Season 2026 Secretary Report

The 2026 season has certainly been one of challenges, changes, achievements and, most importantly, community spirit.

The beginning of the season threw a few curveballs our way, with several Committee members making the difficult decision to step away from their roles for personal and family reasons. We thank them for their contributions to HLFC and wish them and their families all the very best. These changes also brought a change in leadership for our Club, requiring everyone to adapt and work together to keep things moving forward.

Throughout 2026, I have been fortunate enough to see Henry Lawson Football Club come together as the family and community club I first came to know when my eldest son started playing eight seasons ago. It has been wonderful to see that sense of community, support and belonging continue to grow throughout the season.

Our Sponsors

This season, I have had the privilege of working closely with our sponsors and getting to know many of them on a more personal level.

I cannot thank our sponsors enough for their ongoing generosity, commitment and support of Henry Lawson Football Club.

Beyond their financial contributions and sponsorship, I am incredibly grateful for the conversations, encouragement and genuine support they have shown me personally throughout what has been a challenging year.

Our sponsors are an important part of the HLFC family, and I look forward to continuing to strengthen these relationships in the years ahead.

Breast Cancer Awareness Round & Community Support

On a personal level, 2026 has been an incredibly challenging year as I navigated my medical treatments while continuing my involvement with the Club.

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our entire HLFC community for the overwhelming support shown throughout the season.

Our Breast Cancer Awareness Round was something incredibly close to my heart, and seeing our Club come together to turn our fields pink was an experience I will never forget.

From the donations and fundraising efforts to the volunteers, families, players, coaches, sponsors and visiting clubs who supported the weekend, every contribution made a difference.

Together, we raised an incredible $6,100 for the McGrath Foundation, something our entire Club should be extremely proud of.

The kindness, generosity and support shown throughout the season went far beyond football, and I honestly cannot put into words how much it has meant to me.

You are all amazing, and I could not be prouder to be associated with Henry Lawson Football Club.

Constitution Review

At the end of 2025, we were advised by Nepean Football Association (NFA) that our Club Constitution required updating.

This was a significant undertaking, involving reviewing our existing Constitution, considering the future needs of the Club and ensuring we had an appropriate governance structure in place moving forward.

We were extremely fortunate to have Lauren Woods, one of our Under 12 Managers, assist us throughout this process.

Lauren, thank you for your time, patience, guidance and willingness to answer what sometimes felt like an endless number of questions. Your knowledge and support throughout this process were greatly appreciated.

The successful adoption of our updated Constitution was an important achievement for HLFC and will help provide a stronger foundation for future Committees.

Canteen Improvements

One of the positive changes we made this season was reviewing our canteen suppliers and pricing.

By sourcing new suppliers, we were able to reduce the prices of a number of items, making our canteen more affordable for families.

In turn, we saw an increase in the number of items sold throughout the season.

However, one of the most rewarding outcomes was seeing more families choosing to stay at the fields after their games, enjoying something to eat, watching other teams play and spending time together rather than heading straight home.

For me, this is exactly what being a family and community club is all about.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in the running of our canteen and BBQ throughout the season. Your hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed.

Club Events & Community Engagement

This season saw us successfully host several events, including Women's Football Week, our Breast Cancer Awareness Round and our Werrington Community Colour Run.

Each event provided an opportunity to bring together players, families, visiting clubs and members of the wider community, with food vendors, market stalls and activities helping create a welcoming atmosphere at our grounds.

Our Werrington Community Colour Run was a particularly exciting addition to our calendar. Following Brendan's successful application for a Community Grant in 2025, we were able to open our gates to the local community and host an afternoon filled with colour, laughter and fun.

We certainly gave our fields a new look, turning them into a beautiful shade of rainbow! With obstacle courses, egg and spoon races, temporary airbrush tattoos, children's activities and a BBQ, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

It was wonderful to see so many families and members of the local community come together and make the most of the afternoon.

A big thank you to Brendan for securing the grant and to everyone who helped organise, prepare and run the event. Opportunities like this allow us to showcase HLFC beyond football and continue building our connection with the wider community.

