

CYFC PRESIDENTS REPORT 2009

The season just gone was certainly a season of missed opportunities from an on field perspective but one of great development off field.

There is no doubt our senior playing list came up short in 2009. We saw a further loss of young players in the search of work, retirements and no movement of players in from senior colts. The need to introduce a number of players into our list was certainly recognized but even with the hard work of our recruitment committee we failed to introduce the sort of numbers required to improve our on field performance.

I thank both our senior coaches for their efforts in 2009. Dom Fotia returned to coaching and with him Ryan and Jarrod Byrne, Josh Dutschke and Ben Gunning. The loss of David Lavender with a work shift to Sydney and a couple of injuries to key players saw our finals hopes evaporate after a strong first round.

Ja McCauley made his debut as a senior coach and did a fantastic job in keeping a side out there and competing week after week.

Both senior sides drew heavily on the senior colts to field sides all year and I congratulate them and coach Ken Klopp for their efforts. Barry Smith and his junior colts had another exciting year, being our only side in the finals, finishing 4th in a very close finals series.

Our minis teams all had great seasons under coaches David Linke, David Field and Tim Schwartz. The under 12's were within a goal of winning the junior carnival at Minlaton. Colin Sansbury also represented his club and school at state level and we were proud to sponsor him in his trip to Queensland.

The team of people required on Saturdays to keep our teams on the park, who all do a great job, include our team managers especially the long serving Terry Honner and the tireless Conrad Alwin. Our trainers give hours of their own time especially head trainer Vanessa and the reliable Dennis Ford. Thanks also to the timekeepers, goal umpires, Tim in the scoreboard, boundary umpires, water boys and Saturday scribe Simon Greenslade.

Special thanks to the Thursday night crew, which includes David Davies, Trevor Smith, Ray Dutschke, Lloyd G-Johnson, Nick Honner, Jeff Adams and Nick Davies.

The presentation of our oval facilities, is second to none, and thanks goes to the hard working crew of David Sly who as our oval manager has done a great job and his assistants, Darryl Brokenshire, Conrad Alwin, Simon Greenslade and others.

Linda Dutschke has done a great job in managing the canteen returning a sizeable profit but taking on many other jobs along the way and was suitably rewarded with the Cougar of the Year award.

Giles Honner filled the position of Vice President this season and took on the role of managing Bobs Bar & BBQ. His support and efforts are appreciated. Giles has spent many hours working hard for the CYFC in 2009.

The CYFC has setup one of the best local footy websites thanks to David Clasohm. Not only do we have a fantastic website but a storage site for all club info which will be in place for all future committees. We have created a system which will

allow all future committees to access all club info. I would personally like to thank Davo for his advice and opinions throughout the last season.

Congratulations to Tony Clarke for being awarded the Country Times Club Person of the Year. Clarke has worked extremely hard for the CYFC this year as manager of the Cave and as one of the few committee members actually residing in Maitland, handling any issues that need urgent attention. His passion for the club and community is second to none.

2009 saw the Cougars produce regular newsletters of the highest quality and I would like to thank Ros Allen for her assistance with that and her input into the committee for 2009.

Our Senior players have continued to put their hand up to help the club run off the field and on. Todd Twelftree, our A grade captain, is a true club man who works tirelessly for the Cougars in all areas. Sean Hastings took over the Merchandising and with the help of a couple of junior mums saw almost 100 cougar hoodies sold to our junior footballers and netballers, in 2010 I would hope to see all our supporters in the navy blue and white. Todd and Sean along with A grade B&F winner Adam Hamilton and Brad Hudson also filled the vacant bar manager position and did a great job.

My congratulations to Michael Wyndham for the job he has done as club secretary. His first year in and Michael has covered all bases very well. It is fair to say we had a lot of ground to make up early in the year and Michael worked hard to get the club up and running for 2009. His efforts in 2009 have paved the way for a successful future for the Cougars.

I would like to personally thank Brenton Correll for his efforts for the CYFC over the last 2 seasons as treasurer. Brento has devoted many hours of his time to the Cougars and has efficiently managed the clubs finances. Brento along with the committee has produced 2 seasons of profit with 2009 producing a \$35,000 profit. A great turnaround for the club after producing a \$20,000 operating loss in 2007. Brento put a lot of time and effort into feedlotting the clubs fat lambs and it is mostly through his and Clarke's efforts that we made a profit in this area. Brento was often one of the last to leave the Cave on Saturday night after working the bar late into the night. I thank him for his efforts and support throughout 2009.

Greg Twelftree stepped into the role of league delegate in 2009 and done a great job. As immediate past President Greg has always been a great support to me personally and for the CYFC. I thank him for his support.

Hugh Wearing stepped down as league delegate this year and perhaps for the first time Hugh has no official role at the CYFC. Hugh has offered continual support to me and I thank him for that. I hope he continues as the Patron of our club.

I thank Kate Van Schaik and Sharon Honner for their efforts in getting the Cave kitchen back on track. Kate has run the kitchen once again like a well oiled machine. I admire her passion and dedication to the Cougars, and her advice and opinions are appreciated, the CYFC has been a better place because of her input in 2009. Kate has left us with a clear plan and strategy to maintaining the performance of our kitchen for the future.

This season saw us combine our senior presentation night with the CYNC and hold a very successful evening at the Maitland Golf Club. My thanks to Georgie Southwood and the CYNC committee for their hard work in setting the evening up. We followed this with a combined junior football and netball presentation day at the oval which attracted over 200 people and was a very successful day. I hope we will hold more functions as a combined football and netball club in the future.

Our junior numbers have always been strong, but the drift of our children to other schools and the pursuit of employment have had an impact on the player numbers in our senior grades.

The CYFC now has a clear vision for its future; we will vigorously pursue those who live and work within our region as well as those who were developed and trained within our junior program.

There is no question the members of the CYFC want our licensed premises at the oval, I see this as a crucial factor in the long term survival of our football club, in fact I fear we will not survive long term with out making this change. The Building Development Committee has already met twice and the plans are well under way and I expect our membership will see some solid planning and costings in the near future.

In closing I would like to thank all of our members, players and supporters for their efforts and support in 2009 as we all look forward with confidence to 2010.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Thomson", is placed on a light green rectangular background.

Andrew Thomson
CYFC President