

## 2016 Competitive again

Alexandra was again presided over by Ray Steyger for the 20<sup>th</sup> successive year whilst Kevin Hedger also continued his long association with Club. Kylie Cairns was appointed Secretary. On the football side George Steiner and Scott Rowan stepped in to help Sam Kidd and Matt. Herridge was appointed reserves coach.

In a bid to again make the finals, Alexandra moved to part two of the plan recruiting a some former players to add to the group of young local players that had been put together under Coach Sam Kidd. Braden Norris, who had been a member of the last Alex. premiership team in 2008, before going to North Melbourne and his brother Ryley joined the Rebels along with former best and fairest Bart Wallace to fill the key forward and defensive positions. Callum Tranter and Sam Woolard who also had played as junior players also returned to provide some depth. Alex. looked forward to the first game of the season against Thornton- Eildon who we had not beaten since the '08 grand final.

### **Alexandra v Thornton April 16<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Alexandra was home to Thornton Eildon for the long awaited clash of the two local sides. The day was fine and warm and the ground hard. There was the usual conjecture as to the strengths of each team as both teams had a few new players. Alex included former Best and Fairest Bart Wallace, Brayden and Ryley (wearing his Fathers number) Norris, Sam Woolard, Luke Heard and Callum Tranter into a pretty young team again guided by Coach Sam Kidd. Jim Kidd, after virtually missing the last two years and Lee Ragg who missed most of last season were also back in the team but the Rebels were without 2015 B&F Ben Cooper and runner-up Chris Mullins with hamstring injuries.

A three goal effort by Luke Heard, who regained fitness and returned to play, helped Alex. to a 25 point lead at the end of the first quarter of 2016. The game tightened up in the second quarter with both sides tackling strongly, resulting in many ball-ups. 2012 Best and fairest Bart Wallace and the Goonan twins led a tight defence that helped the Rebels to increase the margin to 32 points at the main break. The third quarter was more of the same as play rebounded between the half back lines. Brayden Norris and Nathan Dundas continually sent the Rebels forward for little result on the scoreboard as each team only added one goal for the quarter but Alex. held a seemingly safe six goal lead at three quarter time. Thornton Eildon started the last quarter with the first two goals to excite their supporters and the last was their best quarter of the game but Alex had all the answers winning comfortably 13.12 to 9.5. to break a run of seven successive losses to our closest rival. Bart Wallace, Luke Heard (5goals), Sam Woolard, Conner Heaslip, Jake Steyger and The Goonan's Will and Jack were adjudged amongst the best. The Reserves also started the season with a win 10.10 to 6.8, with Michael Coombs, Tom Halligan and Daniel Roper probably earning the judges votes. Alexandra also won all three Netball games for a clean sweep, a first for a long time.

### **Round 2 at Powelltown. April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016**

For the first time in many seasons the senior side was unchanged from the team that was successful at home last week. The weather was cool and calm and the ground in excellent condition after 20 mm of much appreciated rain late in the week as the Rebels attempted to end an eight game losing streak against Powelltown. Alex. had not won at Powelltown since 2012. Powelltown were first to break through for a goal and soon had three goals on the board as they were out marking the Alexandra defenders and also goaled from a goal square snap. Brayden Norris finally goaled for the Rebels as he picked up a loose ball and kicked accurately. Powelltown quickly replied and left Alexandra already nearly five goals down as the players broke for quarter time. Stung into action and now going downhill, Alex. got back into the game via the brilliance of Brayden Norris as the visitors were now getting reward for effort. Bart Wallace was marking strongly at CHB but Powelltown were still finding avenues to goal and took a five goal plus lead into half time. The third quarter was tight with the home side kicked three goals to two, the latter to Scott Heveren who was giving his all. Alexandra was winning plenty of the ball but their disposal was often astray wasting hard won opportunities. Down by six goals at the last change Alex. with Brayden. Norris a target up forward kicked five successive goal to reduce the margin to less than a goal before Powelltown steadied to win 17.12 to 14.9. Alexandra had won the last quarter but had given the Demons too big-a-start and gave away every free kick in the book and a couple of Jason's own, as at times they became a bit undisciplined. Best: B.Norris (6 goals), B.Wallace, S.Steiner, B.Woolard, J.Goonan, N.Dundas.

The Reserves, who added Michael Miller and Jasper Rouget to their line up, led all game and won comfortably against Powelltown. Michael Coombs and Daniel Roper continued their good form and with Jaye Rogerson and Jasper Rouget also standing out, provided the Hill brothers with goalkicking opportunities (Scott 5 and Shane 4) in the 14.9 to 7.5 result.

