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Sunshine Coast FC Club Newsletter

Fired up for season 2014

As the 2014 NPL season fast approaches, the Fire teams have had their first taste of action on the pitch in pre-season games.

The junior teams and Open Women's Team took on powerhouse club Olympic FC on February 2 at Goodwin Park (Boys) and Annerley (Girls), while the senior men's teams have taken on a number of local clubs including Coolum, Maroochydore and Kawana.

The preseason games have given coaches a chance to work on different combinations and have also given the players a chance to gel as a team.

The games against Olympic were a good marker for the season ahead and all coaches reported they were pleased with the efforts of their players against a tough opposition. In particular, the completely new Under 12 Boys team did well in their first ever game together.

The young Open Women's team was impressive against Olympic, creating some good goal-scoring opportunities and playing very well defensively. The close game ended 2-1 in Olympic's favour.

The senior men's teams have been successful against local Clubs; the Under 18 Boys, NPL National Youth League and First Team have won all of their pre-season games and look forward to taking on Palm Beach on March 2 at the Stadium.

The Fire teams will next take on Woombye SC on Saturday, February 8.



NATIONAL
PREMIER LEAGUES
UNDER 18
PREMIERS



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Fire farewells former Captains

This week the Fire farewelled long-term players Ryan Smith, Greig Henslee and Leon Dwyer from the First Team.

Ryan Smith and Leon Dwyer have been with the Fire since the Club's inaugural season in 2008, in which Smith was named Captain of the squad. Henslee joined the Fire in 2009 and captained in 2012 and 2013.

All three players have played an integral role in the Fire's success over the past six seasons—Henslee and Smith were widely regarded as the best centreback combination in the QSL and NPL competitions, and Dwyer was a creative player who was highest goal scorer for the Club in 2013.

The Fire will field almost a completely new team this year after the introduction of a number of younger players and the departure of several members of the 2013 squad due to retirement, QAS selection, or their return to overseas competitions.

First Team Coach Kevin A'herne-Evans said he was excited about the opportunity to field a new team for the season, however it was important to recognise the contributions of the departing players.

"Leon Dwyer, Dylan Firth, Grant de Chastel, Greig Henslee, Ryan Smith, James Stinson, Niko Bechar, Alex Barlow, Jeremy Lynch, Kaine Frew, Chris Toovey, Michael Scarff, Takanori Sato, and Keito Tahara all played their part in our first year in the NPL," he said.

"Former Captains Ryan Smith and Greig Henslee have been magnificent servants to our proud Club. Throughout all the QSL years their achievements have set a bench mark that players at our Club will always aspire to. Their professionalism and drive will be used as examples to our younger generation of what can be achieved when you have desire, dedication and enthusiasm."

"They were the best defensive partnership that has been seen at semi-professional level nationwide. Countless times we have seen Smith literally put his body and head on the line when other people would pull out. We will never forget Henslee's ability to read the game or his timely last-minute interventions just as you believe a goal is inevitable."

Each of the retiring stalwarts spoke of their time at the Fire as some of their best years in football. While Henslee, Smith and Dwyer each had different highlights, they all spoke of the camaraderie and friendship which formed the foundation of the team.

"The Fire is a close knit squad, I made a lot of friends through the team, especially players like Henslee, Smith, Shaun Blackman and Tyson Holmes who played for some years."

Henslee listed captaining the Fire to Championship victory in 2012 as the highlight of his time with the Fire.

"I look upon my role as Captain as a fantastic personal achievement. It was an honour to walk the boys out every week," he said.

The hard work and dedication of Henslee, Smith and Dwyer is sure to inspire the next generation of Fire players; a generation whose football development is in safe hands, according to Dwyer.

"When we were growing up there wasn't a pathway for us to become footballers. It is great that (Managing Director) Noel Woodall put in effort and money to set up a Club which can provide a pathway for the young footballers on the coast. Now that the Fire is set up in the NPL it will be a great benefit to younger players coming through," he said.

The Fire thanks Henslee, Dwyer and Smith for their contributions to the Club and wishes them all the best for their future.





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Spotlight on Samara Christmas

We had a chat with Open Women's Team player and Under 15 Girls' Coach Samara Christmas about the new women's competition, coaching and what she expects for the season:



Football Queensland has just announced a 14-team women's competition called the South East Queensland Women's Premier League (SEQWNPL) which will feature seven NPL teams and seven BPL teams. What do you think about this competition?

I think it's great, it is awesome that we will have 13 other teams to play against and there will be greater competition for the girls. I think we'll really enjoy it.

Are you looking forward to taking on some of the Brisbane Clubs you wouldn't normally have had the opportunity to play?

Yes definitely, I know that football in Brisbane is very strong and there's a lot of competitive players so I'm really looking forward to playing them.

With a relatively young Open Women's Team, how do you think you will go this season?

