

2011 Third in 2011

Leadership off the field at the Club remained the same whilst Peter McKenzie was reappointed coach. Paul Francis and Brad Hedger were in charge of the Reserves whilst Luke Heard took over the Under 18s. Alexandra had recruited Greg Newlands from Yarra Glen, Ross McKinnon and Chris Friswell. 2010 premiers Yarra Glen were promoted whilst Silvan had transferred to the Eastern F.L. Thornton- Eildon Football Netball Club had gone into recess leaving eight clubs in second division all fielding 3 teams. Only a few Thornton Eildon players joined Alex.

The season started on April 9th with Alex hosting the Yea Football / Netball Club The scores were close all game and the lead changed many times but it was Yea who were in front when it mattered. Alex. 11.15 to 12.11. Best were Cory Jack as usual leading the way, Daniel.Creed and B.Kapakoulakis (2) recruited from Thornton backed up by L.Ragg, Z.Heaslip and T.Spinks (2).

Alexandra's first trip south of the Spur was to Seville where the home side was always in control after going out to a big lead by half- time. Alex. as usual had trouble handling the undulating surface and their forward line was badly astray unable to make the most of the limited opportunities presented. Alex. actually won the last quarter to give the scoreline some respectability. 6.15 to 17.18. Kane Davis, Cory Jack and Greg Newlands won the votes on the day from J.Elkington, M.Steiner and E.Hamill. B. Kapakoulakis Kicked 3 goals.

After the Easter break, Alex. made the trip to Powelltown who had won their last game at that venue. Alex began well with a seven goal first quarter led by Michael Bretherton who always plays well against the Demons. Powelltown came back in the second but Alex. again resumed control in the third qtr. and ran out big winners 19.14 to 11.8. Lee Ragg in his best game so far led the votes with Brandon Kapakoulakis and Zack Heaslip also voting well. D.Creed, C.Jack and B.Wallace (3) were also in contention. M. Bretherton and E. Hamill were effective forwards with 4 goals each in a much needed win.

Round 4 on May 7th was as hosts to Kinglake. 2010 best and Fairest Daniel Steel returned for the Rebels who fought out an even first quarter with the visitors. A seven goal second term gave Alex a good break at half-time which they extended in a big third quarter. Alex, cruised to a 20.8. to 9.12 victory Defenders Jim Kidd and Daniel Creed along with the consistent Cory Jack (2) earned the votes in front of S. Kidd B.Kapakoulakis and Lee Ragg. M.Bretherton and E.Hamill each kicked 4 goals with 3 to Z.Heaslip. .

After successive wins Alex travelled to Emerald and in a low scoring game failed to win the points. Alex. were never far away but a lapse of pressure in the third quarter enabled the home side to build a match winning break. Alex were always playing "catch up" but were well short at the final siren 4.8 to 8.9. The defence led by the Kidd brothers Sam and Jim along with Daniel Creed were the better players along with midfielders Ross McKinnon, Cory Jack and Zack Heaslip, but 4 goals is not going to win many games.

Round 6 on May 21st saw Belgrave visit the Showgrounds for the first time since 2009. Duel League and triple Club Best and Fairest Neil Oakley led the team out on the occasion of his 150th game. Both sides had their share of the Sherrin early but the home side were able to find the goals. Alex. got on top in the second quarter still aided by the visiting Magpies inaccuracy, 0.13 at half time. Alex. also found it difficult to finish as they added 2.12 during the middle quarters and finished up 12.18 to 3.19. Young Bart Wallace gave an indication of the talent he possessed with a fine game and along with Daniel Steel, controlled the air. Cory Jack continued his fine form, Jake Steyger, Greg Newlands, and Tom Spinks also were under notice.

After the break for an interleague match against the Wimmera FNL, Alexandra travelled to Yarra Junction where the more accurate home side were able to win a hard fought match, 19.6 to 14.13. Alex were not far off the pace but must make more of their opportunities to challenge the better sides. The consummate competitor, Cory Jack tried hard to lift the side, Jake Steyger, learning the craft of ruck work and improving each game and the always hard at the ball, Zack Heaslip. Greg Newlands, Andrew Moravski and Daniel Steel also rated a mention.

