2026

ANNUAL REPORT



Preston Bullants Junior Football Club

Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation, Traditional Owners of the land on which we play. We honour their Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise the role of traditional games and physical activities, such as Marngrook, in gatherings and celebrations.

Our mission

We are a safe and welcoming Club for all children and their families to develop their football skills, love for the game and connection with the local community.

Our values

Encouragement

Enjoyment

Respect

Integrity

Excellence



Under 11s honouring Sir Douglas Nicholls Round

Our History

The Preston Bullants Junior Football Club (PBJFC) was born in August 2000 and joined the Yarra Junior Football League the following year with just two teams, Under 11s and Under 13s. While wins were rare in that first season, the experience laid the foundations for a strong, community-focused club built on learning, resilience and respect. The very next year, both teams fielded won premiership, the beginning of a proud Bullants tradition.

From those early days of 25 players and weekend Auskick sessions, the club has grown to more than 300 players across 15 teams. Our players come from more than 40 local schools across mainly in the city of Darebin. We are proud to represent such a diverse and vibrant community, with families from a wide range of cultural backgrounds.

Over the years, the Bullants have celebrated numerous premierships and individual achievements, with players going on to represent the Yarra Junior Football League Interleague squads, Northern Knights (U18 Talent League), the Preston Bullants Amateur Football Club and VFL all the way through to the highest levels of football in the AFL.

Yet our greatest success remains our culture, a safe, inclusive and welcoming club that develops great players and great people, united by pride in being part of the Preston Bullants family.

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About Us

The Preston Bullants Junior Football Club (PBJFC) is a community-focused junior football club based at H.P. Zwar Reserve on Jessie Street, Preston. In 2026, the club proudly supported more than 300 players across 15 teams, with players and families drawn from more than 40 local schools and a diverse range of backgrounds.

PBJFC also has a strong connection with the Preston Bullants Amateur Football Club (PBAFC), with Ruthven Reserve on Malpas, Preston, providing a home ground for junior home games. The club also utilises Barling Reserve in Reservoir for training and, where appropriate, Preston City Oval for community events and occasional home matches.

Most PBJFC teams train at H.P. Zwar Reserve on weekday evenings, with teams training once or twice a week depending on their age group and schedule. Our Under Youth Boys team train at Barling Reserve prior to the PBAFC Men's team, providing an opportunity to strengthen the connection between the junior and senior clubs while supporting mentoring, development and camaraderie between our players.

In 2026 several of our community events were revitalised based on the Clubs 2025 end of year survey. This included moving the Round 1 and Round 14 pizza nights to an afternoon event at Ruthven Reserve while watching the last game of the day. This resulted in large numbers of families popping in for pizza and a great club atmosphere. In addition, the Season Launch and Family Day held at The Keys included a sausage sizzle, show bags, face painting and a photo stand. The end of year presentation day was restructured to a whole club event Future Leaders Night. With over 700 in attendance all wearing a splash of red, it was great to see the community together. A mid-season Trivia Night was a wild success with 97 attending a fabulous night. In addition, teams participated in their own team binding sessions which included trips to the AFL, pizza, pie and chip nights, lots of sausages, and picnics. All of the team bonding sessions were provided free, or at a discounted rate to players as part of club registration fees.

The PBJFC celebrated a range of themed rounds including ANZAC Day, Sir Douglas Nicholls Round, Mothers' Day Round, Pat Cronin Round, and Sit Down Round.

Across all of our venues, PBJFC is committed to providing safe, welcoming and inclusive environments where young people can develop their football skills, build confidence and enjoy being part of the Bullants community.



Under 8s participating in their first ANCAZ day match

Our People

Executive Committee

Name	Position
John Pappas	President
Tony Fong	Vice President
Ellen Corovic	Secretary
Ben Thompson	Treasurer

Committee

Name	Position
Carolyn Jones	Child Safety Officer
Sheri Burmeister	Uniforms Officer
Ray Clarke	Property Steward
Gavin McLearn	Registrations
Sophie	Events
Kate Nicolazzo	General Member
Adam Lancaster	Sponsorship Coordinator
Priya Vanderwert	General Member
Patrick Thomas	Girls Football (retired xxx)

Key Personal

Name	Position
Kym O'Donaghue	Girls' Working Group Coordinator
Steven Logozzo	Football Operations Manager
Frank Tomai	Ground Manager

Our Supports

Platinum	
Hocking Stuart Preston Back of Jumper Major Sponsor	Ready1 Front of Jumper Sponsor
Bell Collision Ground & Scoreboard Sponsor	The Keys Preston Platinum Partner & MVP Awards Sponsor
Gold	
Quest Apartment Hotel Preston	Rise & Grind Coffee Preston (also Volunteer of the Week sponsor)
Silver	
The Mouthguard Man	Misty Gully
Nixon Finance	



Hocking Stuart, back of jumper sponsor

Presidents Report

What a fantastic start to the 2026 season for the mighty Preston Bullants!

Our Registration Day was once again a great success, with a fantastic turnout of returning players and families, along with plenty of new faces joining the Bullants community.

