

CASE STUDY

Carol Harper, Monaro Panthers Football Club, Queanbeyan, NSW.

The short term and immediate action regarding promotion of coaching opportunities has stemmed from word of mouth from our current Women's Premier League (WPL) squad Coaches and the encouragement of our current WPL players to coach or assist coaching the younger teams. In 2015 we had 4 WPL players involved in coaching and assisting coaching our junior teams. Our senior current WPL coaching staff offered mentorship in the form of coaching support via attending sessions, assistance with preparing and conducting training sessions, offering moral support, attending matches and providing sideline support and advice, and in addition our Club has offered sponsorship for current coaches and players who are interested in obtaining coaching course qualifications.

With the recent Whole of Football Plan and new FFA directives requiring more coach education and qualifications, and in my role as TD Administrator in 2015, I maintained regular email correspondence with our current list of PL and WPL coaches and managers to encourage them to attend the coach workshops and courses run by our regional body (Capital Football). I have identified that I really need to expand my group list to encompass our junior club coaches, and possibly more female coaches, as some of the junior coach volunteers (often Mums and Dads new to the club and/or Football) may not be aware of the courses and

workshops available. Feedback we received at our latest Club Coach meeting was that, often the volunteers have no idea about how to coach and therefore doing the Grassroots and more advanced courses provides appropriate knowledge, skills and confidence for volunteers to take on coaching roles.

Our Club Website is the Club's noticeboard for all these notifications and promotion, as well as having age group co-ordinators in place to liaise with coaches, correspond with and distribute relevant information.

Following my completion of the B Licence Coaching course in 2015 I was approached by our Regional Administration Body (Capital Football), to take on a Coach Educator Role which would expand my ability to promote and offer coaching opportunities within our Club. This means I will be obtaining Coach Educator qualifications with which to educate volunteers from Grass Roots levels and for them to become certified in the entry level coaching skills.

Pre-season skills clinics that our Club run are another avenue at which to recruit potential coaches.

It is essential for our Club to have more females coaches on board, as this provides role models and promotes the female profile which then attracts more female players, and our Club needs more female players!

In addition, as suggested by our Regional Administrator at the latest WPL meeting, a dedicated female TD within each Club to mentor the female coaches is of the utmost importance. This offers coaching support from a female perspective.