### **Round 3 Alexandra V Yarra Junction April 30<sup>th</sup> 2016.**

Alexandra was home to Yarra Junction; the weather was quite mild with a gentle breeze favouring the town end goal. The Showgrounds oval thirstily lapped up the good Friday rain and was more forgiving than a fortnight ago. Alex. were forced to make four changes with Michael Coombs, Tom Dunell, Scott Hill, and Daniel Rouget coming into the 21. David Bourke led the side out in celebration of his 200<sup>th</sup> game for the club. David has been a fine team-man over 16 years and has certainly given his best every game. Alexandra started to the town end and but for two opportunist goals to Luke Heard were unimpressive. Both side's field kicking was poor but the visitors accumulated five goals to hold a 17 point lead at quarter time. After conceding the first goal of the second term Alexandra started to get on top in general play and with Brayden Norris and Heard causing the Junction defence plenty of problems Alex. reduced the margin to five points at the half time break. The Eagles started the third quarter the better with early goals in what was to be a tight defensive period of play. Scott Heveren, Conner Heaslip and the Goonan boys defended well for the Rebels whilst the Steiner boys worked hard to get the ball forward where apart from Heard who kicked a further two goals, Alex, wasted a chance to take control of the game with 2.8 to still trail at the last break by five points. Alex. regained the lead early in the last and seemed to have the momentum but again were off target up forward. A five minute lapse proved costly as an accurate Yarra Junction took the initiative with three unanswered goals. Alex. tried hard to regain the lead but were seven points short when the final siren gave the visiting Yarra Junction Eagles, the George Steiner Cup for another year. Y.J 13.13 def Alex 11.18. Brayden Norris, Luke Heard (7goals) and Jack Goonan were best in a disappointing loss at home. The Reserves did enough to win comfortably at home to celebrate Ryan Carter's 100 game for the club. Tom Halligan continued his dashing form whilst Michael Miller and Daniel Roper also impressed.

### **Round 5 at Yarra Glen May 14<sup>th</sup> 2016**

The Seniors resumed after the bye travelling to Yarra Glen who have started the season in winning form on a mild but breezy day. Alexandra included captain Chris Mullins and Ben Cooper for their first games in 2016 along with Bart Wallace who missed last game to replace Michael Coombs, Daniel Rouget and Will Goonan. The game was relatively even up to half time but the home side with a six goal to two third term took control particularly when Alex had to play with only seventeen after a send-off. Yarra Glen continued to outplay Alexandra in the last quarter and went away to a comfortable win 20.13 to Alex. 11.11. Best were Bart Wallace, Brent McDonald and Matt Steiner. With only one win from the first four games Alex needed to lift their output to have a chance of playing finals.

The Reserves suffered their first loss as they were also soundly beaten by the top side. Best players included Daniel Roper, Michael Coombs and Tom Halligan.

### **Round 6 V Yea May 28<sup>th</sup> 2016**

After the inter-league bye Alexandra was home to old Waranga rival Yea, at the Showgrounds last Saturday. The Tigers won both games against the Rebels in 2015, with a win at Yea breaking a ten game losing streak and they also won at the Showgrounds by 14 points later in the season. Yea reportedly had also recruited well during the off season and were coming off a big win against Yarra Junction before the break. Alex. were forced to make four changes to the side beaten at Yarra Glen with Michael Coombs, Michael Miller, Will Goonan and Daniel Roper replacing the injured Ben Cooper, Scott Heveren, Lee Ragg, and Tom Dunell. The weather was cool and cloudy and Alexandra kicked to the hill end after winning the toss. The Yea Tigers soon showed that they were again going to be competitive as they took a 13 point lead into the quarter time break assisted by some undisciplined play resulting in questionable umpiring decision and goals. Yea extended the margin with the first goal of the second before Alexandra got their system working. The home side added seven goals to a further three by Yea to lead by five points at the main break. The Alex. defence tightened up in the third quarter to keep the visitors goalless whilst up forward Luke Heard, Scott Hill and Michael Coombs tidied up some wasteful football to give Alex. a 27 point lead at the last change. Ryley Norris in his best game so far extended the lead

early in the last but every time Alex. goaled Yea came back with two to stay in the contest. Eventually Alex. held on for a nail biting three point win 17.12 to 17.9. The four points were very important to Alex. to keep in touch with the leaders. Best: Chris Mullins played a real captains game in the ruck where he had to contest most of the game. Bart Wallace did what we expect of him with his fine marking and good decision making. Ryley Norris, Conner Heaslip, Will and Jack Goonan and Matt Steiner perhaps shaded the rest. Whilst it was an important win, an eight goal Yea last quarter and continuing disciplinary problems would concern the leaders.

#### RESERVES

The Reserves again with many changes to the team got back on the winning list in emphatic fashion with a big win against Yea. Alex. started well with a four goal first quarter and had the game well in control at half time leading by over six goals. The second half continued along the same vein as the defence held Yea to a solitary goal although the forwards were often offline. Good to see Steve Parker and Daniel Steel back to cover for players injured and elevated up to the senior team. Best Jaye Rogerson, Tom Halligan, Jedd Hamill.

The Netball girls were beaten by Yea in all grade with close game in A 39-35 and B. 35-29.

