

Firstly, let me thank the club for the opportunity to be senior coach for season 2017/18. It's a privilege and appreciate the trust shown in me to do the job. I hope I can help the players, administration and supporters come together to make this club great again.

I think most of you have read about my background in a newsletter earlier in the year, so I won't bore you with all the details. Needless to say, I have a wealth of playing and coaching experience, combined with a background in education and organisational change management which is already being called upon!

Since accepting the role back in June, I've been doing a lot of observing and listening. Here's a quick summary of the key things I've seen and heard.

1. There's been a distinct lack of development of players in the senior ranks. This has been a result of unstructured and mundane training.
2. Nunawading has great junior program led by Rob Nash, Jean Paul and Pete Jessup and ably supported by all the coaches and volunteer parents. This is the future of the club and is already starting to bear fruit with some talented youngster making their way into the senior ranks and to bigger things beyond Nunawading.
3. We have an incredibly multicultural mix of players which has resulted from our value of being highly inclusive and welcoming of anyone who wants to play cricket. This creates some challenges, but it also brings some incredible benefits and forces us to continually evaluate how we can integrate all these groups into one united club.
4. We have a great core group who administer the club and do all the things behind the scenes to make this a great place play to cricket and socialise. They are also not resting on their laurels, with great plans to continue to improve the facilities, which are already coming to fruition with the new nets and run up areas and freshly painted rooms. However this group needs more support.
5. Whilst there is an appetite for change, we are still stuck in the old ways of doing things. For example, the numbers I've seen at pre-season training at times are the lowest I've seen at any club I have been at, particularly for a club of our size. As a comparison, at my division two club in Burnley in England, we had 15 players at training with only two sides. We have had sessions with less than that or equal to that number 6 times over pre-season. Six times. Being a local club, the expectation is certainly not that everyone is there for every session. Again the attendance figures tell an interesting story. We had only 13 players turn up to 50% or more of the pre-season sessions and two of those were juniors! Early days I know, but certainly the signs haven't been great and we need to change the way we think about training.
6. Our member database is incomplete and or full of outdated information, making communication difficult and limited. Tools like team app, facebook, email, etc are being used but our members are not fully engaged.
7. It is difficult to coach when you are a training coordinator.

So what's our plan to address some of the things I've mentioned.

1. We've changed how we will train this year. There is a season plan (see the player handbook) with strong emphasis on skill development. Every session has skills focus for bowlers, batters, fielders and wicketkeepers. There are also sessions to get players thinking about the mental side of cricket to give us an additional edge over our opposition. Players turning up

to training will be able to look at the whiteboard and know what warm up they need to do and what the focus of the session is. We've also brought on board a second level 3 high performance cricket coach in Leigh Callender to help juniors and seniors on a Tuesday. Get to training and start reaping the benefits for you and the team you play in!

2. Players will also be expected to take ownership of their own development. Whilst we will provide the framework, my expectation is that players identify areas they need to work on and then seek ways to address them.
3. We've already begun the process of establishing a leadership group who will provide support to the coaches at training and help develop other leaders. This group consists of our captains and senior players.
4. We have already implemented the Nunawading Cricket Academy to continue the investment in our junior players. The academy had its first intake of junior players earlier this year. This program will be enhanced and run again next year. If there is interest, perhaps we offer a program to some of our senior cricketers? I'll talk more about this in a minute.
5. To be successful on the field, we also need to be successful off the field, so we have facilities and finances to do what we need to do and do it well. #beinvolved sums up a great way to make this happen. We need everyone to do their bit, not just the committee or coaches or captains. If you have read or heard of the book titled Legacy by James Kerr, you might have heard the saying "sweep the sheds". It refers to the All Blacks, one of the most successful sporting clubs in history. Before the players leave the change rooms after a game, they tidy up after themselves. Even some of the greatest names in the history of rugby take a few minutes to pick up rubbish so someone else doesn't have to do that crappy job. That's the culture we want to develop at Nunawading. Get to social functions and match reports after the game, bring in the cones, run the bowling machine if injured, help paint the rooms, take out and bring in the scoreboard without being asked. What a great place it would be if we all did those little things! #beinvolved
6. I'll also be introducing some KPI's (key performance indicators) so we have something to aim for and track each game and for the year. The captains will be providing more details of the game day KPI's to their sides this week. The club goals are the following:
 - a. 1's promoted to Ray McIntosh Shield in 2018/2019 season
 - b. All 5 senior sides to play finals
 - c. Overall in the senior club, win more games than we lose / draw
 - d. Minimum 3 premierships across the senior club
 - e. All 5 sides to win home and away games in the same round / week.
 - f. Everyone gets involved around the club #beinvolved
7. A new registration process has been implemented to ensure we get everyone's contact details up to date. This will allow us to improve communication across the club. We are also actively promoting the use of team app and the other social media tools to everyone. Please ensure you get on board and update your details asap.

Academy Presentation

As I mentioned earlier, we had our first intake of the Nunawading Cricket Academy earlier this year, with 9 juniors participating in a 6-week program. The program provided participants with specialised coaching and video analysis of their batting and bowling technique. Feedback on the program was overwhelmingly positive, but we have also been given some great suggestions from the players on how we can improve the program and will be adjusting it accordingly.

I'd like to thank the players and their parents for jumping on board and backing the program in its inaugural program. It was a leap of faith and hopefully they are seeing the benefits.

To mark the occasion, we have had some shirts commissioned, with each player receiving an individually numbered shirt (show sample). These numbers will then be continued on for any future intakes, much like the numbered baggy green concept for Australian cricket. A photo of the group along with the number 1 shirt will be framed and put up in the clubrooms to mark the inaugural intake.

I'd like to invite them all to come up and receive their shirt from Rob Nash as we call them up.

Number	First Name	Surname	Father	Mother	Award
2	Joshua	Richardson	Mark	Lynda	Gun Bat
3	Lachlan	Day	Tim	Debbie	Gun Fast Bowler
4	Cameron	Clark	Derek	Saranjit (Poupae)	Spin Guru
5	Rohan	Roy	Subir	Rupam	
6	Zachary	Scully	Wilbur	Tamara	
7	Dulina	Gunaratne	Sumudu	Dilu	
8	Vuyo	Miskin	Ikram	Romi	
9	Ryan	Mackie	Glen	Luisa	
10	Riley	Bennetts	Peter	Camille	