



**2025**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**RICHARD BALDWIN**

Even after writing 9 President's Reports, it's still a pleasure to reflect on our Club's achievements. There are many people to thank for the ongoing prosperity and achievements of the Club.

CLUB COMMITTEE without whom Randwick City FC would be a just good idea. *Jim Welsh* (Treasurer & VP), *Amanda Davis* (Secretary), *Charlie Muscat* (Registrar & IT guru), *Ben Folino* (Juniors & PH), *Kathryn Davidson* (Fundraising & Sponsorship), *Kelly Murphy* (Social Media and Comms), *PJ Scahill*, *Gavin O'Dwyer* (Directors).

Clubs cannot exist without the dedication of its coaches, and we have the best. Coaches are the interface between Club Committee and players and are the instruments that promote Club culture and values.

SENIOR COACHES MPL *Adam Parle, Dylan Nolan, Robert Gold*. AAM1 (Sat) *Edan Shelley*. AAM1 *Calum McLelland*. AAW1 *Jim Welsh*. AAM2 *Hayden Gawley*. AAM5 *Scott Lawless*. AAM6, *Oscar Zeleny Brent Galea*. AAW30 *Mel Silva, Richard Baldwin*. AAM35s *Mark Doherty, Jim Welsh*. AAM45 *Stephen Nogher*. AAM45/ PH *Ben Folino Richard Baldwin*.

JUNIORS COACHES *PJ Scahill, Matthew Pilcher, Raphael Danoy, Sophie Creighton, Danny Simpson, Paul McGarry*.

Funding is always an issue for any volunteer organisation. We are very thankful for funding we have received from our generous sponsors, *TradeConnex, MVP Health, Bendigo Community Bank Clovelly, Lea Real Estate, Matraville Hotel, Kelko Constructions, NSW Ports, PPLG*.

As this is our 15th year we are celebrating with typical RCFC panache. A sit down gala dinner for 170 people will be held on 15th November. Many thanks to the organising Committee, ensuring we have a memorable special night. The Committee is headed up by *Ali Kelly*, with project delivery *Gavin Fields*, creativity and styling *David Doyle* ably assisted by *Kelly Murphy, PJ Scahill* and *Kath Davidson*.

Special thanks goes to *Mark Doherty* who, with guts, determination and considerable hair loss, re-established an O35s mens side, this time in Division 1. Over age teams are instrumental in underlining our inclusivity, with players able to compete well into their 40s and beyond. Neither ability, disability, age nor gender prevent you participating in our great game and being part of the great Randwick City culture.

Thanks goes to our governing bodies ESFA, FNSW, Football Australia. Special thanks goes to the Admin and grounds staff at Randwick City Council who maintain and facilitate our use of Chifley Sportsfields and Heffron Synthetic. Without these facilities our club ceases to exist.

We are delighted to welcome our local politicians to our Gala Dinner. We will be joined by Federal Member for Kingsford Smith *Matt Thistlethwaite*, State Member for Coogee *Dr Marjorie O'Neill*, Randwick City Lord Mayor *Dylan Parker* and South Ward Councillors *Danny Said* and *Noel D'Souza*. We thank them for making time in their schedules to attend.

After all this input, how did our teams go? Our onfield success this year is nothing short of remarkable. Four grand finals contested for 4 victories! Most pleasing are the Grand Final and Cup double won by MPL and the Grand Final and League double won by Sunday AAM1s. For a small Club to finish at the pinnacle of both Men's Saturday and Sunday football is unprecedented. To achieve this within 9 years of being in ESFA is an achievement anyone who has ever worn the purple should take immense pride. Not to be overshadowed by this success is the Grand Final win of our AA5s. Brand new coach Scott assembles a fighting force from an exciting mix of new and returning players and wins the GF from 4th spot, a very tough achievement. This victory sets the tone for 3 more victories at Hensley Field. Our brand new AAW1 side finished top 4, narrowly bowing out in their semi on penalties to the team who went on to win the title.

