

REPORT

BUNBURY CARNIVAL 2026



The 2026 South West Junior Carnival really lived up to its reputation this year, serving up some of the wildest weather we have seen in years! Hilariously, our club tent survived – which is more than can be said for previous years.

All our families and players did an amazing job navigating constantly changing fixtures, weather updates and everything else Bunbury threw at us. Every team did us proud, turning up to every game, no matter the conditions, and giving it everything they had.

Huge congratulations to the 7/8 Boys and 7/8 Girls players and coaches for going undefeated and bringing home the gold medals. In the 10 years I have been involved with the Bunbury Carnival, I don't think we have ever had both teams do that!

A HUGE thanks to Sarah and Sinta for their hard work organising everything before and during the carnival. We are so lucky to have you!

Thanks also to all the coaches, team managers and everyone who helped out over the weekend. We really appreciate the effort you put into supporting our kids and helping make their hockey experiences positive, fun and memorable.



5/6 MIXED TEAM REPORT

Bunno Carnival is fuelled by teamwork, lollies, determination, oranges, WhatsApp groups, coffee, perseverance, and the Freo 'Bring It On!' attitude.

Nicole and Max were amazing coaches for the 5/6 mixed team. We couldn't have done it without them!

Games at Bunno are two halves of 16 minutes. Everyone was keen to get amongst it on the field, but you can't play without a keeper. Names were pulled out of the hat, and these Magpies got on with it. Shout out to Jesse, Jada, Rowan, Hamish, Evie, Amelia, Lotte and Aydin for padding up.

We had sunshine on Saturday, which kept spirits high as the team worked on gelling together. Three-minute rotations and changing positions are tricky for players to navigate, so it was great to see Nafis, Miles and Myla listening to their coaches and getting amongst it.

Harry made his debut with the 5/6 team and scored, cementing our first win on Saturday!

We started Sunday on the turf: Freo vs UWA vs the weather gods! The game was interrupted by a casual hailstorm, but they got back out there. It was awesome to see the boys and girls coming together as a team. Isla, Hamish, Lotte, Jessie, Farryn, Jada and Rowan all had some strong hits on the turf, even in those conditions.

Teams pulled out, power outages hit, goals went flying... and we waited for the update. Power came back on, sunshine arrived on Monday, and there were two more games to play. Nicole and Max had to knuckle down and study, so Matt stepped in to coach the last game. Matt's booming voice kept everyone on their toes, and Mitch put one in the back of the net vs Peel.

8 games, 2 wins, and thousands of memories. Players, parents and hockey family – you ALL make this possible. Bring on 2027.



7/8 GIRLS TEAM REPORT

Through rain, hail and shine — and with plenty of blood, sweat and tears — the 7/8 Girls fought hard and fair to take home the title as undefeated winners of the Bunno Carnival competition. Shout out to coach Jas for encouraging regular sub rotations to keep the girls warm, and thanks to everyone who shared the rotating goalie duties. Their off-field performance at the talent show was a last-minute giggle fest, but their on-field talent show and Kulbardi spirit helped our girls secure the winners' title in the end.

8 games, 8 wins, 23 goals for, 1 goal against, 1st place out of 13 teams!



7/8 BOYS TEAM REPORT

I was fortunate enough to pick up a great team for Bunbury this year, complete with 11 players (1 borrowed from Hale, hopeful for a club change next year), some of the best parents at the club, and it even came with a team manager. There were many times over the weekend when I saw our boys representing their best selves. Whether it was helping a teammate get a goal because he had never had one before, shielding an opponent from the hail by shoving him into the middle of a Magpie huddle, making the choice to rejoin the team because without him there were no subs and the boys couldn't rest, putting on the goalie kit despite really wanting to play on the turf, or welcoming others into the team for a game like they had been there the whole time — the boys were brilliant.

It was a privilege to get to know the boys, and I am glad I was given the opportunity to be their day coach.

Oh, and I feel like I forgot something... Oh yeah — we won our division UNDEFEATED!

A huge congratulations to everyone who helped out. While the players won the games, it was the parents, siblings, umpires, managers and organisers who helped them along the way.

Congratulations again to the 7/8 Boys for how they represented the club in Bunbury. I am so glad your hard work paid off with the carnival win.

Teach.

6 games, 6 wins, 17 goals for, 2 goals against, 1st place out of 16 teams.



9/10 BOYS/MIXED TEAM REPORT

Wow!!!! That was quite an experience now, wasn't it? Bunbury 2026 was one for the ages and, for our 9/10 Mixed Magpies, it was certainly that — mixed.

Mixed emotions, from frustration to malaise to “I swear if my phone rings again....” (or words to that effect) after game one, to mixed-up weather that would blow the wind out of your tea, the horn off a unicorn and the roof off a swim club! It would even blow your desperate-for-shelter car keys into a locked vehicle!

