory against arch-rivals Kellyville-Rouse Hill. The 89-22 win followed on the heels of a win over a win over the same Kellyville side in the under-12 competition in 2017.

"It was obvious the boys turned up ready to play with the first goal from the first centre clearance in the first 10 seconds of the game," Porter said.

That set the theme for the day. Kellyville kicked the next goal but The Bombers replied with four more goals and by half-time Manly had a convincing lead.

Manly's domination continued in the second half, during which Kellyville was unable to kick a goal.

"I am so proud of all these boys they are an amazing group of young men who definitely know what it means to be a team and how to switch on for the big games. There was not a weakness across the park all day. Our backline was amazing our midfielders worked hard while our forwards kicked goals when the ball went forward," Porter said.

While Porter was rapt with the effort of every team member, he singled out Findlay Black and Andrew Smart as outstanding in the backline and said Pat Trevaskis and Kye Porter had saved their best games for when it counted.

Cohen Ferguson went forward in the last quarter and kicked three goals. He received the "Game Ball" as the umpires' Best on Ground for the Grand Final.

The performance of Manly's under-13 group has been of particular note this season, with all three divisions involved in finals football.

The under-13 Division One result was the highlight of a grand final day in which the Bombers had a record six teams competing.

Further details of all six grand finalists' efforts, as well as the further three Manly teams that made it to the finals, are in the special "Around the Grounds - Finals Edition" in this issue.

**MANLY  
BOMBERS**  
J.A.F.C

## From the President

Dear Manly Bomber families

**That's a wrap for football in season 2018. A huge thank you to all of you for being a part of it. Personally I really enjoyed this year. My son plays in the Under 14 Div 3s. They only won one game for the year but you wouldn't know it from the boys' attitude. Right to the last game they gave it everything, enjoyed each other's company and learnt from a really committed coach. That's what it's all about.**

At the other end of the scale we had six teams that made it all the way to the Grand Final - which is a Club record. Although not so successful on the day, it shows to me that our coaching program is working. We really are fortunate to have such a dedicated bunch, starting right down at the Auskick Under 5s. That dedicated group also includes our Team Managers.

With Auskick growing by 20 percent this year it all bodes well for a strong Club for years to come.

A big shout out to our Committee and all of you who volunteered throughout the year. For a Club of 650 players it really has been a season with very few incidents, which is a testament to everyone involved. We will need to replace a few committee members who are leaving so please have a think about it. It is extremely rewarding.

I hope to see you at Presentation Day on Sunday 16th of September at the Freshwater SLSC. Take care.

*Tony Flynn*

*President - Manly Bombers JAFC*





# Around the grounds

## finals edition

**The Manly Bombers club was proud to have nine of our teams play in the finals series this year.**

Of those, a six made it to the grand final – a club record effort.

Unfortunately it was only the under-13 Division One side that came away with a premiership trophy, but all of the Bombers' sides can walk away from 2018 with their heads held high.

Here's a rundown on how things panned out for each of our finals sides:



U12YG strike a pose

### Under-12 YG

**The under-12 Manly Bombers' Youth Girls team had a great season, finishing second on the ladder with only two very close losses in the regular home and away matches.**

A strong performance against the Willoughby Wildcats in a wind-swept semi-final at ELS Hall saw the Manly girls prevail and head straight to the Grand Final.

Excitement and anticipation was high on Grand Final morning with the girls donning war paint in preparation for the match. Unfortunately, the Willoughby Wildcats were too strong on the day and although the Manly girls struck hard, Willoughby ended up with the win.

"It was great to see our pocket rocket, Tessa Newitt, win the Best on Ground Award - quite an achievement in a losing side," team manager Sue Sellar said.

"We'd like to wish these great girls all the best for the next season as some move on to play in the newly formed under-14s while others will remain in the under-12s for another year. There are exciting times ahead for women's AFL and we're really happy to be part of it."



U12YG Sophie Pfeiffer

### Under-11 Div 1

**Manly's under-11 Division One boys finished the regular season in second spot, but progressed straight to the grand final with a dominant 8.6.54 to 3.2.20 win over Balgowlah in week one of the finals.**

The boys showed plenty of commitment to the footy and handled the windy conditions at Mike Pawley Oval superbly to claim the win.

In the grand final Manly faced an in-form Mosman Swans but were unable to claim the coveted title, the final score 3.8.26 to 2.1.13.

"This team of 20 have proved that there is a whole lot more to footy than winning. The parent group are extremely proud of the boys and their resilience to bounce back. They have shown that mateship is greater than bringing home the cup," coach Luke Murphy said.