#### **Round 7 at Seville June 4<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Alexandra travelled to Seville last Saturday to try to improve on our disastrous record on the infamous "potato chip" having not won there since 2008 and had only won there once previously. Alex made three changes to the side that was successful against Yea including big-men Jake Steyger and Lee Ragg along with Ben Cooper to replace Ben Woolard, Brent McDonald and Michael Miller. The weather was wet and foggy and the ground slippery after consistent drizzle all day. Alex began to the uphill end and after defending strongly, went forward where Michael Coombs kicked the first goal of the game. The conditions dictated that it was going to be a game of meters gained and both sides went in for the contested ball with determination. Alex were teaming well when they could get into the clear and Luke Heard made the most of his limited opportunities with two goals to give the visitors a 12 point lead at the first change. Conner Heaslip relished the conditions across half-back and turned many attacking moves as did Bart Wallace who kicked the ball as if it was dry. Along with the Goonan boys, the Alex defence held the home side to a single first half goal playing close and strong tackling to give the Rebels a 25 point lead as players broke for half time. Alexandra kicked the first goal of the third quarter but the home side then got on top for a three goals to get back into the low scoring game. Alex. were still contesting strongly and a goal to Callum Tranter gave Alex. a 15 point lead at the last change. Seville kicked the first goal of the last quarter but Alex. were able to reply to restore the margin. The defence were under pressure and although Seville kicked the last two goals held on for a narrow win. Defenders Conner Heaslip, Jordan Purcell and Bart Wallace won the votes in a game made for defenders. Alex. 8.8 def Seville 7.11. The Reserves were severely restricted by lack of numbers for their match against sixth place Seville and were beaten by 11 points but must thank those who filled in to get the side onto the field. Tom Halligan, Ryan Carter and Jaye Rogerson impressed.

#### **Round 8 Alexandra v Gembrook - Cockatoo June 11<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Alexandra was at home to Gembrook-Cockatoo at the Showgrounds last Saturday. The weather was better than expected, mostly fine although cool and the ground in good condition. Alexandra have not had much success against the Brookers who had previously won 15 of the 21 games contested between the Clubs since 1977 with only two wins since rejoining the YVMDFL in 2006. Alexandra was near full strength with the addition of Scott Heveren and Ben Cooper to replace Lee Ragg and Daniel Roper. In an attacking first quarter Alex. led by three points but the game tightened up in the second with the Goonan twins strong in defence. A shot after the siren gave the visitors the lead by the narrowest of margins at half time. The contest continued evenly with three third quarter goals to each team as Alexandra won the quarter by a point to be level at three quarter time. Alexandra lifted in the last quarter aided by the return to eighteen on the field and gradually built a match winning lead. Gembrook kicked the last goal of the game to reduce the margin to 14 points but the siren soon ended the game giving the Rebels three wins in a row for the first time since 2008. Alexandra 11.12.78 to Gembrook Cockatoo 9.10. 64. Best: In a great team win perhaps Brayden Norris (3 gls), Chris Mullins, Matt Steiner, Bart Wallace, Conner Heaslip and the Goonan twins were perhaps a little ahead.

The Reserves with their best team on paper for the season with most players available challenged the unbeaten ladder leader Gembrook –Cockatoo who basically through their accuracy proved just a bit better. Alexandra finished on strongly but had given their guests to big a start. Ryan Carter, Jasper Rouget and Rhys Steward won awards as did Daniel Roper Lee Ragg and Kurt Veldman. Alex. 7.7 Gembrook 10.2.

### **Round 9 at Kinglake June 18<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Alexandra who had previously lost only twice at Kinglake took on the locals who like Alex. and three other clubs were on four wins and three losses on the ladder. Alexandra included Lee Ragg to replace the injured Luke Heard. The game was played in terrible conditions and one wonders why the ground is in such a state less than three weeks into winter. In the conditions each team was only able to manage one goal two behinds each for the first quarter. The second quarter was a battle of the defences with only the one goal being scored (by Kinglake). Conner Heaslip continued his recent good form in defence and Bart Wallace also was prominent during this quarter. Alex. were able to win plenty of possession through the midfield but lacked penetration inside their fifty. The game was still in the balance at the half time break.. The third quarter was where the game was decided as the home side took control and using the ball much better than Alex. were able to find team-mates with their better kicking skills with the wet ball. The Alex backline was under constant pressure as the home side went about adding five goals whilst up the other end a single goal to Jack Goonan was all Alex. had to show for the quarter leaving them with a 34 point margin at three quarter time. The last quarter was again relatively even with Alex being able to add some respectability to their side of the score board as Matt and Stephen Steiner were able to mark and goal from well out and whilst Braden Norris kicked the longest goal of the game. Alex. 5.5 lost to Kinglake 10.11. Jack Goonan, Michael Coombs and Conner Heaslip were listed first in the best players in the mud.