Football is not just about success and trophies. Teams which don't make finals have much to celebrate, friendships formed and unique experiences which last long after the final whistle and season end. The first meeting of interested parties formed Randwick City Football Club on 23 August 2010. This group shared a common vision and the drive to create a football club with a culture of inclusivity and transparency which will breed success. The journey has been 15 years. *Quod erat demonstrandum* is the very pleasant aftertaste of Season 2025.

# PURPLE HEARTS & JUNIORS

## BEN FOLINO

### PURPLE HEARTS

A year ago, I watched a documentary called Join or Die. It explored the important role that clubs play in building community among neighbours. It certainly piqued my interest, as it made me think about our own club and what we've done to enable people who might never have thought to play football because the barriers to participation were simply too great.



I'm not sure how often clubs stop to reflect on the bigger picture their contribution to society and their place in the world. When I think about ours, I think, of course, about the Purple Hearts and what we've achieved for the many people with disability who've given football a go.

We have Purple Hearts players who've been with us for nearly the entirety of the club's existence. We've watched them grow from young kids into young adults, holding down steady jobs and even driving cars. It's been an honour watching those who came along on the club's journey develop and thrive.

I'm incredibly proud of our club and what it's achieved in such a short period of time. It's been an enabler, an instrument for good, a place of love and belonging.

### JUNIORS

We had another terrific year. While we were unable to build on the 60 or so players we had in 2024, we still managed to field five teams (one fewer than last year) in 2025.

Although results were not officially recorded as is the feature of the MiniRoos competition our teams won a considerable number of matches. This success saw four teams the U8s (Giants and Joeys), U10s, and U11s move up two grades during the course of the season.



We were also fortunate to have an entire U8s team from the Coogee White Tigers join our juniors, helping to boost player numbers.

We owe our success to our volunteer coaches, who devoted a significant amount of their time and energy to coaching our players and supporting them on their journey to developing a love for the game of football. We are extremely grateful for their community spirit and dedication to junior sport.

In closing, we'd like to thank **Lea Real Estate** for their amazing sponsorship this year. Their financial support enabled us to provide each player with a winter jumper to keep them warm and cosy during the colder months.

## **MENS PREMIER LEAGUE**

**ADAM PARLE, DYLAN NOLAN, ROBERT GOLD**

### **MEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE 1st GRADE**

Manager: **Adam Parle**  
Assistant Manager: **Dylan Nolan**  
First Team Coach: **Robert Gold**

The 2025 season will go down in Randwick City Football Club history. Under new management, former premiership player Adam Parle took the reins, supported by Dylan Nolan as assistant manager and Robert Gold as first-team coach. Together, they brought fresh energy, ambition, and tactical maturity to the side.

Despite losing some key figures from the previous year, the squad's response was nothing short of remarkable. A handful of new signings made an instant impact, blending seamlessly with the core group to create a side that was ready and fit to have an instant impact in ESFA football.



### **Season Overview**

The season was historic, with the team smashing records and setting new standards for the club moving forward. Randwick City's MPL 1st Grade side achieved what many would have thought improbable — securing a historic Double, winning both the MPL Grand Final and the ESFA Cup.

In the league, we fell just short of the title, finishing second by the narrowest of margins, but the consistency and quality shown across the year made it clear that Randwick City has become one of the true powerhouses of the competition.

## Team Performance

From the first whistle of the season to the last, the side showcased a dynamic brand of football — organised at the back, ruthless in attack, and full of spirit. Every player contributed to a campaign defined by resilience, belief, professionalism and togetherness, and it was the team’s togetherness that was the cornerstone of our success. The players’ commitment to training, match preparation, and each other created an environment of excellence that resonated across the entire club.