It was wonderful to see the club come alive as families caught up, players proudly pulled on their Bullants colours, and our new and returning members prepared for another season of junior football. A huge thank you to our committee members and volunteers who gave up their time to make the day run so smoothly — from assisting with registrations and uniform fittings to answering questions and welcoming new families. Your efforts help set the tone for another exciting year.

The excitement continued through our early-season events, bringing our Bullants community together and reminding us that our club is about so much more than what happens on the football field. It is about friendships, families, connection and creating lasting memories together. Seeing our clubrooms and grounds filled with players, parents and supporters was a great reminder of what makes Preston Bullants such a special club.

A particularly special highlight this season has been welcoming our newest players and their families to the Bullants family. These young players represent the future of our club, and it has been fantastic to see their excitement and enthusiasm at training and on game days. Watching them pull on the red and white for the first time — full of energy, smiles and a little bit of nervousness — reminds us all why junior football is so important. Welcome to the Bullants family!

Another highlight of 2026 has been the opportunity for our junior players to experience playing at Preston City Oval. There is something very special about seeing our young Bullants run onto such an historic ground, following in the footsteps of the many players who have worn the Preston colours before them. Being surrounded by our Bullants community and seeing the pride on the faces of our players makes these occasions incredibly meaningful.

Preston City Oval also saw the club celebrate 25 years, with many past life members attending the celebrations, while watching our senior team play on the ground where it all started.

As we look ahead to the remainder of the 2026 season, I want to thank everyone who contributes to making Preston Bullants the club it is — our players, parents, coaches, team managers, committee members and volunteers.

Your time, energy, commitment and passion are what keep our club moving forward and ensure the Bullants spirit remains strong

Here’s to a fantastic 2026 season — full of fun, development, teamwork, friendships and, of course, that unmistakable Bullants pride. Go Bullants!

AUSKICK

A huge thank you to our 2025 Auskick Coordinators—Troy Jordan and Andrew O'keefe, for their outstanding dedication this season.

With over 150 young participants enjoying footy each week, their passion, energy, and organization ensured every session was fun, safe, and memorable. From coaching skills to creating a welcoming environment for families, their commitment has made a lasting impact. Excitingly we had a standalone girl group sessions, with over 30 young girls taking part in the 2026 Auskick Program.

Troy, Andrew, and all the Saturday morning helps, your efforts have truly shaped an unforgettable Auskick season!



Under 14 Girls' player assisting at Auskick. Image taken by Kym O'Donaghue.

Indigenous Round

In 2026, the Preston Bullants Junior Football Club was once again proud to take part in Indigenous Round, celebrating the rich culture, history and ongoing contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to our game, our club and our wider community.

Indigenous Round is always a special occasion for the Bullants — a time for our club to come together, to learn, to reflect and to celebrate the connection, respect and unity that football can bring to our community.

Once again, our teams had the privilege of wearing our Indigenous jumper, proudly designed by our very own Marley Stewart. The jumper represents more than just our club colours; it is a visible symbol of our respect for Indigenous culture, our commitment to recognition and inclusion, and our desire to celebrate the stories and traditions that enrich our community.

We are proud to continue this important tradition at Preston Bullants and to use football as an opportunity to promote respect, understanding and connection among our players, families and wider community.



Under 14 Boys celebrating Sir Douglas Nichols Round by wearing our Indigenous 'Honey Ant' guernsey.

Coaches and Volunteers

The success of the Preston Bullants Junior Football Club continues to be built on the dedication, commitment and passion of our coaches, team managers and volunteers.

Every week, our coaches and volunteers give their time to ensure our players have the opportunity to train, play and enjoy their football in a positive, supportive and welcoming environment. From preparing training sessions and game-day activities to organising teams, communicating with families and helping behind the scenes, there are countless hours of work that often go unseen.

To all our coaches, team managers and volunteers — thank you for everything you do throughout the season. Your time, energy and commitment make a genuine difference to the experience of every young Bullant. You are not only helping our children develop their football skills, but also teaching them the importance of teamwork, respect, commitment and belonging. Thank you for being such an important part of the Preston Bullants family and for helping make the 2026 season another memorable one for our players and families.

2026 Club Life Member Induction

I would like to take a moment to recognise and honour our dedicated member and long-time volunteer, Tony Fong, as a newly inducted Life Member for the 2026 season. We are immensely grateful for Tony's contributions to our club, and her is truly deserving of this prestigious recognition.

Tony Fong: Preston Bullants Committee Service



Tony Fong at Future Leaders Night

Tony Fong joined the Preston Bullants Committee in 2019, beginning his involvement with the club as the Auskick Coordinator. From the outset, Tony demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting the club's youngest players and helping create a positive and welcoming environment for families joining the Bullants.

In 2020, Tony took on the important role of Child Safe Officer, helping the club strengthen its commitment to child safety and ensuring the wellbeing of our young players remained a priority.

Tony returned to the Committee in 2021, taking on the combined responsibilities of Child Safe Officer and COVID Compliance Officer. This was an extremely challenging period for community football, as clubs navigated changing restrictions, health requirements and the return to football following COVID-19. Tony played an important role in helping the Bullants manage these requirements and safely transition back to football.