We were also fortunate this year to be given the opportunity by Penrith City Council to host the BBQ at Ripples Leisure Centre for Australia Day.

With an open invitation to our Club and the wider community, this was another fantastic opportunity to get involved locally, meet members of our community and represent Henry Lawson Football Club.

Thank you to Penrith City Council for including our Club in the celebrations and to everyone who generously volunteered their time to help make the BBQ a success.

These events take a considerable amount of planning and preparation, and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to making them possible.

I would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to the clubs who graciously assisted with fixture and location changes to accommodate our event weekends. Your cooperation and support allowed us to bring these events to life.

It was wonderful to see our grounds filled with families, laughter, community involvement and people supporting one another.

These are the moments that remind us football is about so much more than what happens on the field.

Capturing Our Memories – Club Photography

Throughout the season, we were lucky enough to have so many special moments captured and shared with our Club through photographs.

I would particularly like to acknowledge Sharon, Tim and Jenny, who generously took the time throughout the season to photograph and share so many memories with us.

From action shots of our players on the field to team celebrations, family moments and the many events that brought our community together, these photographs have helped capture what makes Henry Lawson Football Club so special.

Thank you for sharing your time, your photography and your passion for capturing the moments that might otherwise go unnoticed.

These memories are something our Club can look back on for years to come, and they are a wonderful reminder of the friendships, achievements and community spirit that make up the HLFC family.

Thank You to Our Committee

I would like to sincerely thank all members of our 2026 Committee for their contributions throughout the season.

It has been a year of change, challenges, learning and achievements, and I appreciate the time and effort each of you has given to the Club.

Committee roles are voluntary, and much of the work that goes into running a football club happens behind the scenes, often without recognition.

Thank you for the hours you have contributed, the responsibilities you have taken on and the work you have done to support our players, families and Club.

Coaches, Managers, Trainers, Marshals & Volunteers

To all our Coaches, Managers, Trainers and Marshals, thank you for your time, patience, dedication and commitment to our teams throughout the 2026 season.

The hours you give up each week to attend training, prepare for games, support players and manage teams are greatly appreciated.

You play such an important role in creating a positive experience for our players and helping them develop not only their football skills but also friendships, confidence and a love for the game.

To every parent, family member, player and volunteer who stepped up and lent a hand when help was needed, thank you.

Whether it was helping in the canteen, cooking on the BBQ, setting up fields, packing away equipment, assisting at events or simply asking what needed to be done, every contribution mattered.

Our Club simply could not operate without the generosity of people willing to give their time.

Looking Ahead

Moving forward, there are several areas I would love to see HLFC continue to develop and improve.

One of my priorities is continuing to improve the Club's record retention and document management processes, working towards a more centralised system that allows future Committees to easily access important information, maintain continuity and build on the work of those before them.

I would also like to see us continue strengthening our relationships with our existing sponsors while creating opportunities to welcome new businesses into our Club community.

Most importantly, I want us to continue showing the wider community who Henry Lawson Football Club is, what we stand for and the values that make our Club special.

We are more than just a football club.

We are a family and community club, and that is something worth protecting, celebrating and continuing to build on.

Celebrating 50 Years in 2027

As we look ahead to 2027, Henry Lawson Football Club will celebrate an incredible milestone — 50 years of football, friendships, memories and community.

This is an opportunity to reflect on the generations of players, families, volunteers, sponsors and Committee members who have contributed to making HLFC what it is today.

There is so much to look forward to, and I hope our entire HLFC community, past and present, will come together to celebrate this special milestone.

Final Thank You

On a final note, I want to thank everyone who has supported not only our Club but also me personally throughout the 2026 season.

This year has challenged me in ways I never expected, but it has also reminded me just how special the HLFC community truly is.

The friendships, kindness, encouragement and support I have experienced are things I will always be grateful for.

I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together this season and even prouder to be part of a Club where people genuinely care about one another.

Thank you for being part of the HLFC family and for helping make 2026 a season to remember.

Here's to 2027 and celebrating 50 years of Henry Lawson Football Club!

Nicole Ellison
Secretary / MPO
Henry Lawson Football Club
Season 2026