Round 8 on June 11th fixture Yea to play at the Showgrounds for what is now the "local derby" The ground was in near perfect condition as Captain Sam Kidd led his side out playing his 200th game. The good crowd enjoyed the tight contest with Alex. holding a handy lead at half time. Yea had a good third quarter and it was anybody's game at the last change. Coming home to the town end Alex. proved a bit too good in the last qtr to pull away and win 13.9 to 10.7. Matt Steiner (3) really showed the football we knew he was capable of in his best ever game. Greg Newlands makes his opponent earn every possession, Cory Jack just keeps on going and Sam Kidd celebrated his milestone game with a good performance. Zack Heaslip was tough at the ball and Michael Bretherton's 5 goals was a valuable contribution.

Alexandra began the second half of the season at home to top side Seville and although they were very competitive, could not get the job done. Alex; who played some of their best football for the season led at three quarter time but

the Blues with their dangerous forwards really got their game together to win comfortably 19.4 to 13.10. Although disappointed, Peter McKenzie was pleased that the Rebels were competitive against the extremely accurate Seville team. Best players included Cory Jack, Daniel Steel (3), Neil Oakley, Zack Heaslip Greg Newlands and Andrew Moravski. At the halfway point of the season Alex. were in fourth place with four wins but needed wins against the top teams to establish a our credentials.

Round 10 on June 25th saw Alexandra at home to Powelltown. The ground was in good condition despite over-night rain and Alex. began well to the hill end Daniel Steel and Tom Spinks were good in the air early helped the Rebels to a six goal first quarter. Ross McKinnon, Cory Jack, Neil Oakley and Zack Heaslip were winning plenty of possessions allowing the forwards to give Alex. a seven goal lead at half time. Powelltown who had had their first win of the season against Yea the previous week never gave in and shared the goals in the last half but the home side won comfortably 16.11 to 10 .10. Best players were those previously mentioned with Michael Bretherton, Jack and Steel 3 each, the major goalkickers.

Alexandra headed up to Kinglake for round 11 unsure of what to expect on top of the mountain and despite their normal inaccuracy, were definitely the better side on the day. The ground was in good condition but the ever present icy wind blew a gale. Losing the toss Alex. were forced to kick against the wind but soon showed that they had come to play, going to a 25 point lead at quarter time. Alex. went further ahead in the second term and virtually had the match won when players headed back to the warmth of the clubrooms. The third qtr. was Kinglake's best but Alex. restored the margin in the last, winning 13.16 to 7.11. Zack Heaslip (3goals) who thrives on the congested play with his strength and in and under style, led the way. Neil Oakley getting back to his best form won may possessions, Daniel Steel (2) whose courageous marking inspires his team-mates Bart Wallace, Michael Bretherton and Daniel Creed were also fine contributors in a good away win in difficult conditions.

Alex were then at home to Emerald for Round 12 on July 9th where the Bombers got away to a quick start putting the Alex defence under real pressure. Alex were better in the second quarter after giving a six goal start. Alex. actually won the third quarter and had many chances in the last to get back into the game but two goals from ten shots was waste-full. Emerald 13.7 to Alex 6.14 (20 scoring shots each) Best players included Bart Wallace, Daniel Creed, Neil Oakley, Daniel Steel, James Kidd and Jack Elkington.

Alexandra travelled to the Belgrave ground next and after trailing for the first half edged to the front at three quarter time then finished well to win 12.18 (again inaccurate) to 12.10. Damien Toomey back in the team was a welcome addition as he controlled the ruck. Matthew Steiner at full- forward really showed what he could do with 8 goals to be the difference between the teams. Bart Wallace was getting better every game with his fine marking, James Kidd, Greg Newlands in defence and Zack Heaslip also having a great season, just shaded a few others.