The Reserves again with many changes to the side challenged third placed Kinglake in the mud. The home side with the stronger bodies and more used to the conditions proved too good for Alexandra. The Rebels tried hard in the second half and did well to restrict Kinglake to three goals but had trouble getting the ball forward into a scoring position. The Rebels never gave up in the trying conditions. Daniel Roper Cory Jack and Jasper Roper were the leaders.

### **Round 10 At Thornton June 25<sup>th</sup> 2016**

For the first time in sixteen years Alexandra player's and supporter's were able head back across Gilmour's bridge feeling contented having won the four points against our closest neighbor and most traditional rival. Thornton Eildon had won the last 14 games against Alexandra at Thornton with the closest result being a one point loss in 2010 and by three points in 2004. Our only win away from the Showgrounds was in the Grand –Final at Woori Yallock in 2008. The only current players who have played in a winning senior side against Thornton at Thornton are Jason Krijt who is nearing 400 games and Cory Jack 335 games. Forward Darren Austin kicked 9 goals in the game in 2000 that Alex won by well over 100 points. Alex began to the Motel end and although they soon displayed their superiority in general play, the difference was not being displayed on the scoreboard. Luke Heard who was causing the Thornton defence many problems kicked his third goal early in the second quarter as the Rebels were now well on top. The defensive six allowed the home side one solitary goal in the first half as Alex. with Brayden Norris and Heard got amongst the goals to give the Rebels an eight goal lead at the main break. The third quarter continued along the same vein as Alex. kicked another five goals to one to lead by over twelve goals as players took a break. The game opened up in the last quarter as the result was apparent with Alex. kicking a further seven whilst the home side who never gave up added three. The main interest now was the battle between Heard and Daniel Creed with Heard able to kick four further goals to win the contest. The final scores of 20.13 to 5.2. gave Alexandra their biggest win of the season to date. Stephen Steiner won the top votes followed by Brayden Norris (3 gls) and Luke Heard (8 gls) The Reserves keen to get back on the winning list after three successive losses also had a big win keeping the home side scoreless whilst kicking 20.14. Tom Halligan, Cory jack and Stephen Parker (4gls) had good games. The Alexandra Football Netball Club again had a clean sweep with A, C, and D grades winning on the courts.

### **Round 11 V Powelltown July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016**

The visiting Powelltown team has had the wood on Alexandra in recent years, winning the last 8 encounters including an elimination final in 2012. Alexandra, still without captain Chris Mullins had to make one change from the team the won easily at Thornton, young ruckman / forward Jasper Rouget came into the side to replace Luke Heard who has an injured hand. The ground was good after early morning rain and the weather was fine. Powelltown started the game well to lead

by eight points at the first change and Alex. certainly had a game on their hands. A further four goals to three in the second term increased the visitors lead and it was only the solid defence of Bart Wallace and Scott Heveren and the marking and goal kicking skills of Jasper Rouget that kept the home side to only a seventeen point deficit at half time. Whilst the back six continued their strong defensive work, Alex. found more options up forward after half time. Also with the midfield now winning plenty of possessions, Alex. went to a seven point lead at three quarter time. Alexandra continued their ascendancy into the last term and increased the margin as the quarter progressed to win comfortably 14.9 to 9.10. Jasper Rouget 's six goals was a match winning effort but the game was saved at the other end with Bart Wallace and Conner Heaslip leading a great defence. With a big list of players to select from Alex. were able to choose a team that was far too good for the visiting Powelltown.

RESERVES A seven goal to nil first quarter set the scene and although the scoring slowed as players tired in the second half resulted in a 130 point win to Alex. Final Scores. Alex. 20.17.137 to Powelltown 1.1.7. Best: Jed Hamill (7goals) Jaye Rogerson (5goals) Tom Halligan.

### **Round 12 at Yarra Junction July 9<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Alexandra travelled to Yarra Junction for two games of football and four games of netball to complete round 12. Early fog lifted to reveal a pleasant day with winter sunshine and the ground was in generally good condition after mid week rain. Alexandra had made two changes, welcoming back captain Chris Mullins and Luke Heard to replace Lee Ragg and David Bourke. Alexandra were keen to avenge an early season defeat but Yarra Junction came out firing after the bye and kicking toward the Clubrooms end soon had the Alex defence under pressure but they were up to the task and denied the home side. With Jake Steyger doing well in the ruck the midfielders provided the forwards with enough chances to take a 27 point lead to the first break. The second quarter was more even as the home side broke through the tight Alex defence on more occasions but Alex. was still well in control despite their inaccuracy leading by 34 points as players went to the rooms. Alex. wasted a chance to improve their percentage as they managed 2 goals 10 after half time but still had 32 points in the bank at the final siren winning 9.23 to 7.3. Bart Wallace and Brayden Norris continued their expected fine form backed up by Will Goonan. The RESERVES won a close tight game against the fifth placed Eagles 10.7 to 9.2. Alex. looked tired in the first half and trailed at half time but looked much better after the break. Daniel Steel (4gls), Ben Woolard and Daniel Roper led the way.