## Highlights

- Grand Final Champions
- ESFA Cup Winners
- Player’s Player of the Season: Ross Mann
- Managers Player of the Season: Dean Petrucco

## Road to the ESFA Cup Final

- QF: 4-0 vs CBD
- SF: 3-2 vs Gorillas
- FINAL: 1-0 vs Coogee

## Road to the Grand Final

- SF: 2-0 VS Waverley Old Boys
- FINAL: 3-2 VS Waverley Old Boys

## Culture & Spirit

The 2025 season was about more than trophies — it was about building a legacy. From the coaching staff to the players and supporters, the Randwick City family came together stronger than ever. The passion, belief, and pride that filled every match day defined what it means to wear the Randwick shirt. It truly was a season to remember — one that set new benchmarks and cemented our place among the elite.



## MENS AA1 (SAT)

### EDAN SHELLEY

A mixed season full of ups and downs for the Reserve Grade squad this year, finishing 6th out of 10 teams with 21 points and 6 wins. While the final table position doesn’t fully reflect the quality or potential within this group, there were plenty of positives to build on.



The team produced several standout performances across the campaign — none more memorable than the 8–2 victory over Maroubra in Gameweek 2 with a solid display of free flowing attacking football and an absolute screamer from Ryan Driver. Not to mention the gritty 5–3 win against CBD in Round 15, where a depleted squad showed real character and resilience. These moments captured the fighting spirit the team continued to display even after playoffs were no longer within reach.

Many RG players also contributed meaningfully to the club’s MPL double-winning season, a testament to the depth and development within the squad. That connection and shared success underline the important role the RG group continues to play in the wider RCFC setup.

With the lessons of this season and the talent in this group, the focus now turns to next season — returning stronger, more consistent, and pushing firmly for a top-four finish and beyond.

Players’ Player: **Mark Whelan**  
Manager’s Player: **Jordan Robson**  
Top Goalscorer: **Rich Amankwah**

## **MEN DIVISION 1**

### **CALUM McLELLAND**

After last season’s inconsistent performance, the goal was set as a minimum to make the finals. This goal was met head on by the players and what transpired was the greatest season in the team’s history:

- Being crowned League Premiers and Finals Champions.
- Finished the season 1<sup>st</sup> out of 8 teams. Also, winning the Grand Final.
- Accumulated a total of 41 Points over 18 matches. 12 wins, 5 draws and 1 loss.



#### **Key Highlights:**

A couple of particularly good performances was a 5-1 thumping of Barnstoneworth United, a traditionally tricky team for us. However, we dominated them from the start and had the game won by half time. It showed the high-performance level that this team was capable of and lead the team into the following week’s fixture against Coogee A needing only a point to secure the league. Which we took to be crowned champions.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Going through the first 6 rounds of fixtures of 4 wins and 2 draws. The team's confidence and belief was building that we could go well this season. So much so we went on an 8-game winning streak that grew daylight between us at the top and the rest of the teams below. An 8-game winning streak in the top league alone is a huge achievement. Included in this winning run was victories against last seasons top 3 teams in the space of a week. It was at this moment our goal changed from making the finals to winning the league. We knew and felt we were the team to beat this year and were up for the remaining challenges.

One of the best moments of the season was GK Ryan Docherty making a one on one save in the 120<sup>th</sup> minute of the Semi Final with the game finishing 3-3 and on to penalties. Our penalty takers score all our penalties. Stepping up once again Ryan Docherty to make the decisive save to put us in the Grand Final.

With the last 5 weeks of the season remaining and the league secured the football gods had a target on our backs. We succumbed to numerous season ending injuries that last us with half a starting XI out. This is testament to every player in the squad giving everything for the remainder of the season where we tasted defeat for the first time in the last game of the season in the last 30 seconds of the season. The remaining squad bounced back from this and made sure we got our place in the Grand Final and went on to win 1-0. Securing the historic double.



### Key Players:

Coach's Player of the year: **Adam Gregory**  
Player's Player of the year: **Ryan Docherty**  
Top Goal scorer: **Rory McFadden**  
10+ Goals: **Adam Gregory, Aidan Mullan,  
Ronan Corbett, Rory McFadden, Sean Blaney**

Special mention to the Captain, Adam Gregory and Vice-Captain, Aaron Rabbitte. The team and I appreciate your efforts this season.

