

# Research Junior Football Club



**Yearbook  
2003**

# Research Junior Football Club

'The Family Club'  
Affiliated with Lower Plenty F.C.



A.B.N. 68 478 513 231

## ANNOUNCEMENT

**R.J.F.C.**  
Research Junior Football Club

"The Family Club"

Has been Awarded The Diamond Valley League's

**"MOST DISCIPLINED CLUB 2003"**

This is the fourth time our club has received this prestigious award being the recipient in years 1993, 1998, 2000 and now 2003.

It is an acknowledgement by the Diamond Valley League of the manner in which the club as a whole conducts itself.

Credit for receiving this award must go to the players, parents, coaching staff and club officials for presenting themselves in an above standard manner.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Firstly, I would like to thank all players and parents for continuing this club's tradition as "The Family Club". With the success achieved on and off the field surely we must be one of the best clubs in the Diamond Valley.

To make our club what it is today, there is a lot of very hard work behind the scenes. I'd like to thank our hard working committee, with a special thanks to Maryke Ferdinands, who took on the sponsorship role when she knew she would be leaving the club at the end of the season.

At the beginning of the season the committee came up with "COMMUNICATION" as the key thing we could do better off the field, so we put together the best weekly newsletter and the best website in the business.

Thanks to our editor Michelle Godfrey along with Campbell Waters and Lindsay Hender and to John Duckworth and Campbell for all website updates.

Thanks also go to Tich Zumbo (Social Secretary) and the helpers from each team for all the social activities... I think we found the best format for a dinner dance yet!! (Except for some of the singers). To all the parents who helped to make the canteen a huge success, thank you.

Big thanks to our SPONSORS who assisted us to end up with a healthy bank balance so that, hopefully, we will be able to start another extension during the off season. Finally, thanks to all the coaches who helped the boys achieve their on-field success this season.

Congratulations to the U10s and 11s for taking out the Premiership, the U13s for making it to the Grand Final and also the U12 Rebel's for making the Semi Finals.

For the rest of the teams, it was a good consistent year which helped us move into Division One for the first time ever.

Congratulations to our latest Inductees in joining the Research Legend's Club ; Shannon Malone, Sean Downey, Jarrod Shaw, Hayden Miles, James Fuhrman, Bryan Galvin, Brendan Crisp, Ryan Thompson and Matt Neil.

Thanks again and I wish you all a great off season and hope to see you back next year for a successful 2004 season.

Allan Gibbs.  
President  
Research Junior Football Club

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

I believe the 2003 season was the most successful season on and off the ground Research Junior Football Club has experienced in its history.

We started the year with our main aim to remain in Division Two and finished the year by being promoted to Division One for the first time, for season 2004.

On the field we had three teams playing in Grand Finals with two being successful. Research also created a club record with 219 players taking the field at some stage in our teams.

Congratulations to Jarrod Shaw for coming second in the Diamond Valley Division Two Best and Fairest award. A true indication of how successful the club is becoming is shown by the increased number of players who are being invited to train with Diamond Valley representative teams and Northern Knights Squads.

Off the field this year it was great to be playing back at Research after a year at Panton Hill. Even though the playing arena deteriorated towards the end of the year, which forced teams to train at other locations, we were able to make several improvements to the clubrooms and viewing areas.

These improvements consisted of large glass windows, pergola to keep us dry on wet days and increased seating. There are further plans being prepared to again improve the facilities in 2004.

I would like to thank our coaches, who I believe are the best group of coaches within the Diamond Valley, for their time and commitment.

I would also like to thank their Team Managers who had the difficult task of organizing their teams as well as parents, friends and helpers to perform the various weekly duties required.

To organize a club of our size successfully requires a lot of work being completed by dedicated people behind the scenes. I would like to thank the committee members, parents, sponsors and supporters who assisted throughout the year for their outstanding effort and contribution.

I believe the strength of a football club starts at committee level and for the club to continue to be successful the work load must be shared.

You will have the opportunity at the Annual General Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October to put up your hands and assist in keeping the club successful.

I hope that all the players and families have enjoyed their year and I would like to wish you all a happy and safe summer and look forward to seeing you all return in 2004.

Brian Weissenfeld  
Secretary  
Research Junior Football Club

## SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Too all the families who have helped make this year one of the most "profitable" and socially successful seasons – A BIG THANK YOU – on behalf of myself and all the committee members.

With the help of the representatives from each team (you know who you are) and the wonderful newsletter printed each week, my job was made a lot easier and less frustrating.

The social events held were unbelievably popular and I hope the response only continues to improve with each year.

Whether your contribution was big or small, the club as a whole appreciates everyone's support.

Thank you once again to everyone as I thoroughly enjoyed my three years as the clubs Social Secretary.

I now feel its time for " New and Fresh Blood" to fill my shoes (SIZE 8!!!!)

Cheers

Tich Zumbo  
Social Secretary  
Research Junior Football Club



SEARCHERS

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Congratulations to you, our members for supporting the club's functions and thereby participating in making our current year very successful financially.