I think we have an extremely strong team this year. A lot of the girls this year are much fitter than our team last year and we have some really great players. Their age isn't really a factor because they are such strong players.

You've moved into coaching this year after playing with the Under 18 Girls last year, how has the transition been and why did you decide to coach?

I have always wanted to start coaching; I really feel it has also improved how I play because I know a lot more about the game technically. I has been really good so far, I am loving it.

You've been working with the Under 15 Girls as Assistant Coach, how do you think they are shaping up for this season?

They have been doing really well so far, they are all individually really strong players, I think it's just a matter of them gelling as a team and they will do brilliantly this season.

New women's competition

Football Queensland and Football Brisbane have announced a major restructure of women's football, including the formation of an exciting new competition.

The South-East Queensland Women's Premier League will consist of seven NPL teams and seven BPL teams.

These teams will be Annerley, Eastern Suburbs, Mitchelton, Olympic FC, Palm Beach, Peninsula Power, Redlands United, Souths Strikers, Sunshine Coast Fire, SWQ Thunder, Taringa Rovers, The Gap, UQFC and Western Pride.

The SEQWPL will be based on Senior Women's teams only and supported in 2014 by the Brisbane Women's Premier League (BWPL), a 10-team competition across Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Football Queensland will continue to manage the NPL U/13 and U/15 competitions.

In conjunction with the announcement, Football Queensland also announced a sub-committee representative of 5 people with the qualifications and experience to review the women's game and the competition structure to take forward into 2015 and beyond.

Football Queensland COO, Ben Mannion today said, "I am really excited by the outcomes of the announcement and the great work done by Football Queensland and Football Brisbane to make this happen. "With the Women's Football Strategic Plan just released by Football Federation Australia and the good work Football Brisbane have done on their women's review, we are well placed to come up with the right model to move the game forward."





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Welcome to our new sponsors: Its Your Smile

Sunshine Coast Fire would like to welcome our new Under 13 Girls' sponsor; It's Your Smile Dental Group.

It's Your Smile is a family-run dental group owned by Jill and Nick Taft. This will be the second year Jill and Nick have been involved with the Fire; their daughter Melissa played in the very successful Under 14 Girls team last year and this year plays in the Under 13 Girls team, while their older daughter Maddy was in the 2013 Academy.

As proud supporters of football on the coast, Jill and Nick are pleased to be sponsoring the Under 13 Girls' team this year.

"We love football and always like to give back to sports our children are involved in," Jill said.

Jill and Nick established the first It's Your Smile practice at Northshore Plaza, Mudjimba, in 2003 after moving to Australia from England.

They wanted to start a practice which could deliver high quality dental care on the Sunshine Coast and provide a full range of dental services for the whole family "under one roof", which include orthodontics, implants, root canal treatment, full range of cosmetic treatments, crowns and veneers using the latest Cerec computer designed system which enables crowns and inlays/onlays to be done in one visit, general dentistry including dentures and the removal of wisdom teeth. The practices have the latest equipment including digital OPG, digital x-ray units, dental lasers for minimally invasive dentistry and microscopic dentistry. The business went from strength to strength and two years later Jill and Nick were able to open a second It's Your Smile practice at Coolool Park shopping complex, Coolool Beach. The dental team has increased to 6 highly experienced Dentists, 5 Hygienists/Therapists and a Prosthetist, together with a very friendly support team.

It's Your Smile can provide optimal dental care for all of our Fire families. A team of dental professionals, with their expertise and the latest up-to-date technologies, will care for you and your family from regular health checks through to prevention and any necessary intervention. It's Your Smile also offers bulk billing for children under the new Child Dental Scheme and children under 16 will receive a 10 per cent discount each visit.

You can contact your nearest It's Your Smile practice via the following numbers:

Pacific Paradise Practice:
722-728 David Low Way
Pacific Paradise 4564
Ph: (07) 5448 7849

Coolool Practice:
Shop 2/21 South Coolool Road
Coolool Beach
Ph: (07) 5446 4777



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1.2M x 900mm position dependant on availability on ground.

*Sponsors will need to supply artwork or design/production costs will be at the sponsor's expense.

*Applies only to NPL home game fixtures - minimum of 12 in season.



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Sunshine Coast FC Club Newsletter

Technical Director's Report

With Kevin A'herne-Evans

As you will all be aware there have been a number of changes to our First Team this week, most importantly the retirement of three of our longest-serving players, Greig Henslee, Ryan Smith and Leon Dwyer.

These players have made a great contribution to the Club over the past six years, and have really set the bench mark of the dedication and hard work expected of our players. Their loss is significant, however we are also excited about the new players coming through and the opportunity to field a brand new team.

I am sure Henners and Smithy would be the first people to cheer us on. Knowing them both I can say there would be nothing which would make them happier than seeing the Fire continue to be successful. So here is the challenge, can our next generation fulfil

their potential and surpass our champion team of the past? I believe the answer is a simple and resounding YES. Will it be an easy journey? Of course not. Was it easy in the past? Not at all.