Action from the under-11s semi-final. Photos by Michael Mapstone

### Under-13 Div 1

**As reported on page 1, the mighty Manly under-13 Division One side made it back to back premierships with a convincing 89-22 victory over Kellyville/Rouse Hill.**

The Manly team was minor premiers and had qualified for the grand final with a much more closely fought 6.6.42 to 5.5.35 win over their Kellyville/Rouse Hill arch-rivals in the opening week of the finals.

### Under-13 Div 2

**The Bombers finished in second spot on the under-13 Division Two ladder but, as the only club in Division Two to also have a Division One team, the Manly boys were always going to be up against stiff finals opposition.**

The first final was against Maroubra, a team who won all bar two of their games by 10 goals or more during the season. The Bombers built their game plan around a strong defensive structure and at three-quarter time were only 10 points down kicking with the wind. Despite their great effort Manly eventually went down by 22 points.

"In my view it was the best game the boys have played in two seasons. A phenomenal effort," coach Andrew Varasdi said.

In the Preliminary Final Manly faced a vastly improved Canada Bay, who recruited two extremely good players only five rounds before the season end. Again the boys played a phenomenal game but fell a few goals short.

"Playing teams with no Division One team is always tough and means we have to bring our A game every week. I am so proud of the boys who, for the second year in a row, reached a preliminary final," Varasdi said.

"The football they played showed guts, resilience, courage and most importantly that they are developing their football ability and working as a team."

Varasdi said two members of the side went on to play in the Division One premiership after qualifying during the season, while another two played in the Division Three grand final. "To have that experience will hold them in great stead," he said.

### Under 13 Div 3

**Manly's under-13 Division 3 side made it to the grand final after finishing second on the ladder behind the eventual premiers, East Sydney Bulldogs.**

The two sides matched up in the first week of the finals, with Manly particularly strong in the first half.

"Whilst we played to the best of our ability, the Bulldogs had too many big strong players around the ground and we fell short after only being two points down at half time," coach Chris Watson said.

The Bombers then moved into a Preliminary Final against Northern Lights at Weldon, coming away with a win that coach Watson said "reflected true guts and determination to do the hard things."



Blake Long in action in the under-13s. Photo by Craig Parr



Watson said that in an outstanding effort the team ran hard, backed up their team mates and never gave up. "It was a great thrill for me to see you, as a team, fight back from a losing position and win a spot in the 2018 Grand Final," he told his players after the match.

Grand Final day against the Bulldogs was in many ways a replay of the semi-final a fortnight earlier, Watson said.

"We tried very hard, but our running game was shut down and the Bulldogs dominated us in the air. All of the team gave 100 effort and we did our best," Watson said.

"We had a great year filled with plenty of improvement in skills and attitude and one where each player can be proud of their effort to contribute to the team and club."



James Robinson in traffic for the under-14s.  
Photo by Craig Parr

## Under-14 Div 1

**Manly's under-14 Division One side bowed out to a slick St Ives outfit in week one of the finals.**

The Manly boys played with the same never-say-die attitude that typified their season, despite going down 11.5.71 to 1.6.12.

After a challenging 2017 season, making the finals in 2018 was an outstanding result for the group.

"We had a couple of new players to the club, as well as some boys who came up from last year's Division 3 side, who really made a positive contribution," coach Craig Saxby said.

Captain Tyler Inchley and vice captains Max Pengelly and Milo May led by example throughout the year, while positive contributions came from across the team, giving Saxby plenty of hope for continued improvement next season.

## Under-15 Div 2

**Manly's under-15 Division 2 side enjoyed what coach Dean Schopen labelled an "amazing end to the 2018 season."**



Marcus Vilnis rucks in the under-15 Div 2 grand final.

After finishing fourth on the ladder the side entered the finals series with a true belief that with great teamwork and hard work they might be able to upset a few of the more fancied sides.

In the first semi-final against a hard-charging Pennant Hills, a nail biting finish saw Manly holding on to win the game by seven points. In that match the team also celebrated Marcus Vilnis's 100th game.

"Marcus is a fantastic kid with loads of talent and has developed into an outstanding ruckman and big marking tall that can play anywhere. He is an extremely hard worker and is a pleasure to coach," Schopen said.

In the Preliminary Final an amazing team effort allowed Manly to upset the clear favourites, Moore Park Tigers. With the support of the home crowd the boys focussed and worked hard for four quarters, running out winners by 14 points to book a spot in the Grand Final.

In the Grand Final against Cronulla, Manly missed a few opportunities early but scores were still locked at half time. Cronulla kicked a couple of goals against the wind in the third quarter, which was telling, but Manly fought hard to the very end, eventually going down by 32 points.

