

Briars Hockey

President's Report

Emma Ratcliffe



Whilst our women's teams didn't have the success on the field that we would have liked, our men impressed across all grades from Masters right through to 1st grade and to see so many teams make the first week of finals was a real pleasure. Congratulations to all our men's teams who won Premierships in 2017. Our juniors also had a cracking year with 2 minor premierships and a number of grand finalists with our littlest Briars, our U11B's winning their Grand Final by a whopping 11-0!

It is amazing how quickly season 2017 came and went. It feels like only yesterday we were starting training and putting together teams and now here we are at the backend of the season celebrating our successes.

Whilst our women's teams didn't have the success on the field that we would have liked, it allowed us to identify some central failings in our setup and come up with a plan on how to build a much stronger women's club in 2018.

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Our club wouldn't be as successful as it is without the help of a number of people – firstly our committee, I cannot thank each and every one of you enough for your hard work and dedication this year.

As always we would like to thank our major sponsor, Gary Bieser from Mortgage Choice Concord. Gary has been our major sponsor for a number of years now and has continued this support constantly which we cannot thank him enough for. Not only is he a wonderful sponsor he is also our unofficial photographer and has captured some great moments throughout the season.

To Wal, David Ratcliffe, John Price, Michael Imer and Kylie Norris – thank you for your varying and ongoing support with running hockey. You are all integral to the success of this club and your longevity and commitment to the Briars club is an inspiration to all.

To Jason, Monique, Ben, Megan, Tiffany and all the staff at the Club and Bistro. Thank you for your ongoing support of the hockey club and for allowing us to hold events at the club throughout the year. We are very lucky to have such great Homebase facilities and will continue to enjoy a meal and beer there over the offseason.

To all our coaches and managers, particularly those who took up a new role this year, thank you for all your hard work and dedication and finally to the players, thank you for being a part of what is a great legacy.

We look forward to a successful and exciting 2018 season with lots of new initiatives such as our partnership with Fitness Local to push our emphasis and focus on holistic training and club culture as well as injury prevention and wellbeing. We will also be putting more energy into our junior player development pathways to assist with talent identification as well as transition from juniors to seniors.