As a result of your splendid efforts, the committee has been able to lock away \$20,000.00 for our new building project. This project is for the benefit of all current and future members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people:

- Our President, Allan Gibbs, for his excellent effort in running the canteen and guiding our club through a prosperous financial and on field successful year.
- Our Social Secretary, Tich Zumbo, for her outstanding efforts in conducting our many social activities throughout the year.
- Our Sponsorship officer, John Gray, for his huge effort in increasing our sponsorship income by over 200% on the previous year.
- Our Secretary, Brian Weissenfeld, for the efficient manner in which he attends to the multitude of statistics and secretarial matters during the year.
- Our Property Officer, Campbell Waters, for his expertise in protecting and preserving the club's property and equipment.
- Our Committee as a whole for their diligence and dedicated effort in maintaining the club's direction, both on and off the playing field.
- Our Coaches, Team Managers and Assistants for a very successful season on the football field, in particular our Grand Finalists.

During this season the committee has achieved and completed many projects. In particular the following:

- Pergola attached to the rooms for greater spectator comfort.
- Seating in the pergola area for further spectator comfort.
- Installation of new canteen equipment.
- New viewing windows in clubrooms.
- Weekly newsletter for all members.
- Website and Internet access.
- Excellent social calendar.

It is important that we continue to plan to prosper our club for the next and future years. Members will be continually informed of the committee's intentions in this area.

Full details of income and expenditure included in our Audited Financial Statements for the year will be available for all members to inspect at our Annual General Meeting, at which I will be only too pleased to discuss and explain any issues arising therefrom.

Lindsay Hender.  
Treasurer  
Research Junior Football Club

# Research Junior Football Club

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Affiliated with Lower Plenty F.C.



A.B.N. 68 478 513 231

**Club Champion 2003**

Nathan Cadee

**John Dinsmore Trophy Leading  
Goal Kicker**

James Tantsis-Hall  
Shannon Malone

**John Paul Jones Trophy**

Ben Weissenfeld

**D.V.F.L 2<sup>ND</sup> Best and Fairest U17**

Jarrood Shaw

**Best on Ground Grand Final D.V.F.L**

Cailean Scales – U11

**Best on Ground Grand Final D.V.F.L**

James Kroussoratis – U10

# AWARDS 2003

## UNDER 10

Best and Fairest	James Koussoratis
2 <sup>nd</sup> Best and Fairest	Trent Marshall
3 <sup>rd</sup> Best and Fairest	Greg Page
Most Consistent	Ryan Boyden
Most Improved	Laurie Naismith
Best Team Man	Jared Stewart
Best Finals Player	James Koussoratis

## UNDER 11

Best and Fairest	Ben Buller
2 <sup>nd</sup> Best and Fairest	Jake Paterson
3 <sup>rd</sup> Best and Fairest	Hugh Kavanagh
Most Consistent	Callean Scales
Most Improved	Michael Saldaneri
Best Team Man	Corey Sharp
Best Finals Player	Ben Buller

## UNDER 12 REBELS

Best and Fairest	Ben Flannagan
2 <sup>nd</sup> Best and Fairest	Kyle Thompson
3 <sup>rd</sup> Best and Fairest	Rhys Boyden
Most Consistent	Darcy Barden
Most Improved	Bradley Meredith
Best Team Man	Alden Meale
Best Finals Player	Sam Grimley

## UNDER 12 ROCKETS

Best and Fairest	Aiden Rowe
2 <sup>nd</sup> Best and Fairest	Alistair Bentley
3 <sup>rd</sup> Best and Fairest	Brent Wallace
Most Consistent	Tom Harper
Most Improved	Joshua Smith
Best Team Man	Brett Middleton

## UNDER 13

Best and Fairest	Nathan Cadee
2 <sup>nd</sup> Best and Fairest	Reece Geary
3 <sup>rd</sup> Best and Fairest	Philip Zumbo
Most Consistent	Lucas Peressini
Most Improved	Marcus Hibberd
Best Team Man	Matt Francishelli
Best Finals Player	Nathan Cadee

## UNDER 14

Best and Fairest	Ben Weissenfeld
2 <sup>nd</sup> Best and Fairest	Brad Craig
3 <sup>rd</sup> Best and Fairest	James Tantsis-Hall
Most Consistent	Luke Beattie
Most Improved	Time Scales
Best Team Man	Jeremy Gercovich

UNDER 15

Best and Fairest	Ryan Hocking
2 <sup>nd</sup> Best and Fairest	Michael Cullum
3 <sup>rd</sup> Best and Fairest	Kane Tenace
Most Consistent	Shane McLagan
Most Improved	Dale Comley
Best Team Man	Max Leropoulos

UNDER 17

Best and Fairest	Jarrod Shaw
2 <sup>nd</sup> Best and Fairest	Shannon Malone
3 <sup>rd</sup> Best and Fairest	Hayden Miles
Most Consistent	Bryan Galvin
Most Improved	Dale Lyons
Best Team Man	Brendon Crisp



# 2003 MILESTONES

## 150 GAMES

Under 17      Shannon Malone

## 100 GAMES

Under 12	Darcy Barden	Under 14	Matthew Barden
Under 15	Shane McLagan	Under 17	Brendan Crisp
Under 17	James Fuhrman	Under 17	Bryan Galvin
Under 17	Matthew Neil	Under 17	Ryan Thompson
Under 17	Matthew Canty	Under 17	Ryan French
Under 17	Matthew Harrison		