In 2022, Tony continued as COVID Compliance Officer and Auskick Coordinator, supporting both the club's return to normal operations and the growth of our Auskick program.

From 2023, Tony took on an even greater leadership role as Vice President and Registrations Coordinator, positions he continued to hold through to 2026. His contribution has extended across administration, player registrations, Auskick, child safety, COVID compliance and the broader operations of the club.

Tony's commitment over these years represents a significant contribution to the Preston Bullants. He has continually stepped up when the club needed support, taken on challenging responsibilities and helped provide a strong foundation for our players, families and volunteers.

The Preston Bullants sincerely thank Tony for his dedication, leadership and continued service for so many seasons.

Thank You's and Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following community members for their continued support of our club.

- The Darebin Council Leisure Services Team, Suranga Dissakarunaratne Sam Barr and Allison Ryan.
- Damien Howard - President Preston Bullants Amateur Football Club.
- Andrew Phelps – West Preston Sharks Cricket Club.
- CEO Dominic Melesi and YJFL staff, for ensuring this and every season starts and runs smoothly.
- YJFL President Rob Gould and board of the Yarra Junior Football League.

Vice President & Registrations Officer: Tony Fong

In 2026, Tony Fong continued to be an invaluable member of the Preston Bullants Junior Football Club committee, serving as Vice President and Registrations Officer.

Tony's organisation, reliability and commitment have once again played an important role in ensuring a smooth and efficient registration process for our players and families. His attention to detail and willingness to assist have helped provide a strong foundation for the season and ensured our families felt welcomed and supported from the very beginning.

Beyond his key responsibilities, Tony continues to be a dependable and supportive presence across the club, always willing to step in, lend a hand and contribute wherever needed. His experience, leadership and genuine commitment to the Bullants are greatly valued by the committee and the wider club community.

Tony's contribution over many years reflects the true spirit of volunteering — giving his time, knowledge and energy to help make our club stronger.

Thank you, Tony, for everything you continue to do for the Preston Bullants!

Treasurer: Ben Thompson

In 2026, we would like to recognise and thank Ben Thompson for his first full year serving as Treasurer of the Preston Bullants Junior Football Club.

Ben has taken on the Treasurer's role with great commitment, attention to detail and a willingness to learn and understand the many responsibilities that come with managing the club's finances. His work behind the scenes has been an important part of ensuring the club continues to operate efficiently and remains in a strong financial position.

Taking on the Treasurer's role is a significant commitment, with many hours spent managing accounts, payments, budgets and the financial administration of the club — much of which happens away from the football field and often goes unnoticed.

Ben has embraced the role and become a valued member of our committee. His reliability, approachability and willingness to contribute have been greatly appreciated throughout the 2026 season.

On behalf of the Preston Bullants, thank you Ben for your commitment, your time and for taking on this important role. We look forward to seeing your continued contribution to the club in the years ahead.

Thank you, Ben, for everything you do for the mighty Bullants!

Secretary: Ellen Corovic

In 2026, Ellen Corovic continued to be an outstanding member of the Preston Bullants Junior Football Club committee in her role as Secretary.

Ellen's organisation, attention to detail and friendly approach have been invaluable in keeping the club running smoothly behind the scenes. From coordinating committee communications and meetings to supporting club administration and game-day operations, Ellen consistently approaches everything with professionalism and a genuine willingness to help.

Over the course of the season, Ellen has continued to be a reliable and approachable point of contact for our committee, coaches, team managers and families. Her ability to stay organised and keep things moving, often behind the scenes, has made a real difference to the day-to-day running of the club.

Ellen's commitment, professionalism and genuine passion for the Preston Bullants and its players continue to make her a valued member of our committee.

Thank you, Ellen, for your continued dedication, hard work and positive contribution to the Preston Bullants!

Child Safe Officer: Carolyn Jonas

In 2026, Carolyn Jonas continued to make an important contribution to the Preston Bullants Junior Football Club in her role as Child Safe Officer.

Carolyn's dedication to creating a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all our young Bullants has been outstanding. Throughout the season, she has worked closely with our coaches, team managers, committee members, families and the YJFL to support our child safety responsibilities and promote the wellbeing of every player.

Her approachable nature, professionalism and genuine care for our young people provide confidence to our players and families that their safety and wellbeing remain a priority at the Preston Bullants.

Carolyn's commitment extends beyond simply fulfilling the requirements of her role. She continues to help foster a club culture where children feel safe, respected, included and supported.

Thank you, Carolyn, for your ongoing commitment, leadership and the important work you do to keep our young Bullants safe.

Uniform and Apparel: Sheri Burmeister

In 2026, Sheri Burmeister continued to do a fantastic job managing Uniform and Apparel for the Preston Bullants Junior Football Club.

Sheri's organisation, attention to detail and commitment have ensured our players have looked their best and proudly represented the Bullants throughout the season. From fitting up new players and assisting families to managing stock, coordinating orders and keeping the Uniform Shop running smoothly, Sheri has always approached the role with efficiency, patience and a friendly smile.

