**PORT WRAPS UP THEIR 2017 FOOTY SEASON**

Over 160 players, members and supporters of the Cygnet ‘Community Bank’ Football Club gathered in the Carmel Hall for the Club’s Annual Dinner and Trophy Presentation last Saturday night. They were joined by Official Guests, Adriana Taylor (Commissioner Huon Valley Council), Tony Gibson (SFL Representative), Chris Coad (Southern Storm Football Club), ‘Tidsy’ Smith (Cygnet FC Past Players) and partners and Alison Standen (Labor Candidate for Franklin).

Following the usual introductions, a minute’s silence was observed for all deceased members and players of the Club, particularly those who had passed away in the past twelve months.

Club President (David O’Neill) provided a forward-looking report on the Club, including further development and support of the Port Women’s and Girl’s Youth teams, the importance of maintaining the relationship with our Channel and Kermandie players and members, the continuing development of our youth through the Southern Storm system, and the ongoing need for volunteer support around the Club. David especially thanked Tracey and Matt Brereton, who were leaving the Club Executive and Committee to focus next season on their sons and daughter in the youth teams. David also acknowledged the retirement of Life Member, Ivan Bell, who has been the Club Time Keeper for over 40 years, continuing on the family’s long time-keeping tradition started with his grandfather and father before him.

Tricia Phillips, Coach of the Port Women’s team, was introduced and spoke of the team’s achievements in their first SFLW season, acknowledging and thanking everyone who had assisted throughout the season. She then presented the Awards to: Caitlyn Phillips (Best & Fairest), Kara Geeves (Runner Up B&F), Chantel Clark (Most Improved), Renee Schuettpelz (Coaches Award) and the Most Dedicated Award to Andrew Leaman for his efforts as the Team’s Trainer. Tricia and all the players were then presented with medallions recognising the team’s inaugural season and Tricia’s teammates presented her with gifts of their appreciation.

The Southern Storm Colt’s Coach Matt Brereton then spoke of the team’s achievement throughout season 2017, which culminated in their Grand Final match against Hobart. Whilst unfortunately the Storm were not able to get a win over the undefeated Hobart, Matt spoke positively of the boy’s never give up attitude and both team and individual improvement throughout the season. He then presented the Colt Awards to Peter O’Neill (Best & Fairest), Jack Brereton (Runner Up B&F), Jake Dance (Leading Goalkicker), Will Polley (Most Improved), Riley Surendra-Nicholas (Coaches Trophy) and Kyle Russell (Best in Finals). Captain Nathan Duggan and Campbell Gane presented Matt with a gift in appreciation of his excellent Coaching efforts over the past two seasons.

After everyone had been served with their main meal, Reserve Co-Coaches, Matt Whitehouse and Ollie Burke came forward and presented the Reserve team trophies to Shane Clark (Best & Fairest), Adam Direen (Runner Up B&F), Jack Brett (Most Courageous), Lucas Pel (Most Improved), Brad Sculthorpe (Most Consistent) and Chris Brereton (Coaches Award). Both Coaches appreciated the excellent contribution of previous Coach, Shane Clark and spoke of the ongoing difficulties of getting players along to training and the frequent need to call upon ‘retired’ and under-age players to make up the numbers on game day. Each sought a greater commitment from players next season and felt that more team success would result if this were to happen. On behalf of the Reserve players, Matt Cane presented Matt and Ollie with gifts in appreciation of their coaching efforts.

A ‘Port 2017 Season In Review’ presentation prepared by Marcus Synnott was then shown. For those unable to attend the Dinner, this excellent presentation can be viewed on the Club’s Facebook pages and website.

Senior Coach, Ben Cato was then introduced and thanked his teammates and everyone involved who had made his first year as Coach, after returning to the Club after a number of years away, so enjoyable. He saw a bright future for the Club, particularly with the current group of players and the promising youth potential coming through.

Ben was assisted by Ass. Coach, Andrew Palmer in presenting the Senior team awards. These went to Sam Dean (Best & Fairest), Ben Cato (Runner Up B&F), Josh Halton (Leading Goalkicker), Darcy Millhouse (Best Team Player) and Nathan Duggan (Best Backman). Nathan was also presented with the Best in Finals Award while the Greg ‘Ducky’ Gordon Rising Star Award was presented to Joe Direen. At the conclusion of the Senior awards, Ben was presented with a gift in appreciation from Senior Captain, Rhys Jennings.

The prestigious Synnott Brothers Award was won by Ben Halton and this was presented by Marcus Synnott. Vorne Graham then presented the Lyle Graham Memorial Most Valuable Player Award, voted by the senior players after each game, to Sam Dean.

The EM ‘Boysie’ Direen Memorial Best Clubman Award was presented by President, Dave O’Neill and Boysie’s great grandson, Jacob Direen, to Tricia Phillips in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Port’s Women’s team.

The final award of the evening was the Kathryn Hodgman Club Spirit Award which went to Darcy Millhouse, not only for his playing and team contribution, but also his active involvement and support of the Port Women’s Youth team.

The evening wrapped up with President Dave thanking Christine Polley and her catering crew from the Cygnet ‘Top’ Hotel for the excellent 3 course meal and service, the bar staff and the Social Committee organisers of the night, before DJ Mark got the place rocking with some great music. It was an excellent way to wind up the Port’s 2017 footy season with everyone looking forward to bigger and better things in 2018.

**‘Go the Port’**