Round 14 at the Showgrounds on July 23rd saw Alex host third placed Yarra Junction. There was little in the game at half time as Alex trailed by a manageable 9 points but the visitors had a big third quarter and led by 27 at the last change. The Junction led by over five goals at the ten minute mark of the last, but Alex then came with a burst of good football to grab the lead with a behind, two minutes to go. From the kick-in Yarra Junction worked the ball up the scoreboard side and regained the lead with a long shot from the pocket to win 13.14 to 13.9. Zack Heaslip (4) continued his fine season as did Daniel Creed and Daniel Steel (4) Young Adam Straw played his best ever game for the Rebels and Andy Marshall and Jack Elkington were also good players Alex had missed the chance to gain the important third place with four rounds to go. Six of the seven losses were to the top three. The Reserves and Under 18s were also in fourth place on the ladder.

Alex next made the shortest away trip to Yea for round 15. Alex. burst out of the blocks with a ten goal first quarter and led by 85 points at half time against the poorest Yea team that I could ever remember . With the Steiner twins with 9 goals between them (Matt 6) and being responsible for others along with Zack Heaslip (4) Neil Oakley and Daniel Creed 3 each Alex went on to win 26.16 to 5.10. Daniel Steel (2) was listed as best along with Greg Newlands, Ross McKinnon and the major goal-kickers. The big win was a major percentage boost for Alex which was to prove important later. Whilst there was some sympathy for the Tigers, guys like Cory Jack, Sam Kidd and Luke Ware would remember 2001 when Yea kicked over 100 goals to 10 against the lowly Rebels in three games.

Alexandra had to return to Seville where wins have been few and far between for round 16 and this day was to one to be forgotten. Alex had available one of their strongest teams for the year but the game was over at quarter time as the home side aided by a slight breeze, had kicked eleven goals to one. Alex. were more competitive after the initial onslaught but Seville increased their lead for the next three quarters to win 26.8 to 8.8 Sam Kidd in one of his best games led from the front. Damien Toomey was also setting the example to the team whilst Chris Friswell was as tenacious as ever, Greg Newlands, Tom Spinks and Stephen Steiner also were good. As Eddie used to say on a the Footy Show "A week is a long time in football"

Alexandra needed to regroup after the thumping at the hands of top team Seville, travelled to Powelltown where the home side again had a big first quarter to the down-hill, mill-end of the ground, although this week Alex were able to kick six of their own to keep in touch. Alex responded with eight to three in the second to lead at half-time. Alex continued on after half time and won a high scoring contest 24.9 (note the accuracy) to 17.10. Michael Bretherton with many strong marks and five goals as always provided Powelltown with defensive problems. Daniel Steel also kicked five goals and was as usual good above his head. Ben Cooper impressed everyone with his maturity and skill in his second game for the day. Neil Oakley, Zack Heaslip. Daniel Creed and Tom Spinks also led the possessions. Greg Newlands (3) and the Steiner twins (Matt 3) 5 goals between them.

At home for round 18 on August 20th Alex hosted Kinglake before a good crowd. Alex were currently in third place, level with Yarra Junction 9 wins and just .85% ahead. Alex needed to win and win well as Yarra J were expected to defeat Belgrave. Michael Bretherton playing his 150th game led the Rebels out instead of being the last out as has been his pre-match idiosyncrasy for most of his 149 games. Alex got away to a good start with 6 first qtr. goals but Kinglake were very competitive, so much so that scores were level at half-time. Alex began to exert their superiority in the third quarter with another six goal quarter to the hill end with the defence holding the visitors goalless. Alex. kicked a further nine goals in the last term but Kinglake fought the game right out with five goals. Alex. 24.16.160 to 14.12.96 had won by 64 points and boosted their percentage by 3.5 % but was it enough ? A check of the scores at Yarra Junction and a calculator showed that Alex had held the vital third place by .08% . Alex. had many good players after half- time but Zack Heaslip (5) kept his side in the game early Matt Steiner (5), Bart Wallace (2), Damien Toomey, Michael Bretherton (4) and Stephen Steiner (3) were on the best players list . Jake Steyger also was amongst the goals with 4.