## 75 GAMES

Under 12	Edward Crimmins	Under 12	Lachlan Pearson
Under 12	Brent Wallace	Under 13	Nicholas Gray
Under 13	Lucas Peressini	Under 13	David Tantsis-Hall
Under 14	Jarryd Pearson	Under 14	James Tantsis-Hall
Under 14	Bowan Zimbolani	Under 15	Ryan Hocking
Under 15	Jarrod McKenzie	Under 15	Bradley Perry
Under 15	Michael Cullum	Under 17	Dale Lyons
Under 17	Stewart Ward		

## 50 GAMES

Under 10	Ryan Boyden	Under 12	Alistair Bentley
Under 12	Rhys Boyden	Under 12	Liam English
Under 12	Ben Flannagan	Under 12	Alden Meale
Under 12	Michael Ward	Under 12	Matthew White
Under 13	Luke Buller	Under 13	Dylan McKenzie
Under 14	Brent Milczuk	Under 14	Conal Horsley
Under 14	Timothy Scales	Under 15	Michael D'Agostino
Under 15	Max Leropoulos	Under 15	Sean Mitchell

## LEGEND INDUCTEES 2003

Brendan	Crisp	104 Games	1996-2003
Sean	Downey	139 Games	1994-2003
James	Fuhrman	105 Games	1995-2003
Bryan	Glavin	105 Games	1997-2003
Shannon	Malone	162 Games	1993-2003
Hayden	Miles	116 Games	1995-2003
Matthew	Neil	100 Games	1996-2003
Ryan	Thompson	100 Games	1997-2003
Jarrold	Shaw	132 Games	1995-2003

## FINAL YEAR PLAYERS 2002

Brendan	Crisp	104 Games	1996-2003
Sean	Downey	139 Games	1994-2003
James	Fuhrman	105 Games	1995-2003
Bryan	Glavin	105 Games	1997-2003
Aidan	LeGassick	26 Games	2002-2003
Dale	Lyons	83 Games	1998-2003
Shannon	Malone	162 Games	1993-2003
Hayden	Miles	116 Games	1995-2003
Eoin	Mitchell	60 Games	1998-2003
Matthew	Neil	100 Games	1996-2003
Ryan	Thompson	100 Games	1997-2003
Jarrold	Shaw	132 Games	1995-2003
Simon	Hill	10 Games	2003

## UNDER 9

Coach: Paul Taylor

Team Manager: Campbell Waters

What a great season it has been for our mighty U9s. This season we focused on basic skills, playing different positions, playing as a team and most importantly good sportsmanship. As the season progressed the boys just got better and better showing everyone they will be a force in years to come.

As a first-year coach (Apprentice), I was lucky enough to have Campbell Waters as Team Manager. Campbell organized everyone and everything including myself (thanks Campbell). I would also like to thank John Gray and all the Research Coaches for their advice and Support.

Training was a lot of fun thanks to Anthony "king of the kids" Peacock. Game day would not run smoothly without parental support.

Thanks to Glen Schneider (Goal Umpire), Brian Dillon and Shaun Turner (Field Umpires), Gary White, Norrie Stewart, Glenn Lavender and Brian Seymour (Training and Water) and Cheryl Taylor (Computer, Understanding wife).

Finally I would like to thank all the parents for their healthy support during the season. If only all supporting parents acted in this civilized fashion.

Paul Taylor.



SEARCHERS

## UNDER 9

Coach: Paul Taylor

Team Manager: Campbell Waters

Player	Jumper Number	Games Played in 2003	Total Games	Commenced at RJFC
Taylor Dillon	49	13	24	2002
Sam Fickling	11	4	4	2003
Alex Flannagan	27	11	22	2002
Aiden Francishelli	45	12	12	2003
Jeremy Guilliani	23	14	14	2003
Leigh Gray	13	14	25	2002
Aiden Hall	50	7	7	2003
Patrick Hayes	19	14	24	2002
Rory Kavanagh	31	7	7	2003
James Lavender	43	13	13	2003
Thomas Napolitano	21	8	8	2003
William Rogers	39	12	12	2003
Dylan Rowe	19	8	8	2003
Jake Schneider	29	14	37	2001
Tyson Seymour	47	12	23	2002
Liam Stewart	37	11	11	2003
Hayden Taylor	33	14	25	2002
Joshua Turner	41	14	14	2003
Zach Tipping	29	8	8	2003
Cameron Wallace	35	13	38	2001
Max Waters	47	14	24	2002
James White	17	13	13	2003

## UNDER 10

Coach: Craig Flenley

Team Manager: Brian Coghlan

Well what a great year for the U10s. They finished the Home and Away season on top of the ladder with 14 wins from as many games.

In the finals we came up against Alphington in both the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi Final and Grand Final. Both games were very close but to the credit of all the players, they played great passages of football to win both games finishing the season Premiers and Champions.

There are a lot of people to thank. On behalf of the team I'd like to thank Brian Coghlan (Team Manager) a superb job again this year. Shane Kernaghan, our Assistant Coach whose input for the boys was invaluable.