Sheri's contribution to the Bullants extends well beyond her role in Uniform and Apparel. Since joining the club, she has been a wonderful contributor to our committee and has always been willing to help wherever needed — whether supporting her son Alex's team as a medic, assisting at club events or simply lending a hand behind the scenes.

Sadly, 2026 marks the end of Sheri's time on the Preston Bullants committee. While we will certainly miss having her around the committee table, we are incredibly grateful for everything she has contributed to the club over the years.

Sheri has made many friendships and lasting connections within the Bullants community, and her contribution will always be remembered and appreciated. Thank you, Sheri, for your years of dedication, hard work and friendship. You will always be part of the Bullants family!

Property Steward: Ray Clark

In 2026, Ray Clark continued his important role as Property Steward for the Preston Bullants Junior Football Club, once again playing a vital part in keeping the club running smoothly behind the scenes.

Ray's reliability, organisation and willingness to help ensure our teams have everything they need each week — from team bags and footballs to training and game-day equipment. His attention to detail and commitment to keeping our equipment organised and ready for use makes a significant difference to the smooth running of the club.

Much of Ray's work happens behind the scenes and may not always be seen or recognised, but it is certainly appreciated by our coaches, team managers, players and families.

Ray's ongoing commitment and willingness to lend a hand whenever needed are a great example of the volunteer spirit that makes the Preston Bullants such a strong club.

Thank you, Ray, for your continued dedication, hard work and contribution to the Club!

Female Participation: Kym O'Donaghue

In 2026, Kym O'Donaghue continued her outstanding work as Female Participation Coordinator at the Preston Bullants Junior Football Club.

Kym's passion, energy and determination have played an important role in continuing to grow and strengthen female football within our club. Following the successful introduction of our Under 14 Girls team in 2025, Kym has continued to build on that momentum, creating opportunities for more girls to experience the game, develop their skills and become part of the Bullants family.

Through ongoing recruitment, coordination and encouragement, Kym has helped create a positive and welcoming environment where our female players can enjoy their football, build friendships and develop confidence both on and off the field.

Her contribution goes well beyond organising teams. Kym is helping shape a club culture where female players feel valued, supported and encouraged to participate at every level.

Kym's commitment is helping lay the foundations for a strong and sustainable future for female football at the Preston Bullants.

Thank you, Kym, for your passion, dedication and continued commitment to growing female football at the mighty Bullants!

Adam Lancaster: Sponsorship Coordinator

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank and acknowledge Adam Lancaster for his contribution to the Preston Bullants Junior Football Club and, in particular, for the important role he has played as our Sponsorship Coordinator.

Adam has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to support the club's sponsorship program, building relationships with our valued sponsors and helping secure the support that is so important to the ongoing success of the Bullants.

His commitment, professionalism and willingness to contribute to the club have been greatly appreciated. Sponsorship plays a vital role in helping us provide opportunities and a positive football environment for our players, and Adam's efforts have made a meaningful difference.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the whole Preston Bullants family, thank you, Adam, for everything you have contributed to the club.

We truly appreciate your time, effort and commitment to the Bullants and look forward to seeing you continue to be part of our club community.

Gavin McLean: Player Registrations Coordinator

We would like to acknowledge and thank Gavin for taking on the important role of Player Registrations Coordinator at the Preston Bullants Junior Football Club.

Gavin has taken responsibility for managing player registrations and supporting families throughout the registration process, helping ensure our players are organised and ready for the season.

The registrations' role involves significant work behind the scenes, particularly before and during the season. Gavin's willingness to step up, give his time and take on this responsibility has been greatly appreciated by the Committee and wider Bullants community.

His contribution has helped make the registration process smoother for players and families, allowing the Club to focus on providing our young footballers with a positive and enjoyable experience.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, coaches, volunteers, players and families, thank you, Gavin, for your commitment and valuable contribution to the Bullants.

Sophie Bogdis: Events Coordinator

We would like to sincerely thank and acknowledge Sophie Bogdis for her wonderful contribution to the Preston Bullants Junior Football Club in her role as Events Coordinator.

Sophie has played an important role in organising and coordinating Club events throughout the season, bringing enthusiasm, energy and a strong commitment to creating enjoyable experiences for our players, families and wider Bullants community.

Her willingness to give her time, work with volunteers and help bring our events together has been greatly appreciated. Events are an important part of our Club, providing opportunities for families to connect, friendships to grow and our community to come together and celebrate being a Bullant.

Sophie's contribution has helped strengthen the sense of community and belonging that makes the Preston Bullants such a special Club.

Thank you, Sophie, for your dedication and contribution to the Bullants.

Kate Nicolazzo: Committee Contribution

We would like to sincerely thank Kate Nicolazzo for her valuable contribution to the Preston Bullants Junior Football Club and her commitment as a member of our committee.

Kate has made a wonderful contribution to the Club, taking on a range of important tasks and always being willing to lend a hand wherever needed. One of her key achievements has been helping to revamp and refresh the Bullants website, ensuring it better reflects our Club, our people and the opportunities we provide to our players and families.