The Reserves who had had a disappointing second half of the season due mainly to having so many changes to the side each week missed out on the finals. But the Under 18s finished fourth.

Alex. had to travel to Gembrook to play Seville in the Qualifying Final. Sam Kidd won the toss and kicked with the wind but neither side were able to gain an advantage as each team scored only one goal (M.Bretherton) in the first quarter. Alex had difficulty penetrating the Seville defence and were goalless in the second whilst the Blues added 3.3 with the wind. Alex needed a big third qtr. and led by Bretherton provided exactly that kicking six goals with the defence holding Seville to one goal. Alex led by 12 points at the last change over but had the job in front of them as the wind continued to have an influence. Seville put the Alex. defence under pressure and soon wiped off the deficit then going on to kick another four goals to one to win comfortably 11.18 to 8.13. Goals: M.Bretherton 4. D.Toomey, C.Friswell, Z.Heaslip. N.Oakley. Best: M.Bretherton, Z.Heaslip, L.Ware, D.Toomey, N.Oakley, S.Kidd.

Earlier in the day the Under 18s were also eliminated by Yea. 7.10 to 13.8. Best were Ben Cooper, Conner Heaslip, Brent McDonald, Jack Steer, Lyndon Purcell (3), Justin Shaw.

Alex. next had to travel to Olinda to play Yarra Junction on the Sunday. Alex. had made only the one change Jake Steyger replaced the injured Kane Davis. Alex. again had first use of a swirly breeze and made a good start with five goals to one in the first quarter. Yarra Junction kicked 5 goals in the second but Alex maintained their lead with another five goals to lead by 20 points at half time. Yarra Junction had a big third qtr. to lead by 13 points at the last change. Alex. kicked another five goals to two in the last term to get to the front and win 16.5 to 14.13. Bart Wallace (1) won many possessions on his wing through strong marking and sent Alex forward on many occasions. Damien Toomey (2) rucked well and his efforts, particularly in the last quarter were instrumental in getting his side over the line. Zack Heaslip (1) continued his great season with a typical strong game, Daniel Creed led the defence with good marking and defensive spoiling when required, Ross McKinnon and Ryan Carter played their best games when it counted and were just ahead of many others in a good win. Daniel Steel and Stephen Steiner led the goal kicking with three apiece.

After the club hosted the First Division First Semi- final on the Saturday Alex had to travel to Woori Yallock to again tackle Seville for the third time in about five weeks. Conditions were very blustery with a cold wind, rain and even hail that preceded the main game. The Alexandra side read S.Kidd, C.Jack, M.Bretherton, M.Steiner, S.Steiner, D.Steel, N.Oakley, G.Newlands, B.Wallace, Z.Heaslip, T.Spinks, D.Creed, L.Ragg, R.Carter, J.Elkington, L.Ware, D.Toomey, A.Moravski, R.McKinnon, J.Steyger, C.Friswell.

Seville won the toss and kicked with the wind which assisted them to kick four goals to one in the first quarter. Although Alex. tackled with great intensity and were able to get the ball forward only two goals were the result of a lot of effort leaving the Rebel down 11 points at the main break. Although the defence led by Jack Elkington, Daniel

Creed and Luke Ware held Seville to a solitary goal Alex. also had trouble scoring and still trailed by 21 points, a big margin in the conditions. The last quarter was again a battle of the defences with each side kicking a couple of goals each which of course was not good enough for Alex. leaving them well short as the final siren on their season sounded, Alex. 5.10 to 8.11. Lee Ragg earned praise for his efforts in the ruck, Daniel Steel, Greg Newlands, Bart Wallace, Damien Toomey were noted as best but all players gave their all in difficult conditions. Whilst we may have lacked the class of Seville no-one could question the commitment of the team. .