Con Kroussoratis, our runner a job well done. Frank Marino, Wayne Boyden our water carriers. Matthew Jones for being Umpire Escort. To Therese Scales and Campbell Waters for being our medics on game day.

To all the parents who helped out in the canteen and who made the Banner. Last but not least, all the dads who helped at training. You make my job so much easier. The club and I appreciate your time as it really does help the team and the club

If I have missed anybody please accept my apology. I hope that everyone involved with the U10s this year got as much out of it as I did.

It was a tremendous year as far as results go, but more importantly it was terrific to see each and every one of the boys improve on their skills and abilities towards the game of football.

I look forward to all the boys joining me next year in the U11s as we go up to Division One. I'm sure we will have another successful year provided everyone applies themselves next year in the manner they did this year.

Thank you Research U10s, you are a great team to coach and I'd like the opportunity to coach you all next year.

Enjoy your cricket, or basketball or tennis or whatever you decide to do over the summer. Well done on your success this year and thanks again.

Craig Flenley

## UNDER 10

Coach: Craig Flenley

Team Manager: Brian Coghlan

Player	Jumper Number	Games Played in 2003	Total Games	Commenced at RJFC
Matthew Abdallah	30	6	32	2001
Ryan Boyden	51	16	52	2001
Matthew Campbell	38	16	40	2001
James Coen	6	15	15	2003
Sean Coghlan	14	13	25	2002
Matt Girdlestone	28	15	15	2003
Karl Hmilj	4	12	12	2003
Jack Jones	42	16	16	2003
Jack Kernaghan	49	16	39	2001
Riley Kirman	32	13	19	2002
James Kroussoratis	15	14	45	2000
Brandon Lee	10	15	46	2001
Kristian Maloney	2	16	16	2003
Sam Marino	34	15	15	2003
Trent Marshall	44	14	26	2002
Laurie Naismith	18	15	15	2003
Liam O'Callaghan	46	15	15	2003
Greg Page	22	16	31	2002
Daniel Psaila	26	14	24	2002
Michael Sanderson	24	13	13	2003
Sean Scales	20	16	16	2003
Ben Schneider	40	13	23	2002
Emerson Smith	36	15	25	2002
Jarrold Stewart	16	15	15	2003
Marcus Tebbutt	35	3	37	2000
Matt Tantsis-Hall	8	15	47	2001

# UNDER 11

Coach: Richard Buller

Team Manager: Glen Wynd

Well what a season!!! We started off slowly, unable to win a pre-season game, maybe due to a Grand Final hangover, or maybe just rusty, or could it have been the fill-In coach's fault, but I'm not mentioning names because Terry Patterson did an excellent job.

As the start of the Home and Away season began, the boys most definitely had slept their hangover off, playing attacking football on all accounts.

Throughout the season, the improvement and application of the team was pleasing, with a never say die attitude and a hunger to succeed and learn. Each week the camaraderie and team spirit was abundant whether it was a close win or not.

The season was full of challenges, which we answered week-in and week-out. Come finals time, there was an air of expectancy. The first final against Lalor was a true test. Unfortunately we just fell short after a great effort, but to our boy's credit, they accepted the defeat like true sportsmen and moved on.

The following final against Hurstbridge, we had a good win, then set our sights on revenge. The Grand Final was a hard fought win with the game in the balance to the last quarter. Lalor put up a terrific fight, but I feel the best team for the season rewarded itself.

I would like to thank all the boys who participated in the season 2003 on their great efforts and their on and off field behaviour throughout the season. Boys you are a credit to your parents and to yourselves, keep up the good work.

I would like to congratulate the team as one and wish you good luck and success in your future football careers. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have coached you.

I'd like to thank the people who have been the backbone of the side week-in week-out, Peter Saldaneri (medic), Mal Tilley (Goal Umpire), Jack Sharp (Assistant), Gary Henderson (Umpire Escort), Kim Cop (Boundary), Marcus Balding (Water), Rob Guiliani (Timekeeper), to my slow and unfit runner (Ducky) and to Glen Wynd, the best team manager in the free world.

To the ladies with the canteen duty and banner making and to Rosemary Henderson for all the great photo's. Thank you all.

Richard Buller.

# UNDER 11

Coach: Richard Buller

Team Manager: Glen Wynd

Player	Jumper Number	Games Played in 2003	Total Games	Commenced at RJFC
Luke Balding	15	14	28	2002
Ben Buller	3	15	39	2001
Brendan Canty	13	15	68	1999
Jack Collins	25	11	11	2003
Leif Cope	31	13	25	2002
Tim Duckworth	5	15	35	2001
Andrew Guiliani	23	15	28	2002
Lachlan Henderson	17	13	28	2002
Mitchell Hollonds	39	15	15	2003
Hugh Kavanagh	1	13	41	2001
Blake Martyn	49	13	34	2001
Stephen Morahan	27	14	42	2001
Aaron Oake	47	15	31	2002
Jake Paterson	7	12	28	2002
Michael Saldaneri	21	15	43	2001
Cailean Scales	33	15	15	2003
Corey Sharp	34	14	39	2001
Jack Sharp	29	15	15	2003
Justin Tilley	9	15	30	2002
William Venn	51	14	30	2002
Tate Willmott	19	14	28	2002
Ben Wynd	11	15	30	2002
Paul Young	43	15	28	2002

# UNDER 12 ROCKETS

Coach: Darren Smith

Team Manager: Tony Ziino

I wish to thank all the players for their efforts in 2003. Season 2003 has been very successful from many perspectives. We welcomed seven first year players into the fold, which boosted our numbers to 23.