I would like to thank the whole squad of players this year for their contributions to the team. None of the effort goes unnoticed. EVERY player contributed to the historic success of this season with either a goal or an assist but moreover with their efforts throughout.

The 2025 season created history. Can history be repeated? We'll find out next year. Up the Randwick!

Coach Calum McLelland

# WOMEN DIVISION 1

JIM WELSH

Following a tough 2024 for the all age women's sides and with a decline in returning players for a number of reasons, a decision was made at the start of the season to merge last season's WPL and AAW2 teams and enter this squad into Division 1. The squad was consisted in equal parts of players from both of these sides and new players, giving us a well rounded squad of 22 players for the season.



Pre-season gave a inkling of the season ahead with good numbers for training and games, starting with a 0-0 in 38c heat. This set the tone for the season, with the side having decent numbers every week for games and training, which allowed us to work and develop as a side across the season. The team's hallmark was an unstinting desire to win and competitiveness that was unmatched by any side in the league.

Our defence were solid and inspired throughout the season and we were lucky to have the division's best goalkeeper in Lizzie who recorded 5 clean sheets over the season. Our midfield were combative and gave us great additional defensive support as well as go forward creativity. Our attack got into great positions and we scored some great footballing goals across the season.

We were in every game until the end, with our most common victory scoreline 1-0 and a few defeats by 1-0 as well, and the team deservedly made the finals on the back of 7 wins and 4 draws. Unfortunately the footballing gods deserted us in a penalty shoot out in the finals after a 1-1 draw after extra time, with the other team going on to win the Grand Final. That shows how close we came to winning the competition and how much progress the team made over the year.

What was especially pleasing was the culture in the team, with several nights out and an end of season tour arranged by the playing group, and great camaraderie and support shown throughout the season. This puts us in a great place to build on and have an even more successful 2026.

Player's Player of the Year was awarded to Brit, who excelled across the season and was a pivotal figure in our defence. Coach's Player of the Year went to Emma, whose leadership inspired those around and who led by example, also contributing a number of critical goals across the season.

Overall the season was really enjoyable and successful and I look forward to being involved with the group in 2026.

## MEN DIVISION 2

### HAYDEN GAWLEY

Season 2025 started with high hopes. Losing two starting centre halves before the first ball was kicked to the O35s and injury was not ideal. More injuries early in the season also didn't help. Injury and holidays did however lead to some great new recruits I hope we can keep at the club.



Ultimately finishing 7th on the final day, missing out on top 4 despite beating 3 of the top 4 through the season, usually with very good performances in those games.

Struggling to get out the blocks against worse teams that should have been beaten. We did at least finish on a high note, with our only clean sheet and a 3-3 draw giving it all for a final day place in the top 4.

General lack of training, effort on game day and overall commitment dampened what could have been a very successful season with what is a very talented squad. Adding some new players in some key positions and lifting overall commitment levels of returning players next season should bring a much better result next season.

A big shoutout just go to Jack Wilsher for scoring his first ever senior goal, whilst playing with 10 men, beating 2 defenders on the break and coolly slotting past the keeper. Most improved player was undeniably Charlie Dubuisson, initially brought in for depth from the 5s, he exceeded everyone's expectations and became almost undroppable.

Players player goes to new player Gavin Healey, a mid-season revelation. Gavin scored and assisted in almost every game he played.

Coaches player goes to Gavin O'Dwyer for quite literally putting his body on the line almost week in week out, covering goals and any other position needed and only playing his preferred position for a total of about 7 minutes all season. Somehow ending up with a crazy new injury in the process every week.

#### Final record

Wins: 7  
Draws: 2  
Losses: 9

## MEN DIVISION 5

### SCOTT LAWLESS

The 2025 AA5 Randwick City FC season will go down as a successful season overall. Starting with a tough preseason where a team of mostly strangers, except a few familiar faces of last seasons team met for the first time.