"Despite losing the Grand Final we had a ripper of a year where we saw this group of boys develop enormously as a team. We were not the most skilful footballers in the competition but were the best *team*," assistant coach Simon Fraser said.



Tiala Pouli kicking it with style. Photo by Julie Lewis

## Under-15 YG Div 1

**Manly's under-15 girls' side had beaten Drummoyne Power in the last round to qualify for the finals, but was unable to repeat the dose in their first week semi-final match up.**

Manly had snared a three point win a week earlier in a very tight contest. But despite playing some great football - consistent with their performances all season long - the Manly girls struggled in the very windy conditions and could not match Power's impressive passing game, going down 4.3.27 to 1.7.13.

Coach Holly Graham said the girls had become a fabulous team of great friends.

"Although we didn't get the win, there were many smiles and lots of laughter after the game," she said. "Overall, we enjoyed a fantastic season with many challenging games, solid wins and some really close losses. A good mix. With a group of varied age and AFL experience, every player enjoyed their season and gave their all."

## Under-17 Div 1

**Manly was minor premiers and went into their semi-final against Willoughby-Mosman full of confidence.**

The Bombers set the tone early, grabbing a two goal lead by quarter time, before Willoughby-Mosman came back to make it two goals each at the main break. In the second half Manly kicked out to a three goal lead and withstood a late surge to win 6.7.43 to 6.4.40 and book a spot in the Grand Final.

The two sides were pitted against each other again on the big day. Willoughby-Mosman was keen for revenge and came out of the blocks fast and hard, leading at quarter time 5.1.31 to 2.2.14.

The Bombers finally got going in the second quarter and brought the scores back to level at half time (4.7.31 to 5.1.31), but Manly could have been a few goals up if it wasn't for some inaccuracy in front of goal.

In the third quarter Willoughby-Mosman had the wind and scored two goals to one, Manly behind by just a straight kick going into the final quarter.

"After the fight back in the second quarter, and running with the wind, the confidence was high that we could get the game back on our terms and hopefully run over the top of them," coach James Brain said.

"It wasn't to be though, as some wayward kicking into our forward line as well as some great defence by Willoughby Mosman ultimately lead to the Bombers going down 9.3.57 to 5.8.38."

Brain said Willoughby-Mosman should be congratulated on a great win. He said highlights for Manly during the game included a huge Reuben Laws specky in the first quarter, Jack Blair's miracle snap goal over his head to get Manly back in the game, Ryan Stubbs kicking a much needed snap goal to keep Manly in touch and Zach Youtlen's four-quarter performance.

"He was everywhere," Brain said of the Kieren Jack medalist.

Brain said the team could be proud of its efforts.

"It wasn't the result we desired, but it was still a very successful season and the boys held their heads up high. It is only the beginning for this group and I'll know they'll go onto bigger and better things," he said.

"Well done to the boys and thank you to all involved. It was a very memorable and enjoyable season."



Jack Blair snaps a grand final goal for the under-17s.  
Photo by Michael Mapstone



# Grand final day photo gallery

Grand final day on September 2 was filled with hope and excitement for the six Bombers teams who had the opportunity to 'perform on the big stage.' Here's some images from the day:



Kye Porter kicks long for the under-13s. Photo by Angie McNeil



The under-13 Division One side celebrates with a premiership trophy.



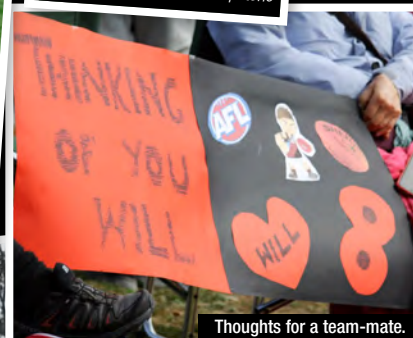
Ethan Williams rucking in the under-17 grand final. Photo by Michael Mapstone



The under-12 girls post-match.



Reuben Laws squeezes a handball during the under-17 grand final. Photo by Michael Mapstone



Thoughts for a team-mate.



Tessa Newitt wins the Best on Ground Award



A haircut that shows commitment to the club.



Cohen Ferguson flies high in the ruck for Manly's victorious under-13 Division One side. Photo by Angie McNeil



The tight-knit under-11 Division One side in their team huddle.



The under-15s team at the post match presentation.



Manly's under-15s run out on Olds Parks.



# Zac wins Kieren Jack medal

**Zac Youtlen of the Manly Bombers has received the highest individual accolade in junior AFL in Sydney.**

Zac was awarded the Kieren Jack Medal as the under-17 Division One competition's Best and Fairest player at a special presentation night on August 27.

Bombers' coach James Brain was thrilled with Zac's huge achievement.

"Zac could not be a more deserved winner," Brain said.