Having 5 players on the bench meant 20 rotations throughout a game before even summing up the opposition we competed against. It was a great result that we could build upon.

One very pleasing aspect of the season was observing the growth in skill and confidence in our players – you cannot have one without the other.

Our one-hundred-percent efforts during many games were second to none. This feature was worked hard on at training and it resulted in our defence being very strong come match day.

In order to give individuals an indication of what is required to play in various positions, the majority of players were rotated from forward line through to defence. This also gave the coach an indication of possible key position prospects for future seasons.

One aspect of our game I am extremely proud of is our team spirit. Playing as a team, supporting team-mates (even when mistakes are made) has been very pleasing to see.

Friendships within the group have consolidated to make for a tight-knit group. Protecting our own now comes as second nature to the boys.

From a coaching perspective, I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of working with each team member throughout the season and look upon the experience as a true privilege to be able to coach such a terrific group of boys. All in all, a tremendous season with our fair share of losses making our wins all the more valued. Keep up the great work into the 2004 season boys!

Finally, thank you to all parents for supporting their children and our team throughout the season. A big thank you to our Team Manager, Tony Ziino for all his efforts this year. Having such a strong devoted team of parents has made the season all that more enjoyable for all. Many thanks.

Darren Smith

<b>Runner</b>	Mark Ward
<b>Trainer</b>	Larry Middleton ; Steve Harper
<b>Boundary</b>	Tony Course ; Ron Schoning
<b>Goal Umpire</b>	Warren English
<b>Umpire Escort</b>	Denzil Bentley
<b>Water</b>	Michael Woods

## UNDER 12 ROCKETS

Coach: Darren Smith

Team Manager: Tony Ziino

Player	Jumper Number	Games Played in 2003	Total Games	Commenced at RJFC
Nicholas Amadori	17	13	26	2002
William Bateman	11	12	24	2002
Alistair Bentley	29	14	54*	2002
Luke Course	23	12	12	2003
James Daff	19	13	26	2002
Liam English	7	14	51	2000
Tom Harper	37	14	26	2002
Ned Harper	9	14	28	2002
Michael Kirkpatrick	43	11	24	2002
Brett Middleton	35	13	28	2002
Brent Moretti	39	14	13	2003
Jayden Nielson	41	11	11	2003
Peter Rock	33	14	14	2003
Tom Rock	15	14	14	2003
Aiden Rowe	3	13	18	2002
Mitchell Schoning	27	14	67	1999
Joshua Smith	5	14	28	2002
Ben Stewart	31	5	5	2003
Tim Vlastuin	45	14	14	2003
Brent Wallace	1	14	84	1998
Michael Ward	25	14	52	1999
Tim Woods	21	13	26	2002
Troy Ziino	13	14	28	2002

**\* Includes Games at Other Clubs.**

## UNDER 12 REBELS

Coach: Neale Harrison

Team Manager: David Thompson

I would like to start by thanking a really great bunch of parents for all their assistance and harmony. Special thanks to Stuart Ferdinands and Peter Shaw, my Assistant Coaches for all their help on game days and at training right through the year.

To all the other parents that have assisted on a weekly basis, you have been invaluable. And where would I be with Dave Thompson, the man that keeps the whole thing running like a well oiled machine.

The season began as the last finished, win upon win, and the perception grew of being unbeatable. In hindsight, I think this resulted in the loss of the all-important passion and desire to improve.

A string of losses quickly planted the team's feet firmly back on terra firma and reinforced the theory that improvement begins on the training track, and that the team is a group of individuals working as one, not as a group relying on a few individuals to do all the hard things.

I was most impressed in the latter part of the season as the team emerged as a cohesive group of maturing young men who stood by each other through thick and thin with support and encouragement in all situations.

The level of commitment lifted and the whole player list embraced the need to contribute for a full four quarters. Our Semi-Final match was a truly magnificent match with a score board that did not do justice to what was the best team effort of the year.

Excellent tackling and a whole team that were prepared to run the opposition down and not let them get an easy possession. Unfortunately, it wasn't our day. However, if we take this level of play into Division One next year, we will give everyone a run for their money.

Parents, you should be really proud of your sons that you send along to play each week. This year they learnt the lesson about losing the football field, something they hadn't tasted for a while and that their best that week wasn't good enough.

Yes, there was disappointment, but there wasn't a bad sport among them. I have enjoyed watching at close hand, all their individual talents, quirks and humor.

Thank you boys, it has been a pleasure.