We began our season away to the Lions where 2 goals won us the game, despite efforts from our own player to lose it scoring an own goal. Winning ways continued for our first few games. A strong start to the

season was then met with some tough losses and draws to lower teams. This was matched with the loss of some key players to injury, holidays and regional work.

Barely scraping into the finals the form finally started to arrive, with key players returning, a change in tactics and some new additions to the team, we never looked back from that point and went on to win 6 out of our last 7, beating the league champions Maroubra twice, as well as other top teams.

When we got to the Grand Final we knew we had to win, we played a close, sometimes scrappy game but came out 2-0 winners on the day thanks to goals from Dylan and Frank we ran out winners on the day capping off a successful first year for the team.



## MEN DIVISION 6

### OSCAR ZELENY, BRENT GALEA

Following last year's hard work, we entered the higher division for the 2024/25 season a similar squad with a few new upgrades. We backed our culture, our skills, and the belief that we were, in fact, pretty decent at



football. We actually played some good football this year: slick passing, rock-solid defending (mostly), and some genuinely classy goals. Our finishing often preferred the scenic route posts were hit and sitters were... politely declined. While performances frequently matched or exceeded those of our opponents, results did not always reflect the quality on the field. Hence my most-used word of the year: unlucky.

In spite of this, the team turned up. Training was sharper, and every match was fought right to the last minute. That resilience says everything about the group: competitive, committed, and also apparently allergic to winning comfortable games.

A massive shout-out to everyone for the season — highlights to Dougie for getting past 10 in the net, and Remy for putting his hand up for keeper and showing up every week.

Finally, a big shout-out to Brent for stepping up and helping run the team this season. Bring on next season, fewer posts hit, more goals scored, and maybe a new word of the year.

## WOMEN O30

MELISSA SILVA, RICHARD BALDWIN

Season 2025 began full of optimism, energy, and just enough fitness to get through the first couple of games. Once again, we were expertly herded (and occasionally scolded) by our fearless captain Kelly, who somehow managed to keep us motivated through what turned out to be our toughest seasons yet.



We opened the season in fine form: a couple of solid wins, some well-earned draws, and a few losses that could best be described as character building. As the season rolled on, we picked up a couple of new signings, thanks Kerissa and Tara, who slotted in perfectly and brought a bit of spark right when we needed it. But then came the injuries. One by one, we started to drop. The second half of the season was a grind: another gutsy draw, followed by some close, hard-fought losses. At one stage, we were down to eight players - no subs, no problem, just pure stubbornness keeping us going. Eventually, the injuries caught up with us completely, and a couple of forfeits were unavoidable.

Even though the results didn't always go our way, there were still plenty of highlights. Dee was nothing short of sensational in goals, growing in confidence every week, even though she still claims she can't run. Her saves kept us in games we probably had no right to be in, and it's no surprise she was voted *Players'*

*Player* this year. Not far behind was Alana, our new O30s recruit, who made an immediate impact and proved exactly why we've been trying to steal her from the Prem's for years.

And then there's Jo, our rock at the back, who never missed a game and never stopped giving 100%. She's the kind of player every team needs: reliable, tough, and always ready with a smile (or a sarcastic comment). She's more than earned the *Coach's Award* this season.

It might not have been the season we dreamed of, but the camaraderie, humour, and sheer stubbornness of this team made it one to remember. Here's to a 2026 season filled with fewer injuries, more wins, and the same unbeatable spirit. Because if there's one thing the O30s have proven, it's that we might bend, but we don't break (unless it's a collarbone\*)

\*Not football related, sorry Sophie.

## MEN O35

### MARK DOHERTY, JIM WELSH

Thanks to the ceaseless efforts of Mark Doherty and John Culkeen, 2025 finally saw the relaunch of the men's o35s side, with the decision made to enter into the Friday night Division 1 competition.

Starting a squad from scratch is never easy but we reached critical mass for the season in the week before the first game and continued recruiting until deadline day on 30<sup>th</sup> June. We welcomed

back players from all age sides who returned after a few years out, some from last year's all age sides and a healthy contingent of new players.