At the Presentation function held at the Mt Pleasant Hotel on Oct 8th the following awards / trophies were presented. Presidents Trophy: (Football) Kane Davis, (Netball) Sharon Hedger. Trainers Trophy: Brooke Savage. Barry (Sprague) Thompson Best Clubman Trophy Jo McCullough. Service Certificates were presented to Sam Kidd (200 games) Michael Bretherton, Neil Oakley (150) Tom Dunell, Kate Mullins (100). The YVMDFL made available a replacement Div.2 A grade Best and Fairest medal to Loren Miller to replace the one lost in the 2009 bushfires. It was accepted by husband Brad. Hedger. Mrs Kath Anderson and Mr Brian Simmonds were presented with Life Membership for their support and loyalty to the Alexandra Football / Netball Club

FOOTBALL Seniors / Reserves / Under 18s

Best and Fairest. Alan Jane / Stan Mackrell / Lyn Stillman Memorial Trophies: Zack Heaslip / Jason Krijt / Ben Cooper. *Runner-up:* Daniel Creed / Justin Leary / Shaun Graham. *Most Consistent:* Sam Kidd / Michael Heyes / Conner Heaslip. *Most Determined:* Greg Newlands / David Bourke / Paul Wallis. *Most Improved:* Matthew Steiner / Nick Malcolm / Jesse Newton. *Most Courageous:* NA / NA / Paul Wallis, Ben Woolard. *Best 1st Year:* Bart Wallace / Andrew Lorimer / Wayne Boucher. *Best Utility:* NA / NA / Ben Woolard. *Coaches Trophy:* Andrew Moravski / Travis Dent / Max Church. *Leading Goal-kicker:* Michael Bretherton (43) / Paul Brooks (25) / Lyndon Purcell (48).

NETBALL A / B / C.

Best and Fairest. Casey Munro Memorial Trophy (A): Rebecca McLeod / Darcy Smith / Tara Carter. *Runner-up:* Emma Kidd / Michelle Jack / Tara Rogerson. *Most Determined:* Lauren Steyger / Ebony Purcell / Kate Mullins. *Most Improved:* Brooke Davis / Tess Malcolm / Sarah Purcell. *Coaches Trophy:* Nichole Coombs / Jess Lucas / Michelle Flemming.

Alexandra FNC awarded YVMDFNL Second Div. Most Disciplined Club for second successive year.

At the Junior (SDJFNL) Presentation Functions Awards and Trophies were presented to

FOOTBALL U/16 / U/14 / U12. // NETBALL U/16 / U/14 / U/12.

Best and Fairest: Mark Goonan / Mick McCarty / Memorial Trophies / -----: Jack Goonan / Nathan Quincee / Cooper Phillips // Meg Bonsema / Rebecca Wallis / Caitlin Haggis /

Runner-up: Jack Carpenter / Mark Nichols / Nathan Stewart // Kate Evans / Olivia Twining / Chelsea Skerritt

Most Consistent: Jedd / Tom Carpenter / Harrison Murdoch /

Most Determined: Tom Keating / Isaac Hedger / Peter Cairns, Lachlan Mason. // Holley Fogerty-Nippard / Keely Grant / Siobhan Carpenter.

Most Improved: Beau Smith / Chris Shelley / Kallagun Wilson // Abbey Purcell / Georgia Smith / Stephanie Ellett.

Best 1st Year: Ben Wallis / Jordan Purcell / Jordan Laurie-Rhodes /

Coaches Trophy: Will Goonan / Ethan Ritchie / Riley Haack // Teagan Halligan / Kelsey Purcell / Barb Skerritt

Leading Goal-kicker: Jedd Hamill (47) Cooper Bebbington (22) / Cooper Phillips (32)

Both Ian and Maggie Hamill were both awarded Life Memberships of the Club for their many years of playing, coaching, umpiring and administering football / netball at both senior and junior level.

In the SDJFNL Finals The U/12s 1st Semi 7.5 d B'ford 5.3. P'Final 7.8 d Yea 5.6 G.Final 3.4 V Euroa 15.12.

Under 16s 1st Semi 16.16 d Tabilk 6.4 P'Final 6.5 v Euroa 14.14.

Will Goonan equal B&F U/16