**Assistant Coach**

Stuart Ferdinands ; Peter Shaw

**Runner**

Gary White

**Trainer**

Chris Craig ; Bernie Crimmins

**Boundary**

Gary Meale ; Gino Lendaro

**Goal Umpire**

Brett Grimley ; Brent Flannagan ; Annette McKeller ; Kevin Glynn

**Umpire Escort**

Steve Flynn

**Water**

Steve Pearson ; Wayne Boyden

## UNDER 12 REBELS

Coach: Neale Harrison

Team Manager: David Thompson

Player	Jumper Number	Games Played in 2003	Total Games	Commenced at RJFC
Andrew Alkemade	12	12	12	2003
Darcy Barden	46	16	109*	1998
Rhys Boyden	24	15	61*	2001
Cameron Craig	14	15	73	1999
Edward Crimmins	5	15	85	1998
Max Ferdinands	42	14	72*	2001
Ben Flanagan	22	15	52*	2002
Patrick Flynn	16	15	73	1999
Nick Glynn	30	15	44*	2003
Sam Grimley	48	14	41	2001
Steven Harrison	18	14	72	1999
Christian Lendaro	32	15	72	1999
Thomas McKellar	8	15	40	2001
Alden Meale	26	15	58	2000
Bradley Meredith	40	14	69*	2001
Chris Nippers	6	12	12	2003
Lachlan Pearson	10	15	82*	2001
Harry Rynia	20	12	42	2000
Tom Shaw	36	15	69	1999
Chris Stockton	34	12	12	2003
Kyle Thompson	4	15	73	1999
Mathieu White	38	15	57*	2001

\* Includes Games at Other Clubs.

## UNDER 13

Coach: John Gray

Team Manager: Gus Zumbo

Another footy season goes by. Disappointing in the end with a Grand Final loss?? Yeah a little! Then I sat down and looked at what we had achieved, then thought about it again, disappointed yes, but only in the result on the day, but certainly not disappointed one bit in any player or what the team achieved for the year.

We were lucky in picking up two very good players in Reece and Ashley, but then we didn't have David, our Vice Captain for basically the year.

Our worst luck arrived in Grand Final week with illness sweeping through our team leaving many players unwell and weak. That's the way it goes.

Some great moments throughout the year were: our win against our arch rivals Hurstbridge at home, and our last quarter win against Coburg Juniors at Coburg.

Not only our coaching staff, but all parents and supporters were truly proud of what our boys achieved during both games.

All players showed some improvement in their skills during the season, which was pleasing. We were able to turn players from one-position players into players that could be thrown into many positions to benefit our team. The one thing that impresses us the most is the way that not one player thinks he's any better than any other player.

This team is one of the best bunch of boys that anybody could have the pleasure to coach. Their character and way they represent the Research Junior Football Club is a credit, not only to themselves, but also to their parents. Credit must also go to our team as our number of games won went a long way in achieving the result of the Research Junior Football Club moving into Division One.

I would again like to thank Steve and Gus for their support during the year. At times during the games, I would be starting to stress and Steve would say just relax, then I would look and Gus and he could always tell me how long was left in the quarter, that's when I could relax.

Also thanks to the many helpers (you know who you are as there are too many to mention), but one thing I will say is that this team has many people who assist at training and on game days, and without you it would make our jobs very difficult indeed.

As you know I will not be coaching next year, I wish all the boys the best in the coming seasons, I know if this group sticks together they are going to achieve plenty with their football.

I have been very lucky in observing these boys develop through their junior.

Congratulations guys, the pleasure you have given me will never be forgotten. All the Best.

## UNDER 13

Coach: John Gray

Team Manager: Gus Zumbo

Player	Jumper Number	Games Played in 2003	Total Games	Commenced at RJFC
Hamish Bourne	33	13	67	1999
Dean Buchanan	22	15	45	2001
Luke Buller	41	15	61	2000
Nathan Cadee	25	16	73	1999
Charlie Dickson	29	16	72	1999
Calham Dower	2	16	73	1999
Daniel Fallshaw	50	15	72	1999
Matthew Francishelli	31	15	30	2002
Reece Geary	3	16	16	2003
Nicholas Grey	43	16	87	1998
Marcus Hibberd	21	16	69	1999
Ricky Holder	35	15	72	1999
Brendan McCleary	39	15	74	1999
Dylan McKenzie	7	16	61	2000
Jack Mason	13	15	30	2002
Chris Maynard	47	12	72	1998
Brent Milczuk	49	15	57	2000
Matt Parker	9	16	45	2001
Ashley Payne	17	12	12	2003
Lucas Peressini	11	16	85	1998
Nicholas Roach	27	16	46*	2002
Joel Sardi	37	13	25	2002
David Tantsis-Hall	1	10	76	1998
Phillip Zumbo	19	16	95	1997

\* Includes Games at Other Clubs.

## UNDER 14

Coach: Grant Barden

Team Manager: Steve Gercovich

From a playing perspective, not much more could have been asked from this group. Our mission statement at the start of the year was to be competitive for every minute of every game.

Never to let the scoreboard get us down, but to attack each and every contest with purpose and forget about the result. Well; I could not be more proud of the group for following through with our mission statement and representing the club with a great attitude and always-excellent sportsmanship.