We will face every challenge head on and we will install the standards, discipline and team work the Fire has become known for.

I really could go on and on about what these players mean to us as a Club and to me on a personal level, however the best thing I believe we can do for them to say thank you is to build a better team!



ABOVE: Hoo8Hoo performing at a Sunshine Coast gig.

RIGHT: Sound check at Stockland Stadium.



Hoo8Hoo

Check out our first Fire Factor contestants!

Local musicians Tim and Sam Aitken will be lighting up the Stadium at our first home game as they perform as Hoo8Hoo. Sam, who plays for the Fire Under 12s Team, and his brother Tim have been playing together for three years, and their popular songs with a twist have gained them much attention in the Sunshine Coast music scene.

They have won the Caloundra Music Festival as a duo the last two years and have also won the Noosa Jazz festival and busked

all over the Coast. Hoo8Hoo has played before Noise Works, Thirsty Merc and Ice House, and Cold Play "liked" their version of *Fix You* on Facebook! To check out Hoo8Hoo's music, take a look at their YouTube account at <http://www.youtube.com/user/TheTimAitken> and come on down to Stockland Stadium on Sunday, March 2 to watch Hoo8Hoo play for the opening round of the NPL season!

If you have a talent we'd love to hear from you! You could play at a Fire home game and be in with a chance to win some great prizes. Contact the Fire office by emailing reception@sunshinecoastfc.com.au.



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Player Spotlight

Jazlyn Salih plays as a striker for our new Under 13 Girls team. Jaz became involved in football after her little brother started playing, and she has previously played for Caloundra FC.

Jaz's favourite football moment has been scoring a goal from behind half-way, and her worst moment has been pulling a calf muscle half way through a game.

She is most looking forward to playing Brisbane City this season, and hopes to score at least one goal in the NPL competition.

Jaz is a Manchester United supporter and her favourite player is Robin van Persie. Her Dad has been her biggest football influence as he has made sure Jaz practices.



Jazlyn Salih
Striker
Under 13 Girls

How well do you know your NPL teams?

Each week there will be nine questions to test your knowledge of the Queensland NPL teams.

1. What is Central Queensland FC's "nick name"?
2. What is the name of Olympic's home ground?
3. Which former Moreton Bay player has just signed with an A-League Club?
4. Which team is known as the Devils?
5. Which team plays in a strip with green and white hoops?
6. Which team plays at Perry Park?
7. Which teams colours are red, black and yellow?
8. Which city is home to Far North Queensland Heat?
9. Which former Fire player has played with A-League team Wellington Phoenix?



ABOVE: Byron Faleono in the Under 12s trial game against Olympic FC.

RIGHT: Josh Croft playing for the Under 12s.





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Academy Updates

With Academy Director Ben Cahn



Elite Academy training has now started at Kawana Waters State College each Monday and Friday. We have had two sessions so far and I have been impressed with the quality of the players. Training has been of a high standard and very competitive, which is great to see.

The Under 11s group is the largest and has been particularly competitive as the players start preparing for possible NPL selection at the end of the year.

Players will be moved between groups at training dependent on their attitude and ability, so it is possible for them to be periodically tested against an older group.

There are still positions available for talented players in the Elite Academy, so if you would like to trial please register online at <http://academy.sunshinecoastfc.com.au/elite-academy/>.

Our Development Academy has also started, and registrations are open for this program.

The Development Academy provides young players with the opportunity to accelerate their football development in an enjoyable environment. The program is open to players of all levels looking to improve their skills under the guidance of Fire coaches and the focus will be on the development of core skills with game based activities. The Development Academy runs in line with the school terms with registration and payment on a term-by-term basis. Two training sessions will be held per week, one at Kawana Waters State College on Wednesday and another at The Ridges Sporting Complex in Peregian on Monday. Players may register to attend one or both sessions per week.

If you want to register for the Development Academy, visit our Academy website: <http://academy.sunshinecoastfc.com.au/development-academy/>.

Player Spotlight

Ezekiel Hawkins plays as a midfielder for the Under 12 Boys. He became involved in football because he wanted to follow in his Dad's footsteps—Ezekiel's father Craig Hawkins previously played for the Fire. Ezekiel has played for Western Australia, Woombye and Bli Bli and his favourite moment so far has been scoring a diving header. He supports FC Barcelona and his favourite player is Cristiano Ronaldo.



Ezekiel Hawkins
Midfielder
Under 12 Boys

Ezekiel is looking forward to playing against Brisbane City and Olympic this season and his ultimate aim is to help the Fire Under 12 Boys win the League.



Goal keeper Katie Offer in the Under 15 Girls' game against Olympic FC on Sunday at Annerley. This will be Katie's second year with the Fire, after she played for the Under 14 Girls as goal keeper for the 2013 season.



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