There were a number of firsts for many of us. Personally, I had never seen a unicorn on a field, a bunch of kids so keen to get 3 goals up and force a stroke so the keeper could take it, a gaggle of mums channelling their dancing queens and endangering hips to give the Rocky Horror cast nightmares, or a belligerence of dads carrying on like a bunch of K-Pop stars.

I had also never seen a collective of young people show such resilience in weather that can't sufficiently be described as disgusting. They battled through Cat 3 cyclonic winds, rain that proves Forrest Gump has not seen “every kind of rain they is”, and hail as if they were all bellowing for a New York cab in Madison Square Garden.

The ability to bounce back from a bit of “strong verbal encouragement” after game one and become a team that played for, backed and accepted each other showed that we have a bright future at The Nest.

Our best player was clearly Garry. For those who don't know Garry, he was the pink unicorn our brilliant team manager Shar drafted into the side for game two, and he quickly became the team's inspiration.

We laughed, yelled, laughed some more, and found ourselves in a position so many other mobs couldn't reach: having a blast while having a crack. The 9/10 players also got something very special — my respect.

Be it playing cards, trying to get unlikely types a goal, jumping in to play extra games in rough-as-guts conditions, or sharing hotel rooms when the Swim Club's roof flew to Adelaide, this group was one in and all in.

Congratulations 9/10s, congratulations to the parents, congratulations to our umpire (Leon, who only binned his brother once... or was it twice?) and congratulations to the tournament hosts.



Thank you to Shar, who managed the team, Garry, me, the parents, the comms with the organisers and somehow managed not to lose her marbles. You're a diamond!

Thank you to Sintia, Tim, Sarah, Matt, Alysia (who looked like Muffin in the Grannies episode of Bluey on day two) and everyone who played even the smallest part across all teams.

Overall, thank you to FCHC for throwing the reins — or rains, ha! See what I did there — of this team to me for the weekend. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves, and I hope we get to head back next year loaded up with swimming gear, sunburn cream and beach cricket sets, instead of feeling as cold and wet as a polar bear's instep!

Go Magpies!

Will Braid
FCHC 9/10 Bunbury Coach, 2026

7 games, 4 wins, 1 draw, 2 losses, 16 goals for, 2 goals against, 7th place out of 17 teams.



WHAT WAS THE BEST THING ABOUT THE BUNBURY CARNIVAL THIS YEAR?

Charlie: Garry - the Pink Unicorn

Troy: Hanging out with friends and getting to play lots of hockey.

Leon: My favourite part was when all the dads danced to Gangnam Style at Saturday club dinner.

Vaelin: My craziest moment was when I tackled 3 players and spun around them to win the ball.

Annahitta: My favourite part of Bunbury was playing the games under the sun, in the rain and even when it was hailing. Best part: us 7/8 girls being at the top of the ladder! I also had lots of fun laughing with the girls, wandering around the fields and listening to fun stories from the other Magpie groups.

Rocky: I love Bunbury Carnival because I get to hang with my friends and see all my other hockey friends I have made.

Ella: The roof didn't fall in at our Airbnb, unlike the swim club.

Sophie: That the Chicken Treat van got hit by a tree and still opened up.

Nafis: The carnival was really fun. The game in the rain (on the turf) was crazy but really fun.

Quinn & Onni: Maccas runs for McFlurry

Parents' Point of View:

The carnival was impressively large and well organised. It was great to see everyone having fun.

I loved how encouraging the older kids. The coaches; Nic and Max are a credit to the club. They did a great job leading the kids through the carnival whilst never talking down to them.

All in all, it was epic on and off the field with the games and storm.

Alysia (parent): Watching the 9/10s play hard and fast hockey, with the girls holding their own and showing up some of the competition, much to their frustration!

Kate (parent): Watching the kids play with resilience despite the weather conditions.

Stacey (parent): Watching the teamwork and support for one another. Collective success and willingness by all to embrace the goalie roster. 9/10s – their collective work to try and get the non-hockey players and non-forwards each a goal.



...That the Chicken Treat van got hit by a tree and still opened up.



Mara (parent): FCHC is about hockey, community and connection. The Bunno Carnival is all of that in a nutshell... plus four seasons in a day to keep you on your toes!

Kelly (parent): Enjoying how warmly our team (players AND parents) embraced our extra player from Mods, Cerys, into the Freo fold. New friendships on and off the field, and immense gratitude for the opportunity — parents stated how awesome the culture, organisation, communication and camaraderie were with this club. And who knows, possibly a transfer in the future?

Bron (parent): Watching the 5/6s grow as a team over the weekend, playing fairly and equally and supporting each other — the Magpies spirit in action!