### **Round 14 V Yarra Glen July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016**

As John Denver sang "some days are diamonds and some days are stones". At Alexandra FNC we have experienced many in the latter category over the last few years but last Saturday was of the glittering type. It was so great to see so many of Krity's former team-mates in attendance to watch the Reserves run over the top side in the last quarter with Jason getting a special cheer whenever he went near the ball and they all stayed on watch the Senior team which consists of all locals put on a great display of team football to have a 22 point win over the top side. It was Alexandra's best win of the season especially when the two players I would expect to be leading the B & F voting were not in the votes this game. Others stepped up and the back six who now play as a defensive unit provided the top vote getters. Led by the captain, Alex. won more than their fair share of centre clearances and with a big target up forward, there was some system going forward. Alexandra's pressure and tackling was a talking point in the rooms after the match by the many astute followers of the game who had frequented "Westys Kiosk" earlier and packed the Clubrooms later. The Rebels have now won 7 of the last 8 games with their only blemish in the mud at Kinglake and have a finals berth dependant on their own performance. Alexandra made only the one change to the team that won at Yarra Junction before the bye, bringing in David Bourke for the unavailable Jasper Rouget. Alex. kicked to the hill end with the ground in good condition after late week rain. With Scott Heveren and the Steiner twins in dashing form and Luke Heard looking dangerous, Alex. went to a 13 point lead at quarter time. The back six playing a strong unit were in control whilst Alex. maintained their lead to go to half time 14 points in front. Jake Steyger in the ruck and up forward was doing well and with the midfield winning plenty of the ball Alexandra doubled their lead as the teams started the last quarter. Alex. were able to answer every challenge in the last term to record one of their best wins for some time 15.11 to 12.9. Scott Heveren, Conner Heaslip and Stephen Steiner just shaded many team-mates. Luke Heard's five was also most valuable. The RESERVES celebrated Jason Krijt's fabulous effort of 400 games in the best way possible with a 19 point win against the ladder leader. Playing their best football for the season, Alex. came home strongly after scores were level at the last change to win 8.9 to 6.2. Daniel Roper, Ben Woolard and Tom Halligan impressed many of the good crowd assembled.

### **Round 15 At Yea July 30<sup>th</sup> 2017.**

Alexandra made only one late change to the side that was successful against Yarra Glen as Lee Ragg came into the side to replace Jake Steyger (hamstring tightness). The Recreation Reserve was "heavy" in many spots with the turf wicket the worst as Alex. played before a group of Waranga Nth East past players including 1952, 56 and 60 Alexandra premiership players. Alex. began quite well with the breeze as the home side missed opportunities and led by 22 points at the first change. The second quarter initially was a battle of the defences where Scott Heveren impressed the Waranga old timers with his intercept marking and his dash often gaining 80 to 90 meters straight down the middle for his team. Alex. added a goal to their tally via Scott Hill (his third) before Yea kicked their first. Further behinds added to the 26 point lead Alex. enjoyed at half-time. The play rebounded between the defenses early in the third as the Yea half-backs took both contested and uncontested marks as did Heveren, Wallace and the Goonan twins at the other end. Yea won the quarter with two goals to one but Alex still seemed to be in a good position at three quarter time leading by nearly three goals in heavy conditions. Yea were the better team in the last quarter and only some "Clove" like misses kept them away from the lead. They got to within four points before a late Ben Cooper goal steadied the Rebels. Alex. 8.6 to 6.10. Best: With only four goals after quarter time the team owes the back six as the best players were members of that group headed by Scott Heveren and Bart Wallace in the air and Conner Heaslip and Jordan Purcell at ground level. Midfielders Steve Steiner, Callum Tranter and Michael Coombs also were also good players. The win was important for the Rebels who after helpful results in other games now move a game clear in third place and an important double chance come finals time. The RESERVES started the game well but then dropped their intensity and the more accurate Tigers handled the heavy going better and got on top for an upset win. 5.4 to 3.9. Best: Tom Dunell, Daniel Roper and Ben Woolard.

### **Round 16 V Seville Aug 6<sup>th</sup> 2016**

After a relatively short away trip to Yea last week Alexandra were back at the Showgrounds for their clash with Seville. Alexandra made three changes to the side that were perhaps lucky to hold on at Yea with Jake Steyger, Tom Dunell and Ben Woolard returning to replace Scott Hill, Will Goonan and Lee Ragg. The side was led out by leading goalkicker Luke Heard playing the longest ever 100 games (he started in 2005 ) as he has mostly pursued his other sporting interests since 2010. Luke has kicked 178 goals (41 this year) and is playing a key role in the sides' success so far this season.

