

## How will your child benefit?

Children love playing football. They love learning new skills, participating in fun games, playing with friends and being part of a supportive team environment.

### Personal Achievements

The list of benefits in being part of a physical activity is almost endless. It can improve their self-esteem and confidence, enhance their fitness, gross motor skills and social confidence.

### Being with Friends

We think it is important that your child is with their friends. We will organize the teams so friends can play together, just let us know when you register. Being a team sport we understand that being with friends can make the transition into this exciting new world much more enjoyable.



## How do we achieve the benefits?

### The Club's Supportive Environment

Our highest priority is the safety of your child. We provide a safe, supportive, inclusive and exciting environment for your child to learn the most popular sport in the world. With the support and assistance of the club and the district, volunteer parents are trained as coaches and managers.

### Training Sessions

At U6 and U7 levels we encourage one training session per week that is organized at a time that is convenient for the players and coaches. MFC sets aside a special time of 5:30pm-6:30pm on Wednesday evenings at Mackey Park as a

special time when the U6 and U7 can train. This gives coaches an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas at the same time each week. However, if this does not suit your team, we are flexible with Mackey Park available at other times, or you can arrange to train at a different location. But remember that the coaches are not babysitters. We insist that you stay with your child and why not even join in the fun!

### Small Sided Games

With the support of Canterbury District Soccer Football Association, Football NSW and Football Federation of Australia MFC has adopted an exciting new approach to the games called Small Sided Games (SSG). The games are played on small fields 20m x 30m with 4 players per team for under 6s and 5 players per team for under 7s. This encourages ball and passing skills in a small space –the same way the great players of the world learned. The leading football nations in the world including Brazil, Holland, France, USA, Spain, Sweden, Hungary, Portugal and Norway have all adopted SSG for pre-teens. This format slowly introduces children to the adult game. There is extensive research to show this format creates better players for all age groups from under 6 to under 11. The FFA has produced a comprehensive brochure outlining these benefits and the general format. This is available at the club.

## Who should play?

Girls and boys turning 5 and 6 in 2009 can join the U6s and those turning 7 in 2009 can join U7s. We also have a full range of older ages including all ages and over 35 teams. Football is a simple game that everyone can enjoy regardless of ability. People play it at every level all over the world every day. Some players will start when they are 4 and continue to play their entire lives. The skills and knowledge that your child learns at the grass roots level can develop a life long love for the game.

## How do we cater for different abilities?

Every age group, from under 6s to over 35s, has players with a variety of abilities. Football is an inclusive game, it is not only for those children who are physically competent or have good ball skills. It is for everyone. Our focus is on having fun. We encourage our coaches to start the training sessions with simple, fun games for every level of ability and then progress to more advanced activities and end with a fun small sided game. And on game day the games are formatted to be flexible so that everyone gets a chance to get involved. This is done by mixing the teams up, organizing the teams by ability, forming the teams amongst friends or whatever is best for the players.

## What happens during the year?

### Registration day

You can register your child with the club between January 29<sup>th</sup> and February 21<sup>st</sup>. Simply make your way down to the club and we will help you through the registration process.

### Team Formation Day

Team formation day will follow at 10am Saturday February 28<sup>th</sup>. This time is specifically for U6 and U7. The children will be divided into houses of about 18 and volunteer coaches and a manager will be registered. Remember, no coaches, no team.

### Training

All of the equipment can be picked up the following week and then training can begin the following week or start at a time that is convenient for the team. This will be organised by the managers and coaches.

### Games

The game days will begin at 9:00am Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>. This will give us a bit of time to finalize the teams and give the teams a few weeks to train before the first game. The final scheduled game day is August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Presentation Day

At the end of the season we will have a special presentation day where each player in the club will be presented with a unique trophy.

## How far do you have to travel?

### Convenient

Generally, the games will be on Saturday morning at the same time at Mackey Park every week. This makes it easy and convenient for everyone and even more environmentally friendly. During the season we are planning to organise regular host and guest days with other clubs in the district such as Hurlstone Park.



## How do you volunteer?

MFC would not exist if it wasn't for the over 100 volunteers in the club. Volunteering is easy and rewarding. You can be a volunteer coach, manager or committee member. Why not be a major influence in your child's football career and become a coach? Speak to us at the club about how you can help and what benefits we can offer you.

## How much does it cost?

We work very hard to keep the costs down so that this great game is available to everyone. This is the result of generous donations to the club this year, the immense efforts of hundreds of volunteers and helpers and the simplified format of the games. And don't forget about all the money made from the canteen.

## Who are we?

### Marrickville Red Devils

We celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2006. It was formed in 1946 by a Newington student who wanted to advance the profile of football. MFC now has over 700 players, 57 teams, 6 all female teams, and more than 100 volunteer coaches & managers.

### District

Football within each state is divided into districts. We are part of the Canterbury District Soccer Football Association (CDSFA). It was established in 1923 and has more than 23 clubs across 7 inner west council areas making it one of the largest in NSW.

### Elite Player Development Pathway

Marrickville Red Devils and Dulwich Hill FC have created an integrated pathway for elite football development. This partnership has been formed to allow players a better chance to enter the NSW Youth League at the under 13 aged group. It is called the skills squad and is available for selected players under 8, 9 and 10 players who wish to commit to a higher level of training with highly qualified coaches from Dulwich Hill FC.

### Women's Development

We pride ourselves on encouraging and developing girls and women's football. Almost every U6 and U7 team last year had at least one girl in them and MFC has 6 all women's teams in the older years. And remember, there is something very special about football: women can play at a very high international

level. The profile of the Matildas is increasing every year. MFC would love to be part of your daughter's football story.

### Junior Referee Programme

We support junior referees to ref U6 to U9 games. Junior referees are supervised by a club official and paid by the home team. They wear a yellow 'in Training' vest as part of the Department of Sport and Recreation "I'm in yellow, so don't see red!" initiative.

### Tim Cahill & Tommie McCulloch

Did you know that Tommie McCulloch and Tim Cahill both spent time with MFC? Tim, Socceroo striker and Everton FC player was a junior football player at Marrickville Football Club. Tim Cahill visited the club during last years season and signed hundreds of autographs for the players. On the night Tim thanked Marrickville for its help in achieving his dream.

### How do we thrive?

We thrive on the generous donations from local business and the generous time from volunteers.

### Volunteers

MFC thrives on the passionate contributions of volunteer parents, coaches, managers, committee members and canteen and BBQ helpers. If you would like to volunteer for the club we have many positions available.

### Sponsorship

We manage to keep our registration fees low through generous donations from local businesses. Our major sponsors this year are Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL and Sydney Airport.



Marrickville Football Club is located at Mackey Park, corner of Carrington Rd and Richardson Crescent, Marrickville 2204.

Phone: 9558 5849

Email: [info@marrickville-red-devils.org.au](mailto:info@marrickville-red-devils.org.au)



**Marrickville Red Devils**

## Experience the beauty of The World Game!



## Registration begins in February 2009

Watch your child thrive in an environment that is supportive, inclusive, exciting and most of all fun.

Give your child the chance to experience one of the most exciting events in their young life – scoring a goal. And they will score, we guarantee it!

## Under 6 and Under 7

Children turning 5, 6 and 7 in 2009 can register in our Grass Roots Football Program specially designed to welcome children and parents to the exciting world of football.