Kate has also been a fantastic supporter of our Club events, providing valuable assistance behind the scenes and helping ensure they run smoothly. In particular, her contribution to our Best & Fairest Night was greatly appreciated, helping create a special evening for our players, families and volunteers.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, coaches, volunteers, players and families, thank you, Kate, for your time, effort and enthusiasm. Your contribution has made a real difference to the Bullants community.

Club Award & Milestones

Club Awards

The PBJFC would also like to acknowledge and congratulate the follow club award recipients

- David Sutton Coach of the Year Award: Bruno Scuili, Assistant Coach U14
- Russel Lambert Club Person Award: Kate Nicolazzo
- Dennis McNiece Award: Alex Burmeister

Milestones

100 Bullants Junior Games

The following players reached the 100 Bullants Junior Games Milestone during 2026:

- Ollie Caruso
- Jack Thomas
- Jonah Nicolazzo
- Andrew McDonald
- Adam Mazzone
- Daniel McCarthy
- Oscar Azzarone

150 Junior Games

The following players reached the 150 Junior Games Milestone during 2026:

- Reuben Alonso
- Marley Stewart

Player Life Membership

Started at the Club	Players Name	# Bullants Games
2017	Daniel McCarthy	137
2017	Alberto Cocco	127



Under 16 White's Jack Thomas celebrating his 100th game of junior football

PBJFC Strategic Plan: Year One Report

Introduction

2026 was the first year of the Preston Bullants Junior Football Club Strategic Plan 2026–2028. The plan was developed collaboratively, building on our 2023–2025 plan and shaped by feedback from parents and carers through the 2025 Member Survey. The Committee of Management then came together for a facilitated planning session to celebrate progress and set clear, achievable priorities for the years ahead.

The plan focuses on four goals: strengthen our foundations, champion inclusion and diversity, invest in our future, and develop great players and great people. Together they support our vision of a safe and welcoming club for all children and their families to develop their football skills, love for the game and connection with the local community.

As committed in the plan, we report on our progress each year through the Annual Report and at the AGM. This report sets out each Year One action and where it stands.

Goal 1: Strengthen our Foundations

Year One action	Commentary
Continue the day-to-day operations that keep the club running smoothly — registrations, coach and team selection, uniforms and merchandise, canteen, facilities and all game day activities	Day to day operations have continued to run smoothly throughout 2026. Efficient processes were introduced to allocate Ground Manager duties using tools the Club already had. Uniform ordering has been reviewed with prospective new systems to be introduced. EOI forms introduced to support new player registrations. Ticketing systems such as Humanitx and sign-up systems such as Signupgenious used throughout the season to ease volunteer burden and provide ease registration.
Recruit volunteer coordinators to improve operation of: canteen, events, grants, social media and communication	We now have volunteers specifically leading: Events (Sophie), and Grants (Kate). Employed person for Ground Manager duties to ease the volunteer burden. Still looking for a volunteer to lead the Canteen operations 😊.
Maintain and promote Child Safe Accreditation	Completed.
Refresh the website	Completed.
Refresh the social calendar	Completed: we invested significant effort in refreshing the program of events and members have responded well.
Introduce a short quarterly update for members highlighting progress, key decisions and successes	Completed: This year we introduced a monthly e-newsletter.
Hold an annual planning and review process	Parent and Carer Survey is still out for feedback. Annual planning session scheduled for late Nov 2026 (TBC)

Goal 2: Champion Inclusion and Diversity

Year One action	Commentary
Implement our Women and Girls Football Strategy	Under 14 Girls competed in Division 3 and reached the Grand Final. Throughout the season development supported by YJFL involvement, a Carlton AFLW visit, interleague representation and Darebin Falcons player. Auskick had an increase in female participation including a stand along girls' group. Connections were strengthened with visits by Under 14 players.
Maintain our commitment to the YJFL Women & Girls Charter	Throughout 2026, PBJFC maintained its commitment to the YJFL Women & Girls Charter by keeping the needs and experiences of girls central to the program. Attention to coaching conduct, responsiveness to family feedback and support during changes in team leadership reinforced this commitment. These experiences highlighted the ongoing importance of listening to players, addressing concerns promptly and ensuring girls feel valued and respected within the club.
Celebrate the annual inclusion themed rounds (e.g. Sir Douglas Nicholls Round, Pride Round)	This year we celebrated Sir Douglas Nicholls Round at HP Zwar Park.
Review language, imagery and signage to ensure the club's spaces feel welcoming to everyone	This action has been moved to 2027 and will be a focus for next season.