Alex. began to the hill end and set the tone of the game in the first quarter with five goals to lead by 19 points at quarter time. The half-back line of Bart Wallace and the flankers Conner Heaslip and Jordan Purcell were providing plenty of drive. The Steiner twins, Matt and Stephen continued their fine form as Alex. added another five goals to two to lead comfortably by six goals at the long break. Alex. began the third quarter well but then seemed to lose concentration to allow Seville to win the quarter and reduce the margin to 26 points as teams took up the positions for the last quarter. Led by Braden Norris, Alexandra got back to playing good team football and consolidated their position and although Seville kicked the last two goals of the game Alexandra won 18.7 to 11.11. Brayden Norris, Jordan Purcell and Stephen Steiner were the main choices for best player. With six consecutive wins the Rebels looked a definite contender.

The RESERVES took on fifth placed Seville and led by Daniel Steel and Jasper Rouget up forward and Daniel Roper in the midfield proved too good and as with the Senior team looked set to go deep into the finals Alex 15.10 to 4.5.

### **Round 17 at Gembrook Aug.13<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Alexandra set off on their longest away trip to Gembrook to play the penultimate home and away game of the season. Needing a win to continue their quest for top position Alexandra made four changes to the previous week's team with Will Goonan, Lee Ragg, Scott Hill and Daniel Steel coming into the 21 to replace Chris Mullins, Jake Steyger, Brent McDonald and David Bourke. The ground was in really good condition as Alexandra kicked against the cold wind that always seems to blow at the venue. After a high scoring, quality first quarter, where both sides kicked 5.1. the home side did slightly better in the second and took a five point lead to the clubrooms. Alex. attacked early in the third quarter but injuries to Bart Wallace and Ben Woolard seemed to hamper the Rebels as Gembrook Cockatoo got well on top to lead by 19 points. at the last change. Alexandra reduced the margin to seven points but the home side playing their ground well steadied with a late goal to win 14.8 to 12.6. Brayden Norris and the Goonan twins were amongst the best. The RESERVES after an even first quarter fell away and the home side finished off much better to win by five goals 8.9 to 3.9. Chase Pearce, David Bourke and Ryan Carter were the award winners.

### **Round 18 V Kinglake Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Alexandra made four changes to the side that were beaten at Gembrook including Jake Steyger, Brent McDonald, David Bourke and Rhys Steward in for his first senior game after good form in the Reserves. The ground was in good condition although winter had not yet left the area. Needing a win to secure the double chance Alex. started quite well and led by five points at the first change. An eight goal second quarter to the town end by Kinglake, virtually won the game for the visitors as they went to a 27 point lead. Alex. had plenty of play early in the third quarter but only behinds resulted. For every goal Alex. were able to score, Kinglake were able to respond leaving Alex with a big task at "orange time". Alexandra again narrowly won the last quarter but the Lakers always looked the winner as the Rebels made little headway into the margin set up in the second quarter. Alex 13.11 to Kinglake 16.13. Ryley Norris, the Steiner twins Matt and Stephen along with Braden Norris and Scott Heveren were prominent whilst Scott Hill's 4 goals were valuable. RESERVES A very ordinary Reserves match turned into a very interesting game three minutes into the last quarter when the umpires lined up both sides for a count. I have played and watched nearly two thousand Alexandra games and had never previously seen this occur. Alexandra was shown to have 19 men on the ground and up until recently would have lost all their score to that point. That law has now changed. ( Later the League ruled on Alexandra's indiscretion and left the result as per the score cards with Alexandra being fined) Alexandra were down by eighteen points when the above incident happened but it seemed to inspire the team who kicked the next three goals and a behind to take the lead whilst keeping the opposition scoreless in the last quarter. Alexandra 6.5.41 to Kinglake 6.4.40. Best. Daniel Roper again led by example and was again hard at every contest. Chase Pearce again was in good form and his experience led the defence. Billy Cody, Justin Leary, Travis Carter and fifteen year old Peter Cairns playing his first game of open age football impressed those watching.

### **ELIMINATION FINAL V Yea at Woori Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> 2016**

The two most improved teams for 2016, fourth and fifth placed Alexandra and Yea faced off at Woori Yallock in the Elimination final last Sunday. Alex. had won both home and away games during the season, by 3 points at Alex. and by 8 points in a low scoring game at Yea. The ground was in good condition although the weather cold. Alex.had made four changes to the side beaten by Kinglake the previous week including Chris Mullins, Bart Wallace, Callum Tranter and Ben Woolard to replace Ben Cooper (injured) David Bourke, Tom Dunell and Rhys Steward.