We finished the year 7-7 which left us one game out of finals action, which was a pretty good result for us. We won every game that we should have and could have won a couple that we shouldn't have.

From a player point of view, I was thrilled to see the great development of Nathan, Luke, Tim, Jarryd Hughes and Spud, the continued good form and leadership from James, Brad and Benny and the steady improvement from our smaller players who really stood up at times this year against some pretty strong teams.

It was their courage and hard work that helped keep us competitive when the blowtorch was put to our bellies. Well done to all the boys.

We now need you all to stand in a bucket of fertilizer over the spring and summer to see if we can promote some growth. We also need the club to sack Snow White as our recruiting manager.

Speaking of the club, no club can be successful without strong leadership from the office bearers. There has not been a club I have seen have success in spite of poor management. It doesn't happen.

So if going from Division 3 into Division 1 in two years, growth of the playing list and being well on the way to achieving a bank balance large enough to extend the rooms is any guide, I think we should see ourselves as fortunate to have the group we do now.

Congratulations to the committee on an amazing year.

Finally thanks to all of my parents for having faith in me to look after their boys, for getting them to training regularly and on time as well as the game days, where the boys all presented well.

Collectively, we have a sensational group of parents who are all willing to help out in whatever role is required to be filled.

## UNDER 14

Coach: Grant Barden

Team Manager: Steve Gercovich

Special thanks to Steve Gercovich (Team Manager with great organizational skills that a chaotic jumbled fool like me cannot do without), David Zimolani, my runner, who would bravely head off into the distance with a strong message to a player that he had absolutely no idea in regards to their appearance, number or position.

It was quite funny at the start of the year when he would deliver a message to a player, only to have him point his finger up the ground toward a player for whom the message was intended.

He was great value though, once he found his bearings and got to know the players' strengths and weaknesses.

Thanks to Alan McCleary and Chris Craig our very efficient medics, Jan Craig for her efforts in the very important role of team Social Secretary, Bernie, Steve, Gino and all the other parents who helped out.

The club is a great environment for our boys because of you all, well done. It also makes coaching a team a far easier task when the support is unanimous as well.

And in closing, if any parent knows anyone on the Nillumbik council, constantly harp on at them about the ground and whine like an E.H diff every time you see them. Make their lives miserable until it's fixed.

Grant Barden

## UNDER 14

Coach: Grant Barden

Team Manager: Steve Gercovich

Player	Jumper Number	Games Played in 2003	Total Games	Commenced at RJFC
Matthew Barden	12	13	101*	1998
Luke Beattie	36	13	69	1999
Daniel Belvedere	48	12	21	2002
Matthew Bryant	30	11	11	2003
Bradley Craig	18	14	89	1997
Nathan Flynn	38	13	65	1999
Jeremy Gercovich	14	13	93*	2001
Conal Horsley	42	13	62	1999
Jarryd Hughes	34	13	13	2003
Jack Kavanagh	32	10	10	2003
Aaron Lendaro	46	11	87	1997
Nick Marino	6	13	13	2003
Lachlan McCleary	2	13	70	1999
Brent McCormack	16	13	17	2002
Cory Mihocic	44	9	37	2001
Josh Morrell	52	11	66	1998
Jarryd Pearson	28	12	84*	2001
Jack Pearson	22	12	12	2003
Matthew Reeves	26	7	57	1999
Justin Ryland	24	12	40	2001
Timothy Scales	50	12	53	2000
James Tantsis-Hall	40	13	84	1998
Ben Weissenfeld	57	14	96	1997
Bowen Zimbolani	20	13	76	2003

\* Includes Games at Other Clubs.

# UNDER 15

Coach: John Duckworth

Team Manager: Wayne Klar

The U15s finished 2003 with 8 wins and 6 losses and occupied 3<sup>rd</sup> place through until the final round of the season, where, despite a magnificent performance against the eventual Premiers Alphington in the last round, the narrow 25 point loss was unfortunately enough to push us out of the final four on percentage.

Looking at our results, we lost twice to each of the teams that finished 1<sup>st</sup> (Alphington), 2<sup>nd</sup> (Stars) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (Lalor Bloods). The losing margin in each of the second-round encounters against these teams were reduced, in the case of both Alphington (146 pts to 25 pts) and Lalor Stars (78 pts to 36 pts they were significantly reduced, an indication of how the team matured over the year.

Of the 8 wins, we had 2 heart stoppers this year... beating Epping by 13 points at Epping and, of course, the 1 point win over Hurstbridge at Hurstbridge. Despite these 2 close games, our average winning margin for the year was 79 points with wins of 20 goals or more in 3 games.

As a team, our game continued to develop and improve over the course of the year. Where we lacked in size and skill by comparison to other teams, our boys more than adequately closed those gaps by working as a team.

When they did work together, they produced some magnificent footy such as the wins over Epping, Hurstbridge, North Heidelberg and even the loss to Alphington in the last round.

To the boys. Look back on the year with pride, you were great in both victory and in defeat, a characteristic that separates you from many of the teams you play against.