Goal 3: Invest in our Future

Year One action	Commentary
Strengthen sponsorship relationships through clear packages and recognition	Sponsorship was completely restructured at the start of the year and led to a 61%increase in income with a total of $22,050.00.
Build stronger links with Darebin City Council and Preston Sharks Cricket Club	In progress. Several meetings have been held with Council members throughout the year. Mostly to advocate for access to Preston City Oval and or facility upgrades.
Improve canteen offerings and club presentation to strengthen pride and belonging	In progress – we need a Canteen Manager Volunteer to lead this.
Strengthen our ties with Auskick to grow the pipeline of footballers	Ongoing – committee members volunteered and sponsored several BBQs for the Auskickers in 2026 and

Goal 4: Develop Great Players and Great People

Year One action	Commentary
Deliver preseason coach & team manager induction	Completed.
Review process for grading players (from U13) and communicate pathways for player development to parents and players	Head of Footy Operations led a full review of the Team Selection Policy (which can be found here on our website). The new policy and procedure were presented to all families affected (those going into U13 and Youth Boys in 2027) on Monday 7th of September.
Celebrate sportsmanship & effort at presentation day (as well as performance)	Complete: we introduced new awards in 2026 including:

Year One action	Commentary
	• Junior Leadership Award: an older player who has mentored and set a great example for younger players. • Future Coach Award: a player who has shown real coaching instinct. • Most Likely to be Club President: a natural leader with big club energy. • Bullants Spirit Award: the person who best embodies what it means to be a Bullant • Bullants family award for those who go above and beyond as a whole family
Review and reinforce our Code of Conduct across all roles	Held a mid-season player, coach and family player code of conduct session with Coaches and Team Managers to review data collated by YJFL. This will be a key focus in 2027.
Continue to offer wellbeing / resilience sessions for players	This year we held training sessions with Sport & Life Training (SALT) for Under 14 Girls focussing on empowerment and Under 15 to Youth Boys focussing on leadership.





Left: A packed house at Preston Townhall for Future Leaders Night

Right: Cr Emily Dimitriadis (Mayor) John Pappas (PBJFC President), Cr Connie Boglis attending Sir Douglas Nicholls Round

Treasurer’s Report

Ben Thompson, Treasurer

The club remains in a sound financial position. For the year ended 30 September 2026 we recorded a net profit of $16,864.30 and closed with net assets of $248,459.65.

Income grew 20.8%, but operating expenses grew 54.0%, so the surplus is less than half of last year's. Much of the increase is spending flagged in the 2025 report (utilities and new equipment), plus a higher level of investment in player development and club events. The balance sheet remains strong, and the club is now using it, as intended, to support the Strategic Plan.

Measure	**2026 ($)**	**2025 ($)**	**Change**
Total trading income	141,463.90	117,143.82	+20.8%
Total operating expenses	124,599.60	80,913.35	+54.0%
Net profit	16,864.30	36,230.47	-53.5%
Total bank	244,259.65	228,095.35	+7.1%
Net assets	248,459.65	231,595.35	+7.3%

Income

Total trading income was $141,463.90, up $24,320.08 on 2025. Every major line grew.

Membership and registration revenue was $61,894.86 (2025: $58,817.06), up 5.2%, from 327 registered players. The figure is net of costs budgeted into registration fees (community development, game day, equipment, player development and club running costs).

Sponsorship: Sponsorship revenue was $22,050.00 (2025: $13,698.00), up 61.0% and the largest percentage gain. Adam Lancaster's sponsor engagement contributed to the result.

Apparel and merchandise sales: $27,725.76 (2025: $21,083.07), up 31.5%. Sales exceeded apparel purchases by $7,406.85.

Canteen: $13,526.92 net (2025: $10,621.81), up 27.4%. Shown net of canteen costs and includes game day sales of merchandise (scarves, beanies, caps etc.) through the canteen.

Fundraising: $8,377.82 (2025: $6,186.56), up 35.4%. Events included the Quiz Night, Future Leaders Night and Bunnings Sausage Sizzle. Sophie and Kate's work in organising and running these events was a key contribution to the result. Toyota Good for Footy fundraising has not yet been realised and will fall into the 2027 budget.

Grants and donations: $2,130.00 in grants and $940.00 in donations. Neither was received in 2025.

Interest: $4,568.54 (2025: $2,731.22), up 67.3%, following the opening of a new bank account during the year and the placement of some existing equity in a high interest account for the 2026 financial year.

Other: $250.00 across Other and Other Revenue (2025: $4,006.10).

Expenditure

Operating expenses were $124,599.60, up $43,686.25 (54.0%) on 2025. Last year was unusually low, as some

budgeted spend did not progress and some prior-year costs did not recur.

Reclassification: Community Development decreased from $21,185.12 to $1,376.00, while Club Nights ($10,673.26) and Club Operating Expenses ($30,809.41, compared with $4,609.92 previously) both increased. These variances are largely attributable to the reclassification of expenditure from Community Development. Season launch, pizza nights, team bonding and Indigenous Round are now recorded under Club Nights and Club Operating Expenses. The increase in Club Operating Expenses additionally reflects the cost of non-parent coaching staff and the Footy Operations Manager.

Utilities and overheads: Electricity/gas was $3,066.79 (2025: $424.06), insurance $1,214.43 (2025: nil) and IT $1,022.66 (2025: nil). Insurance was obtained this year and was not held for the 2025 season. Some 2025 utility bills were paid in the 2026 financial year. The 2025 report flagged these would fall into this year's accounts.

Equipment: Match day and training equipment $10,656.68 (2025: $5,306.09), office equipment $4,335.86 (2025: $491.88) and other equipment $2,706.28 (2025: $928.89). Combined equipment spend was $17,698.82 (2025: $6,726.86).