Yea began to the Highway end and was soon into attack. Alexandra then got forward for the first score a behind to Brayden Norris. Alex. again attacked and a clever pass found Ryley Norris for the first goal of the game. Alex. again missed opportunities and Yea were more accurate at the other end. Further Alex. behinds preceded a second Yea goal who appeared to now be getting on top. An Alexandra kick in from a Yea behind was marked and goaled by the Tigers. Yea kicked their fourth and fifth goals before Alex. were able to clear the centre bounce with a hand pass to the running Nathan Dundas for an Alex. goal. Yea led by 15 points at the first break. Yea began the second quarter with behinds before a goal from well out. Yea were outplaying Alex. at this stage with their seventh goal. Brent McDonald made the most of a free and goaled. Will Goonan marked in the goal square and was made to earn it which led to an undisciplined attempt to square up which cost Alex. a certain goal and a bit of the momentum. Yea then kicked successive goals to establish a big lead which Mullins was able to decrease by six points to 33 points just before half time. A goal from a difficult angle set the Tigers away early after half time but then Alex. replied when Luke Heard kicked his first goal after good play by Jordan Purcell. Yea were able to kick an eleventh goal to maintain their lead. Yea then had a player yellow carded but other than a free and fifty meter penalty that enabled Tranter to goal Alex. made little use of the extra player. Alex. had squared the quarter and still faced a big margin at the last change. Yea scored the first goal of the last quarter and despite a long goal from Wallace, Alex. we're not looking able to reduce the margin. Yea had all the answers with better team work and the ability to mark in the forward fifty and as it become obvious that Alex were not able to win, the Tigers seemed to kick goals easily. Heard kicked a late goal for Alex. but the margin had ballooned out to ten goals plus and finished up as Alexandra's biggest defeat of the season Yea 17.19.12 to Alex 8.11.59. Best players included Scott Heveren who was at his dashing best and won many meters for the team who along with Will Goonan turned many Yea attacks. Bart Wallace who started in defence then went forward as Alex tried to find some scoring supply. Brayden Norris, Ben Woolard and Nathan Dundas.

The season was now over for the Senior team and whilst they will be disappointed in recent results they have certainly improved on 2015 where they won only the one game. The inclusion of former local players and the improvement of the

young players in the team along with the great team spirit and camaraderie created has been the reason that they have played in this season's finals.

**RESERVES. QUALIFYING FINAL** The Reserves who finished in third place after the League decided to allow the scores of last week's game to stand played second placed Gembrook in the Qualifying final. Gembrook had won both games during the season by 13 and 30 points respectively. Alexandra began quite well in the first quarter with goals to Shane Hill and Ryan Carter to lead by two points at the first change. In a low scoring game neither side were able to get forward with any system. Ryan Carter and David Bourke were leading at ground level whilst Jasper Rouget used his marking skills to advantage. Gembrook took control in the third quarter and went to a 22 point lead at the last change. Two early goals to Jedd Hamill and Rhys Steward gave Alex. a lift and Hamill had another chance but missed badly and Tom Halligan hit the post soon after. Kurt Veldman venturing forward goaled from the square and Alex were within two points. Gembrook steadied with a goal after an undisciplined bit of play and again goaled from a free minutes later. Jasper Rouget kicked the last Alex goal but like last game Alex. had left it to the last quarter to play their best football but ran out of time this week. Gembrook Cockatoo 9.7.61 def Alexandra 7.5.47. Best players included Jasper Rouget, Jedd Hamill, Ryan Carter, David Bourke, Chase Pearce and Tom Dunell. Alexandra now play Seville at either Olinda or Mt Evelyn next Sunday in the first semi-final.

Reserves First-semi at Olinda Sept 4<sup>th</sup> 2016

The Alexandra club returned to Olinda for only the second time, the last time being when the Seniors and Under 18s played a final at the ground on exactly the same day and date in 2011. Each side had had a home win against the other during the season. The ground was in average condition on a cool spring day. Alexandra made three changes to the side beaten at Woori Yallock last week including Ben Woolard, Matt Herridge and Andrew Carter to replace Tom Halligan David Bourke and Michael Miller. Alexandra began to the downhill end and started confidently with goals to Chase Pearce and Herridge. Seville then came back with the next two goals. Play then became very scrumbly as each team were tackling strongly. Another two Seville goals gave them a handy 15 point lead at quarter time. Despite the efforts of Cory Jack who used every bit of experience to win possessions and the always courageous Ryan Carter, Seville seemed to handle the heavy conditions and the numerous ball-ups better. Alexandra through two Billy Cody goals was able to keep with-in striking distance at half time although trailing by 20 points. Alex. began the third quarter well winning more than their share of the ball and initially goaled through Jed Hamill. Travis Carter and Jay Rogerson were now providing forward entries and Jack kicked accurately after breaking through the centre. Alexandra were now playing much better and hit the front when Hamill goaled twice and Seville lost a yellow carded player and a bit of discipline. A further goal to Cody stretched the lead but two late goals to Seville gave them back the lead by the narrowest of margins at the last change. Unlike the last two weeks when Alexandra's last quarter was their best, Alex failed to go on with the job this week. The defence held Seville to only two goals at the scoring end but Alex. were not able to find a path to goal themselves and were beaten 9.3.57 to 11.7.73. Amongst the best were Cory Jack, Ryan and Travis Carter, Chase Pearce, Jasper Rouget and Jay Rogerson. Three goals each to Jedd Hamill and Billy Cody were also good contributions. On a ground that suited the physically stronger Seville team Alex. put up a fine effort and made their opponents earn their win. Under new coach Matt Herridge the Reserves have had a good season and played some very good football on many occasions.