"He was part of our leadership group this year, captaining the team on multiple occasions.

"He has superb foot skills, with a penetrating right foot that he used to generate an attacking play from defence or push forward to kick a long goal. His other great asset is his ability to read the play and the ball in flight, regularly drifting across half back to take intercept marks or leaping in the back of an opponent to take a high flying specky."

Zac was not the only Manly Bomber to take home a trophy from the Best and Fairest awards evening.



James Lugsdin was named Runner-Up Best and Fairest in the under-13 Division One competition.

"This award is testament to James' season and all the hard work he puts in," Manly's under-13 Division One coach Stephen Porter said.

Six other Bombers players were voted into their age group's Sydney-wide all-stars team, based on their performances for Sydney North at the long weekend representative carnival.

They were:

- **Jacob De Angelis (under 17)**
- **Jake McMeeken (under 17)**
- **Connor Mawer (under 17)**
- **Erin Quarford (under 18YG)**
- **Ana-Tiala Pouli (under 15 YG)**
- **Tom Procter (under 13)**

In addition, Manly's VP of coaching, Andrew Varasdi, was named under-13 rep coach.

## Sponsor spotlight

# Axia plays key role in Bombers' success

**The Manly Bombers JAFC has enjoyed a fantastic 2018 season – our sponsors playing a big role in that success.**

The Bombers' major sponsor is Axia, a leading supplier of office photocopiers and managed print services. Axia puts its success down to:

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To learn more, visit: <http://copiers.axiaoffice.com.au/index.php/print-audit-report/>.



# Presentation Day at Freshwater Surf Club

One of the highlights of the Manly Bombers JAFC calendar is the annual presentation day, which is to take place at Freshwater Surf Life Saving Club on Sunday September 16.



Who will be Club Champion for 2018?

The event is the culmination of a huge season of football and includes awards to the Best and Fairest and runner-up from each team, along with other major individual awards.

Players who have registered 50, 100 or 150 junior AFL games will also be recognised and the Club Champion will be revealed.

In addition, the Club Person of the Year will also be announced. This award is presented each year to one person in recognition of the contribution they make to our club. Their name will also be recorded on the club's honour board located in the foyer of the clubhouse.

With 650 players and their families involved in the club, the presentations will take place across four sessions:

<b>U9-U10-U10YG</b>	<b>Noon – 1pm</b>
<b>U11-U12-U12YG</b>	<b>1.15pm – 2.15pm</b>
<b>U13-U14</b>	<b>2.30pm – 3.30pm</b>
<b>U15-U15YG-U17-U18YG</b>	<b>3.45pm – 4.30pm</b>

We look forward to seeing you there!

# Become a key player at the Bombers

**Every footy team relies on good people in key positions.**

As a club, the Manly Bombers JAFC is no different; and we are looking to fill some key slots in our line-up.

Our team is losing three key members ahead of next season and is looking for members to take on the important positions of Treasurer, Registrar and Head of Communications.

The roles are vital to the continued smooth running of our club – and are also very rewarding.

If you'd like to know more about any of the above roles contact club President Tony Flynn: 0400 851 298 or [manlybombers@gmail.com](mailto:manlybombers@gmail.com).

# Fun and games as Auskick celebrates sensational season

**A fantastic season was brought to an exciting close when the Manly Bombers Auskick squad enjoyed a big trophy presentation party on Frank Gray Oval on August 19.**

Special guests Michelangelo, Batman and Spiderman popped by to kick off the festivities.

All of the players received trophies; the graduating under-8s being presented with theirs by Club President Tony Flynn. They also received an AFL ball courtesy of club sponsor Mike Pawley Sports. We wish them well as they move to play in the Junior Club next season.

The Auskick coaches then ran a fantastic games' morning for all of our players and parents, which included tug-o-war, longest kick, sack races, relay races and bull-rush. We then finished up with final rendition of the club song and a well-earned sausage sandwich and drink.

Thanks again to all of our coaches, age managers and parent-helpers for their support this season. We look forward to seeing our under-6 and under-7 families again in season 2019.



A big crowd was on hand



Michelangelo, Batman and Spiderman dropped by



Tug-o-war was a big hit



Sack racing was popular

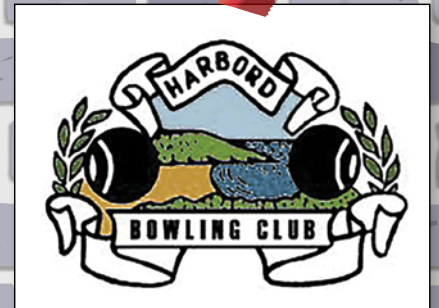


Club President Tony Flynn presented trophies



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