Player development: Player development expenditure was $11,856.01 (2025: $6,509.00), up 82.1%, as budgeted programs went ahead, including team bonding sessions.

Match day and operations expenditure was $8,285.95 (2025: $4,993.40), up 65.9%. The increase includes additional costs for the ground manager as well as supplementary umpires.

Trophies: $10,317.70 (2025: $4,374.20). The 2025 figure reflected invoicing for that year's presentation day only.

Apparel and merchandise purchases: $20,318.91 (2025: $25,319.83), down 19.8%.

New or small lines: YJFL player fees $901.08, special player allowance $568.78, bad debts $500.00, subscriptions $254.98, printing and stationery $62.00 and bank charges $1.75

Ground hire ($2,858.42) and cleaning ($1,615.00) were broadly in line with 2025 and with expected costs.

Financial Position

Total bank rose $16,164.30 to $244,259.65. Funds are now held across three accounts: the main account ($89,840.75, down from $226,834.68), the card account ($1,108.22) and a new account ($153,310.68). Accounts receivable is $4,200.00 (2025: $3,500.00).

The 2025 comparatives have been restated to remove the $600.00 PBJFC float previously reported as a current asset, so 2025 net assets show as $231,595.35 rather than the $232,195.35 in last year's report.

The club's financial position is largely the result of fundraising and sponsorship efforts, which are not guaranteed, and of the historic efforts of past committee members to ensure a strong financial position. Player fees are therefore set at a level considered appropriate to ensure the continued success of the club.

Thank you to the committee for their time and commitment, to our sponsors and supporters, and to the wider club community of volunteers, families and players.



Under 16 White were fed a feast at their team bonding session at Ruthven



Under 10 White had an awesome time at AFL Max



Under 16 Red headed off to see an AFL match for their team bonding session

Financial Statement

Profit and Loss

For the year ended 30 September 2026

	2026	2025
Trading Income	**$**	**$**
APPAREL/MERCH. SALES (incl. Jumpers)	27,725.76	21,083.07
CANTEEN (Net Income)	13,526.92	10,621.81
DONATIONS	940.00	-
FUNDRAISING	8,377.82	6,186.56
GRANTS	2,130.00	-
INTEREST	4,568.54	2,731.22
MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATIONS (Net)	61,894.86	58,817.06
OTHER	50.00	4,006.10
Other Revenue	200.00	-
SPONSORSHIP Income	22,050.00	13,698.00
Total Trading Income	141,463.90	117,143.82
Gross Profit	**141,463.90**	**117,143.82**
Operating Expenses		
Bad debts	500.00	-
Bank charges	1.75	-
Cleaning	1,615.00	1,360.00
Club apparel/merch purchases (incl.jumpers, socks, shorts)	20,318.91	25,319.83
Club nights	10,673.26	-
Club operating expenses	30,809.41	4,609.92
Community development	1,376.00	21,185.12
Consumer affairs	-	49.00
Donation	51.75	1,275.00
Electricity/gas	3,066.79	424.06
Gifts	210.90	201.00
Ground hiring	2,858.42	2,806.58
Insurance	1,214.43	-
IT expenses	1,022.66	-
Match day & training equipment	10,656.68	5,306.09
Match day expenses	8,285.95	4,993.40
Office equipment	4,335.86	491.88
Other equipment	2,706.28	928.89
Player development	11,856.01	6,509.00
Printing	62.00	-
Special player allowance	568.78	-
Sponsorship payments	935.00	1,023.00
Subscriptions	254.98	-

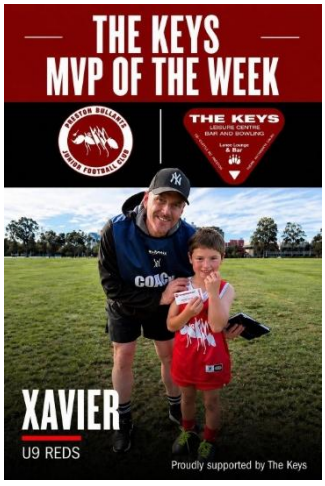
	2026	2025
	$	$
Trophies	10,317.70	4,374.20
Volunteer expenses	-	56.38
YJFL player fees	901.08	-
Total operating expenses	**124,599.60**	**80,913.35**
Net Profit	**16,864.30**	**36,230.47**

Balance Sheet

As at 30 September 2026

	30 SEPT 2026	30 SEPT 2025
Assets	$	$
Bank		
Preston Bullants JFC Inc	89,840.75	226,834.68
Preston Bullants JFC Inc Card	1,108.22	1,260.67
Preston Bullants Junior Football Club	153,310.68	-
Total Bank	244,259.65	228,095.35
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	4,200.00	3,500.00
Total Current Assets	**4,200.00**	**3,500.00**
Total Assets	**248,459.65**	**231,595.35**
Net Assets	**248,459.65**	**231,595.35**
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	16,864.30	36,230.47
Retained Earnings	231,595.35	195,364.88
Total Equity	**248,459.65**	**231,595.35**





Rise & Grind Volunteer of the Week and The Keys MVP of the Week social media images, new sponsorship arrangements for 2026

Football Report

Steven Logozzo, Football Operations Manager

The 2026 season has been another fantastic year for the Preston Bullants Junior Football Club, filled with growth, development, and community spirit across all age groups. The Club fielded 15 teams: U8s, two U9s, two U10s, U11s, two U12s, U13s, U14s Boys and Girls, U15s, two U16s and Youth Boys (U17.5).