**BEST and FAIREST Voting** (YRFNL Umpire votes in brackets. \* equal winner)

**SENIORS:** 52 votes Brayden Norris (7). 40. Bart Wallace (2). 28. Matt Steiner (9). 27. Scott Heveren (3). 20. Jack Goonan . 16. Luke Heard (1). 15. Ryley Norris. 14. Chris Mullins (5). 12. Stephen Steiner (16\*) 10. Conner Heaslip, Jordon Purcell, Lee Ragg. 6. Michael Coombs (4), Jake Steyger (6) 5. Jasper Rouget, Sam Woolard, Will Goonan (3) 3. Nathan Dundas 2.Callum Tranter, Ben Woolard.

**RESERVES:** 59 votes. Daniel Roper (12). 55. Tom Halligan (1). 21. Jaye Rogerson (12). 18. Ryan Carter (5). 12. Ben Woolard. 11. Michael Coombs, Chase Pearce. 9. Jedd Hamill (4), Cory Jack, Jasper Rouget (6) Daniel Steel (5). 8. David Bourke (1), 8. Michael Miller (3), Rhys Steward. 5. Steve Parker. 4. Tom Dunell. 3. Chris Friswell, Scott Hill, Andrew Wood, Jason Krijt (2). 2. Paul Brooks, Peter Cairns, Tom Dodermaide, Shaun Graham, Shane Hill, Ethan Ritchie, Daniel Rouget. 1. Beau Clarke, Billy Cody, Justin Leary, Harrison Murdoch, Kurt Veldman Lee Ragg (3), 0. M.Church (2), Jamie Rose (1), Adrian Carter (1)



## AFNC Presentation night at Holmesglen at Eildon September 24<sup>th</sup> 2016

NETBALL	A	B	C	D
Best and Fairest	Teagan Halligan	Steph Morton	Shona Gesler, Teana Wards	Kristie Warren Smith
Runner-up B&F	Bethany Cairns	Loren Hedger	Kylie Cairns	Himali Collins
Most Consistent	Olivia Twining		Rachael Manthorpe	
Most Determined		Hana Duldig	Tara Carter	Brooke Savage
Most Improved	Ebony Purcell	Jayde Cairns		Abby Purcell
Coaches Trophy	Mandy Gesler	Kathryn Veldman	Katherine Quincee	Alyson Gilmore
				Kelsey Purcell

FOOTBALL	Seniors	Reserves	AWARDS	
Best and Fairest	Brayden Norris (52)	Daniel Roper (59)		
Runner- up	Bart Wallace (40)	Tom Halligan (55)	Trainers Trophy	Jason Krijt
Most Consistent	Steven Steiner	Kurt Veldman		
Most Determined	Jack Goonan	Ryan Carter	Barry Thompson Best Clubman	
Most Improved	Jordan Purcell	Andrew Carter		Toni Carter
Best 1 <sup>st</sup> year	Michael Coombs	Tom Dodemaide	Andrew Whitling Volunteer Award	Kath & Tania Anderson
Best Utility				
Leading Goalkicker	Luke Heard (44)	Shane Hill (22)	Netball Volunteer Award	Tara Carter
Coaches Trophy	Scott Heveren	Jedd Hamill, Scott Whitehead		

### ALEXANDRA SDJFL JUNIOR AWARDS Fri Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016

NETBALL Awards	U 12	U14 Div 1	U14 Div 2	U16
Best and Fairest	Jemima Sheehan	Shona Gesler	Jorja Gesler	Himali Collins
Runner-up	Lily Hillman	Zarli Hoorweg	Zoe Meggitt	Ellie Hedger
		Mia Rouget		
Most Improved	Maddy Hill	Madison Richards	Jade King	Georgina Beggs
Most Determined	Grace Sinclair	Riley Thomas	Emma Bowe	Chelsie Witnish
Most Consistent				Kim Weber-Lally
Coaches Trophy	Tarni Cobb	Phoebe Sheean	Sarah Haggis	Megan Gilmore

David Welch Memorial Award: Presented to the Hedger Family Kath, Kevin, Sharon and Steven

FOOTBALL Awards11	U 12	U14	U16
Best and Fairest	Henry Meggitt	Angus Smith	Peter Cairns
Runner-up	Jesse King	Ryan Lucas	Jake Keath
Most Determined	Lachlan Armstrong	Kobe Gogoll	Lachlan Scott
Most Consistent	Dylan Jack	Jai Lerch-Mackinnon	Hayden Gilmore
Most Improved	Cooper Kidd	James Southam	Jacob Sims
Best Utility	Nathan Capp	Bailey Goschnick	Tom Rouget
Best First Year	Toby Prothero	Ben Jack	David Ray
Coaches Trophy	Beau Scott	Jacob Bourke, Tyler Cairns	William Ellis