We were competitive across the season but were cruelled by injuries with 16 players out at one point, which left us short on numbers and without substitutes in a number of games where we ran out of legs after being in the game for the first 60-70 minutes.

The ESFA Friday night competition is one of the toughest in NSW, with 2 sides playing out the state cup final and one of them being Champion of Champion finalists, but we were not out of place in the division and had several close games against the top 4.

There is plenty to build on and a solid core who will return in 2026 to build upon the foundations laid in 2025. It is critical we maintain the 35s Div 1 side as this gives all players a natural progression to play top level football once the years advance. We are aiming for a top 4 finish in 2026 and then to build on that in the following years.

There was also a good culture in the team and a great golf day to round out the season.

Player's Player of the Year was awarded to Frank, who excelled across the season and was a clear winner, also contributing 10 goals in the season. Coach's Player of the Year went to Dave Delaney, who volunteered to play the toughest position in the game as our goalie, playing some great games and being an ever-present over the season.

2025 will be the toughest season we have in getting the side up and running – now to build and expand on what we put in place.

## **MEN O45**

### **STEPHEN NOGHER**

We are definitely getting better. After scraping off the bottom of the league, after a load of years stuck there, in the last game of last season, we were in no danger of ending back there.

We didn't even finish 2nd bottom. Another win on the last day put us into 8th place and put our frenemies at Maroubra into the second last spot. We had 4 wins and 3 draws and a record 26 goals scored across the season.



Everyone had a great season. I really enjoyed seeing the fear in the eyes of opposition defenders when our players player of the year was on the ball. Congratulations Rodrigo!

Coach's player goes to Hung who was involved in so many of our goals. His son Ming also deserves a shout out for recording great footage of our games.

There were a lot of outstanding performances during the season and that was reflected in the voting.

PJ received a lot of votes for his inexplicable saves, last year's award winners Dave and Alex had great seasons and attracted a lot of votes. Special mention also to Rodrigo who showed a lot of class and composure up front.

## 2025 AWARDS

LIFE MEMBER	NIALL BAXTER	2021
LIFE MEMBER	PAUL BUTLER	2021
LIFE MEMBER	BEN FOLINO	2022
LIFE MEMBER	CHARLIE MUSCAT	2022
CLUB PERSON OF THE YEAR		
CLUB SPIRIT AWARD		
BEN FOLINO SHIELD		
MENS PREMIER LEAGUE	COACH'S PLAYER	
	PLAYER'S PLAYER	
MENS DIVISION 1 (SAT)	COACH'S PLAYER	
	PLAYER'S PLAYER	
MENS DIVISION 1	COACH'S PLAYER	
	PLAYER'S PLAYER	
WOMEN DIVISION 1	COACH'S PLAYER	
	PLAYER'S PLAYER	
MENS DIVISION 2	COACH'S PLAYER	
	PLAYER'S PLAYER	
MENS DIVISION 5	COACH'S PLAYER	
	PLAYER'S PLAYER	
MENS DIVISION 6	COACH'S PLAYER	
	PLAYER'S PLAYER	
WOMEN OVER 30	COACH'S PLAYER	
	PLAYER'S PLAYER	
MENS O35	COACH'S PLAYER	
	PLAYER'S PLAYER	
MENS OVER 45	COACH'S PLAYER	
	PLAYER'S PLAYER	
GOLDEN BOOT		

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GOLDEN BOOT		
GOLDEN GLOVE		
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5 YEAR PIN		
10 YEAR PIN		
10 YEAR PIN		
LEAGUE CHAMPIONS	MENS PREMIER LEAGUE	
LEAGUE CHAMPIONS	MENS DIVISION 1	
LEAGUE CHAMPIONS	MENS DIVISION 5	
LEAGUE PREMIERS	MENS DIVISION 1	
ESFA CUP WINNERS	MENS PREMIER LEAGUE	