At the younger end, our Under 8s and two Under 9s teams brought plenty of excitement and energy each week, focusing on football's fundamentals and showing the true Bullants spirit. Our two Under 10s, Under 11s, two Under 12s, and Under 13s all continued to develop their skills and confidence, with great progress shown across the board.

In the older age groups, our Under 14s Boys and Girls, Under 15s, and two Under 16s demonstrated strong teamwork and resilience throughout the season, competing hard and representing the club with pride. Overall, 2026 has been a year of growth, connection, and true Bullants spirit — both on and off the field.

On behalf of the committee and the wider Preston Bullants JFC community, we would like to bid farewell to players who are moving on to senior football or choosing to pursue other interests outside of the game. We wish you all the best for 2027 and beyond and hope to see you back at the club as supporters, volunteers, or even future coaches.

Volunteers are the heartbeat of community football clubs, without them, everything stops. PBJFC is so grateful for everyone who volunteered as a club and helped us build something bigger than ourselves.

Thank you to all players, families, coaches, and volunteers for making 2026 such a wonderful year both on and off the field. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2027 for another fantastic season of Bullants football.

Finals Appearances

Well done to the following teams for qualifying for the 2026 YJFL finals series.

- U11 Mixed, Division 3
- U12 Mixed Red, Division 3
- U14 Boys, Division 2
- U14 Girls, Division 3
- U15 Boys, Division 2
- U16 Boys Red, Division 2

Premierships

- U13 Boys, Division 4



Under 13 Premiership team displaying their banner at the Future Leaders Night

YJFL Representation

YJFL Interleague Program

In 2026, PBJFC had players participate in the Interleague representative football representing the YJFL. These players included:

- Dean Sciulli
- Phoebe James
- Molly Matucci (a registered Preston player playing at Brunswick due to no Preston U16 girls' team)

YJFL Best and Fairest

In addition, the following players were invited to attend the YJFL best and fairest awards. Congratulations players.

Liam Welsh, 3rd Youth Boys Division 2,

Reuben Alonso, 1st Under 16 Division 2

Ollie Caruso, 1st Under 15 Division 2

Zane Azzarone, 2nd Under 15 Division 2

Phoebe James, 2nd Under 14 Division 3

Joey Caruso, 1st Under 13 Division 4

Jude Richardson, 1st Under 12 Division 3



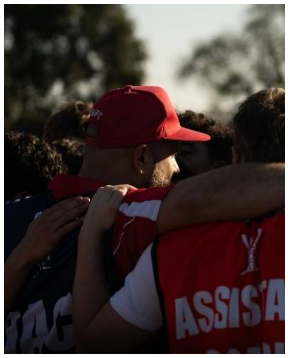
From left to Right: Reuben Alonso, Ollie Caruso, Zane Azzarone and Joey Caruso at the YJFL best and fairest

YJFL Team of the Year

Lastly, Liam Welsh was selected for the Youth Boys team of the Year.

Acknowledgement & Thank You's

It is with the tremendous support of our Coaches and Team Managers that junior football operates. We thank each and every one of them.



Team	Coach	Assistant Coach	Team Manager
Under 8	Emlyn Jenkins	Em Smith	Rory De Knock
Under 9 Mixed Red	Adam Lancaster	Christian Christodolou	Jessica Vidinopoulos
Under 9 Mixed White	Bill Forshaw Chloe Hanson	Myles Kennedy	Brooke King
Under 10 Mixed Red	Gavin McLean	Jordan Andrews	Melanie Weston
Under 10 Mixed White	Chris Millard	David Strangis	Elice Rudland
Under 11 Mixed	Glenn Thorneycroft	Adam Berkley	Amanda Hopes
Under 12 Mixed Red	Lachie Richardson Charles Beaton	Grant Madden	Darren Pruscino
Under 12 Mixed White	Kristian Koutoufides	Fraser Davies	Dianna Kairis
Under 13 Mixed	Sonny Caruso	Tom Richardson Olivia Kerr	Megan Goodman
Under 14 Mixed	Alastair Jaffray	Cam Hanna	Belinda McKenzie-McHarg Matt Harmer
Under 14 Girls	Dave Mattuci	Libby Hanlon	Stephanie Butera Patrick Thomas
Under 15 Boys	Scott Bartlett	Sam Caruso	Harry Georgatos
Under 16 Boys Red	John Pasceri	Frank Tomai Sam Heffernan	Tash Mitskinis
Under 16 Boys White	Liam Pappas	Harry Smith	Paige Thomas
Youth Boys	Dominic Douglas	Victor Pirdis	Melissa McCarthy

Contact Us

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