Thank you for the effort and your friendship over the year. In closing, two final thoughts;

- 1.) Remember your contribution to the round 14 game against Alphington, remember the effort, remember the commitment, discipline and single minded desire to win and every contest. That's the attitude and approach you need to succeed in sport and life. Remember the feeling you had when singing the club song on the ground after losing that game. That was character.
- 2.) Fitness, don't leave your pre-season until February. Take responsibility for your own physical conditioning early. Work hard over the break and I look forward to seeing you all from the other side of the fence in 2004.

**Assistant Coach**  
**Runner**  
**Trainer**  
**Boundary**  
**Goal Umpire**  
**Umpire Escort**  
**Water**

Glen Townsend  
Garry McLagan  
Paul Lapira  
Jesse Waters  
Steve Page ; Martin Beattie  
Len Tenace  
Paul Hocking ; Andrew Godfrey ; Ashleigh Klar

## UNDER 15

Coach: John Duckworth

Team Manager: Wayne Klar

Player	Jumper Number	Games Played in 2003	Total Games	Commenced at RJFC
Billy Barden	4	14	95*	1998
Steve Beattie	9	12	62	1999
Dale Comley	19	14	25	2002
Michael Cullum	22	13	82	1996
Michael D'Agostino	30	7	53	1999
Matt Duckworth	43	13	32	2001
Nick Genovese	27	13	40	2001
Ben Godfrey	15	11	96*	2002
Nathan Grimshaw	39	7	30	2001
Simon Gunn	59	7	19	2002
Tim Hender	31	12	73	1998
Daniel Henderson	5	13	73	1997
Ryan Hocking	21	14	81	1997
Matt Klar	29	13	22	2002
Aaron Lapira	1	5	81	1997
Nathan Llewellyn	8	11	79	1996
Max Leropoulos	11	14	61	1999
Jarrold McKenzie	3	14	75	1998
Shane McLagan	56	14	108	1996
Sean Mitchell	54	11	59	1998
Anthony Natsis	37	13	93	1996
Brad Page	33	14	84*	2002
Brad Perry	23	12	76	1998
Kane Tenace	53	14	120	1995
Glenn Townsend	25	13	40	2001

\* Includes Games at Other Clubs.

## UNDER 17

Coach: Richard Geary

Team Manager: Peter Watson

Congratulations to all the players who represented the U17s in 2003. All players should be proud of the way they played with discipline and spirit throughout the year.

Our pre-season started early in February with over 30 players attending on a regular basis. This presented a problem as it was decided that there would be a maximum of 26 players on the list for the season.

It was decided the players who had previously represented the club would be given first preference provided they attended training and demonstrated the discipline and commitment required.

The pre-season went well with good attendances and players showing a keenness to improve on their skills and fitness. There was an air of confidence and excitement as the start of the season approached.

The first two games were disappointing in that we were in a winning position in both, but were unable to take the points. These two games would prove costly later in the season as we missed out on the finals by percentage.

However, as a team, the players learnt some valuable lessons from the games regarding preparation and focus. From this moment on the players improved in their physical and mental preparation for games and this was reflected in improved performances on the ground.

There were some very good team performances throughout the year and in particular the memorable games were the wins against Lalor Bloods, a very good win against Epping at Epping and who will forget the win against Alphington in the last game when they were found to have 19 players on the ground!!

As a coach I was proud of how the player conducted themselves throughout the year in a disciplined and enthusiastic manner. I felt there was significant improvement throughout the year, particularly in the way the players trained and prepared themselves for games.

I thank all players for the way they supported me in my role as coach. I would particularly like to thank Jarrod Shaw for the way he carried out his role as captain. Jarrod's passion for the game and the club was obvious to all, and his role model performances were a great example to all.

Congratulations to all individual award winners and to the team in assisting the club reaching Division 1 for the first time – a great achievement.

Richard Geary.

## UNDER 17

Coach: Richard Geary

Team Manager: Peter Watson

Player	Jumper Number	Games Played in 2003	Total Games	Commenced at RJFC
Simon Abdallah	6	2	28	2001
Steven Cavallin	6	2	2	2003
Matthew Canty	40	12	103	1995
Brendon Crisp	16	10	104	1996
Sean Downey	58	12	139	1994
Dylan Flannery	12	5	71	1998
Ryan French	32	12	110	1995
James Fuhrman	2	8	105	1995
Bryan Galvin	46	11	105	1997
Aaron Geary	26	11	89*	2002
Linden Gerhard	8	6	69	1998
Ryan Gray	47	12	92*	1998
Matthew Harrison	42	12	104	1996
Simon Hill	18	10	37*	2003
Aiden LeGassick	4	12	26	2002
Dale Lyons	14	11	82	1998
Shannon Malone	22	12	162	1993
Hayden Miles	30	11	116	1995
Eoin Mitchell	52	9	60	1998
Matthew Neil	34	7	100	1996
Matthew Olaris	10	10	119	1995
Shayne Ryland	50	3	80*	1999
Jarrod Shaw	24	12	132	1995
Allister Skelly	36	10	96*	2001
Tim Smith	39	1	74*	2001
Ryan Thompson	48	12	100	1997
Michael Toward	28	7	60*	2000
Stewart Ward	38	11	78	1998
Jason Watson	20	9	21	2002

\* Includes Games at Other Clubs.