



Eumundi Magpies play fair

The Eumundi Magpies Futsal Club members are a fun, friendly group and fiercely believe in fair play and a fair-go for everyone. Aged 4-11 years they have team training on Wednesdays and Fridays and meet on Saturday mornings in the Eumundi School Hall.

In 2019 Coach Fernando (Fern) Navarrete put his soccer experience and expertise into forming the club where boys and girls learn soccer skills, how to improve their fitness, and team cooperation in a fun atmosphere – building up their confidence through praise rather than criticism. No prior soccer knowledge is needed and the emphasis is on everyone having a 'fair go'. Even during competition matches Fern insists every player has time on the field.

The 4-5 year-old littlies meet at 8.30am for sociable fun while learning basic skills and cooperation with others. At 9.30am the 6-7 year-olds learn to follow instructions, combine as a group and have healthy fun while improving game skills. At 10.30am the 8-11 year-old group learn the discipline of game rules, how to be part of a team and praise other members' successes.

At a recent post-game discussion the youngsters' mentioned the 'amazing goal' scored, the 'fantastic saves' by the goalkeeper, 'everyone gave their best' and 'we're improving every week' with a focus on the positives, despite disappointment at losing a recent match.

The Sunshine Coast competition, in the 10-year-old division, has 10 teams from Caloundra to Eumundi. One Magpies team has made it

through to the finals of the competition. Magpies also have a team which will play in the final of the 9-year-old division. Competition games are generally played at USC or Clippers Stadium in Buderim.

The Magpies are a mixed team but play against all boys' teams. While the three coaches are male, Fern hopes as the club expands a female coach will come onboard. Fern said the fledgling club had wonderful support from Eumundi businesses and organisations including Experience Eumundi, Eats, Flying West, Noosa Hinterland Realty and Rotary who supplied the end-of-year trophies.

Interest from parents and other residents means the club is growing and it has now applied for registration as a not-for-profit organisation. The emphasis is on the Magpies being strongly connected to Eumundi with the youngsters proud to represent their town. Fern selected the name because magpies are fighters and survivors and the team has dramatic black and white colours.

"We have a very committed president, secretary, treasurer and committee," explained Fern. "We welcome anyone who has an interest in soccer or who has some spare time and would love to be part of our club, even without youngsters who play."

Nina said her son Archer (7yrs) "enjoys the fun of team learning and the social connections". Lisa, mother of Kalani (5yrs) and Marley (7yrs) said "they are learning sportsmanship, how to follow instructions and being part of a community". Player Jack said it is "good fun playing other teams".

Fern has positive ideas for moving forward and encourages more local input and new members. Contact 0434 557 807 or email: info@soccer-roots.com.au. Eileen Walder

