



SANDRINGHAM SOCCER CLUB

ABN 56 440 282 148 Incorporating

Sandringham City Junior Soccer Club

Sandringham Women's Soccer Club

Bayside Futsal

www.sandringhamsoccerclub.org.au

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SANDRINGHAM SOCCER CLUB

The Sandringham City Junior Soccer Club was first formed in 1975 as a part of the Sandringham City Soccer Club, a senior men's club.

The motivation was provided by the Victorian Soccer Federation (VSF) who decided that all senior clubs should have a junior program.

For the first few years, there was no separate junior club committee and all junior team administration was handled by the senior club committee. When the first junior team was formed, the senior club secretary of the day also acted as junior club secretary. In these early days, the numbers were quite small and the club started with just one junior team and one sub-junior team. All training and games were conducted at the Senior Club's home grounds at Sillitoe Reserve on Ludstone Street in Hampton.

In the early seventies, the Hampton Wanderers Soccer Club occupied both reserves at Spring Street where our new pavilion and our training grounds are now located. This club folded in 1977. The Hampton Wanderers had two junior teams (U/13 and U/16) and both of these teams transferred to Sandringham.

By 1980, the club was fielding three junior teams (U/12, U/14, and U/16) and a single sub-junior team (U/10). This single sub-junior team included players of all age groups. Some of the team members joined when they were six or seven and continued to play in the team until they finally reached the junior age group (U11).

In 1980, the father of one of the sub-junior players wrote the first junior club constitution and in 1981, the first junior club committee was formed. Although the junior club now had a separate committee, it was still part of the senior club and continued to pay fees to the senior club. The actual separation of the two clubs did not occur until 1984 and the Sandringham City Junior Soccer Club was incorporated in 1989.

When the two clubs separated in 1984, the junior club had 120 members. Membership in the club grew slowly between 1984 and incorporation in 1989 when the club had 145 registered players. Since that time, there has been a

tremendous increase in the number of players at the club. In season 2006, we fielded a total of 61 teams and registered almost 800 players and are now one of the largest soccer clubs in Victoria.

[A History of Girls' Soccer at the Sandringham Soccer Club](#)

In the late eighties and early nineties, it was common for girls to play in the younger sub-junior age groups. The lack of a girls' competition meant that they often dropped out of soccer by the time they reached U/9 or U/10 age groups.

The first girls' team fielded by Sandringham was an adult women's team. The women's team played as part of the junior club in the 1994 and 1995 seasons before moving to the senior club in 1996.

In 1996, The VWSF (Victorian Women's Soccer Federation) decided to set up the first junior girls' competition and Sandringham entered a team into the one and only team girls' junior league, U16's. There were eight teams in this fledgling competition. The team was comprised of players of all ages from U/11 and up as this was the only option for girls who wanted to play on an all female team. In the 1997 season, there was still only one girls' league although it had grown to eleven teams.

The 1998 season saw the expansion of the junior girls' competition to an U/17 league and an U/14 league. Sandringham's U/17 team won the grand final in a game against East Richmond beginning a history of success by our all female teams. By 2002 the number of girls' leagues in the FFV competition had grown and the club was fielding three teams...one U/12, one U/14 and one U/18. In 2003 following the World Cup and "Bend it Like Beckham", there was a tremendous increase in the numbers of registered female soccer players in Victoria and Sandringham was no exception. Sandringham fielded 10 all female teams that year including three U/12's, three U/14's, two U/16's, an U/18 and an Open Women's team.

In 2004, the FFV introduced U/10 girls into the competition and we were able to field two U/10 teams in addition to our 12 junior teams. In 2005 due to the huge increase in the number of girls playing soccer in Victoria, the FFV went to single age groups and a graded competition for girls.

In 2005, we applied to the FFV for our then Division 2 Women's team to be promoted to Division 1. The FFV complied with our request and our team won Division 1 and the right to be promoted to the Women's Premier League, the highest level of competition for females in Victoria. In its inaugural season in 2006, the team finished in the top half of the WPL table.

In 2006, we fielded 17 all female teams ranging from U10's through to our Premier League team. The number of girls playing in our mixed sub-junior teams and in our GK program has also grown significantly. Girls now comprise almost more than a third of all players at the club.

[A History of our Grounds](#)

In the early years, all training and games were conducted at the senior club's home ground in Ludstone Street. From 1980, the sub-juniors began to train and play matches at

Destructor Reserve in Spring Street, sharing the ground with a junior Australian Rules club. The junior teams continued to train and play home matches at Ludstone Street. When the junior club separated from the senior club in 1984, it gained exclusive winter season access to Destructor Reserve for training and home matches of all teams. The first set of lights (on the eastern side of the ground) was installed in 1987 after a member of the committee agreed to act as guarantor for the loan. The second set of lights (on the western side) was installed in 1990 and was financed by a loan from the Sandringham City Council. Because of the lack of facilities at Destructor, the club purchased a barbecue and a tent operated the first canteen using those facilities.

By 1990 the club had outgrown Destructor Reserve and, for the 1991 season acquired access to Castlefield Reserve in Ludstone Street. While teams continued to train at Spring Street, all sub-junior and junior home matches were played at Castlefield. The Castlefield reserve was still too small to satisfactorily meet the requirements of our growing club and from the start of the 1992 season, the Sandringham Council awarded the club winter season access to the Sandringham Secondary College playing fields on Holloway Road. Most of our teams still play their home games at this venue.

In 1998, the club had shared access to Shipston Reserve for overflow games. In 2001 and 2002, the club also had access to Simpson Reserve which was used to accommodate our rapidly growing number of girls' teams.

By 2004, it was clear that permanent winter access to additional training and playing grounds was needed to accommodate the rapidly growing number of players at the club. In 2004, the club successfully applied to the Council for winter access to Peterson Reserve on Highett Road in Highett for home games. The club was also granted limited access to the footy oval at Spring Street for training. Training lights were installed at the football ground in 2004 and at Peterson in 2005. We are also given full time access to the football oval from the beginning of season 2006 and a full time pitch was marked out and used for some home games there in that year.

[Sandringham Soccer Club Milestones](#)

1975	Junior Club formed as part of Senior Club.
1977	Hampton Wanderers Soccer Club folds and teams join Sandringham.
1980	Junior club constitution written and junior club committee formed-still part of Senior Club. Sub-juniors move to Destructor Reserve, Spring St. for training and home games.
1984	Junior Club separates from Senior Club. Both junior and sub-junior teams move to Destructor Reserve for training and home games.

- 1987 First set of lights installed at Spring Street on eastern end of ground.
- 1989 Junior Club incorporates.
- 1990 Second set of lights installed for training at Spring Street on west end.
- 1992 Club is granted winter access to Sandringham Secondary playing fields for home games.
- 1994 Sandringham's first Women's team plays as part of Junior Club.
- 1996 First junior girls' team at club.
- 2004 Granted access to Footy Oval at Spring Street on Monday and Fridays.
Installation of training lights on footy oval.
Granted winter access to Peterson Reserve, Highett Road, for home matches.
- 2005 Installation of lights for training at Peterson Reserve.
Granted full time winter access to football oval at Spring Street.
Awarded major facilities grant by the State Government for construction of pavilion at Spring Street. Construction begins in September.2006
- 2006 Opening of our Spring Street pavilion in May of this year. Sandringham Soccer Club registers a record number of players (800) players and fields a record number of teams (61).