Henry Lawson Football Club President's Report – 2026 Season

What a year 2026 has been for Henry Lawson Football Club!

Taking on the role of President this year has certainly been an experience, one that I have thoroughly enjoyed and continue to learn from each and every week.

It has been a pleasure getting to know our HLFC community, our players and families, representatives from Nepean Football Association (NFA), and members of other clubs throughout the association.

Stepping into this role has given me the opportunity to learn so much more about our sport, our club's history, its operations and our governing bodies. I know there is still plenty for me to learn, and I look forward to continuing to grow in this role.

Community Events and Fundraising

Throughout the season, we held numerous successful community events, including the Werrington Christmas Fair, Women's Football Week, our Breast Cancer Awareness Round, affectionately known as our Pink Round, and the Werrington Colour Run.

Each of these events highlighted just how special our HLFC community truly is. The support, generosity and involvement from our players, families, volunteers, sponsors and the wider community were nothing short of amazing.

These events are about so much more than football. They bring people together, create memories and strengthen the community spirit that Henry Lawson Football Club is so proud to be known for.

On-Field Achievements

We had some fantastic achievements on the field this season, and I would like to acknowledge a couple of our teams.

Our All Age Men's Division 9 (AAM9) team had an outstanding season, finishing at the top of their ladder and earning their place in the Grand Final. Unfortunately, the result on Grand Final Day did not go their way, but that certainly does not take away from what they achieved throughout the season.

Seeing the sidelines filled with supporters cheering them on was absolutely amazing. Congratulations to the entire team, coaches and management on a fantastic season. You should all be incredibly proud.

Our Under 13 Division 4 Boys (U13/4) also had an incredible journey, making their way through the round-robin finals and securing their place in the Grand Final.

What a game that Grand Final was! The atmosphere, the support from the sidelines and the excitement when that final whistle blew were moments to remember. To see the boys come away as Grand Final winners was something truly special.

Congratulations to the entire team, coaches and management. You represented HLFC with pride, determination and wonderful sportsmanship.

Youth Leadership and Development

This year, we were fortunate to have two young members, Aiden and Cooper, participate in NFA's Youth Advisory Panel (YAP).

Throughout the season, we regularly received wonderful feedback from NFA about these two young men and how they represented Henry Lawson Football Club with pride, maturity and commitment.

Aiden and Cooper, congratulations to you both. You have been fantastic representatives of our club, and we are extremely proud of you.

NFA Awards Night

Several members of our committee attended the NFA Awards Night, where we were delighted to learn that Henry Lawson Football Club had placed 3rd in the Excellence in Club Administration Award for 2026.

This was an incredible achievement, particularly considering the club placed 18th the previous year.

To move from 18th to 3rd in just one season is a testament to the dedication, hard work and commitment of our committee and everyone involved behind the scenes.

It demonstrates just how far we have come as a club and what can be achieved when people work together towards a common goal.

I am extremely proud of this achievement and everyone who contributed to making it possible.

Recognising Our Volunteers

This year, we wanted to give our community the opportunity to have their say in recognising those who go above and beyond for Henry Lawson Football Club.

For the first time, we invited nominations for our Volunteer of the Year Award through an online form and written submissions at our fields.

After collating the nominations, I was delighted to announce Nicole Stokes as our 2026 Volunteer of the Year.

Congratulations, Nicole, and thank you for the countless hours, dedication and commitment you have given to our club throughout the season.

I also had the pleasure of presenting two President's Awards this year.

Male President's Award – Mick Williams

Female President's Award – Joanne Wheatley

Both Mick and Joanne have dedicated countless hours to Henry Lawson Football Club throughout the season. Their willingness to step up, lend a hand and support our club wherever needed has not gone unnoticed.

You are both true assets to HLFC, and I sincerely thank you for everything you have contributed.

Fundraising and Club Support

I would also like to extend my appreciation to everyone who gave up their time to sell raffle tickets each week at The Henry Sports Club.

To those who volunteered their time to sell tickets and those who came along to purchase tickets and support our fundraising efforts, thank you.

Every dollar raised is another dollar that goes back into supporting our club, our players and our future.

These contributions, no matter how big or small, make a difference, and we are extremely grateful for your continued support.

Our HLFC Family

One of the things I am most grateful for this season is being part of a club that truly lives up to its reputation as a family and community club.

Throughout the year, I have witnessed countless examples of people coming together, supporting one another and lending a hand when it was needed most.

I would like to sincerely thank every committee member, coach, manager, marshal and volunteer who contributed their time and effort throughout the season.

So much work goes on behind the scenes to ensure our players can take the field each week, and I appreciate everything you do.

To our parents, siblings, grandparents, aunties, uncles and friends who filled our sidelines week after week, thank you for your encouragement and support.

Thank you also to the families who helped one another with getting children to and from training and games, particularly when parents couldn't be in two places at once.

These may seem like small gestures, but they are exactly what makes our club so special.

Football is about more than what happens on the field. It is about friendships, teamwork, community and looking after one another.

Our Valued Sponsors

To all our wonderful sponsors, thank you for your continued support and generosity throughout the 2026 season.

Your contributions allow our club to continue providing opportunities for our players and families while helping us grow and improve.

We truly appreciate the relationships we have built with our sponsors and look forward to continuing to work alongside you as we head into the 2027 season.

A Personal Thank You

On a personal note, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our entire HLFC community for the kindness, compassion and support shown to my family throughout this year.

When my daughter-in-law was diagnosed with breast cancer, our family faced a very challenging time.

The way our club community rallied around her and our family was something I will never forget.

From the messages of support and encouragement to the generosity shown throughout our Breast Cancer Awareness Round, every gesture meant more to our family than words can express.

It is during times like these that you truly see the heart of a community, and HLFC certainly showed us just how much of a family club we are.

On behalf of myself and my family, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your kindness and support will always be remembered.

Looking Ahead to 2027

As we close out the 2026 season, I am incredibly proud of what Henry Lawson Football Club has achieved.

We have celebrated successes, faced challenges, strengthened relationships and continued to build on the family and community values that make our club what it is today.

As we head into 2027, we have an exciting year ahead, particularly as we prepare to celebrate 50 years of Henry Lawson Football Club.

This is a significant milestone in our club's history, and I look forward to celebrating the people, memories and achievements that have helped shape HLFC over the years.

Thank you once again to everyone who has been part of our 2026 season.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as President of this wonderful club and look forward to another successful and memorable season in 2027.

Susan Stokes

President

Henry Lawson Football Club

2026 Season