

KJSC & Dynamo Victoria create a footballing pathway

Andrew Hollow

Football season has wrapped up for the year, but a bright new future for our Kensington community is taking shape for 2025. Kensington Junior Soccer Club (KJSC) and Dynamo Victoria FC have officially announced their formal partnership, and it's set to make Kensington a football powerhouse.

This is a significant milestone for both clubs based at JJ Holland Park. KJSC has been a cornerstone of the local football scene since 2008, and this year marked an exciting first, fielding both Girls' and Boys' U18 teams, creating the need for a seamless pathway to senior football. Dynamo Victoria FC, founded in 2018, has quickly grown to field two men's and two women's teams, building on the same spirit of inclusion and community.

Since its founding, KJSC has grown substantially. What started as two girls' teams has evolved into a club home to over 450 kids, fielding 30 teams, plus U7s. This growth, combined with Dynamo's ethos of fostering inclusion, diversity, and opportunity both on and off the pitch, made the partnership a natural next step for two like-minded clubs.

With the support of the City of Melbourne and Football Victoria, they are entering an exciting new phase at JJ Holland Park, where



over 500 players from both clubs can train, play and build a community hub.

Kensington is fortunate to have the only synthetic pitch within the City of Melbourne, which was resurfaced in 2023. In addition, the proposed lights for Oval Two (2025) will allow all teams to train and play together, regardless of their age or gender. This will greatly improve accessibility and enhance the experience for everyone wanting to get involved.

"As Melbourne's population grows, our clubs are equipped to provide the perfect solution for players at all stages of their football journey—whether it's young families starting out, students moving to the city looking for a game, or new arrivals seeking opportunities to stay connected through sport. Our central location ensures that we are accessible to players and their families from all over Melbourne," said Dynamo president

Alejandro Ramirez.

Kensington Junior Soccer Club is part of the Flemington Kensington Junior Sports Club, which also includes cricket, basketball, netball, and AFL. With over 1,600 local kids participating in these five sports, both clubs are proud to be a community-focused club that keeps costs affordable. With the rising cost of living, we are committed to ensuring that our fees remain some of the lowest in the area, in line with Dynamo's approach.

As KJSC's President, I am excited about the potential this partnership holds for the community. This collaboration offers our kids the chance to continue their football journey into senior football, while also utilising Dynamo's resources to enhance and further develop our football offering for all ages and abilities.

Dynamo Victoria FC focuses on using sport to bring the community together and create positive change. Through football, the club helps connect people, support their well-being, and build stronger relationships within the community. Their initiatives, like the Kicknic Summer Series, are designed to support the physical and mental wellbeing of players, their families, and the broader community. Their programs are supported by organisations such as VicHealth, Change Our Game, Life Without Barriers and Sport and Recreation Victoria.

Dynamo fosters love for football and aims to cultivate high performing squads whilst providing opportunities for players of all levels - social, competitive and elite. With FFA-accredited coaches leading the way, their teams have enjoyed major success on the pitch, securing back to back premierships for men's and women's sides.

Dynamo's President, Alejandro Ramirez, highlighted that this partnership is a crucial step in providing a clear pathway for young players who might have left the sport due to limited senior-level opportunities. "Through this partnership, we can now offer a clear progression, helping players stay engaged as they grow. By combining our efforts, resources, and expertise, we will support the growth of the sport and create opportunities for all. We're truly excited about the future and the positive impact we'll make together."

Andrew Hollow is President of the Kensington Junior Soccer Club.

From the supermarket carpark

Garry Talks

In the carpark outside the supermarket, a young girl was sitting on the ground. She looked to be in her twenties, wearing combat pants and faded t shirt, and had shorn hair apart from a string of bright green dreadlocks spiralling from the centre of her head.

I hesitated. A woman walked past cradling a teeny, tiny dog in her arms. We locked eyes. 'Do you think she's okay?' I asked, gesturing at the lime green lass.

'Oh yes,' said tiny dog lady with confidence. 'She's fine. She's looking after her rabbit. it's under a car. She's trying to lure it out with some grass.'

Her tiny dog looked at me with bulging eyes and slightly bared its teeth.

'Right,' I said. 'I didn't see the grass.'

'Never mind luvvie,' said tiny dog lady warmly. 'She's probably nuts but at least she has a rabbit. You can't save them all,' she added and walked off.

Lime green gal was now lying full length on the ground, singing softly into the underneath of a Nissan Patrol.

I walked around the corner and nearly stood on a older woman, all in dusty black, crouched up against the wall, who held her hand out for money. I fumbled in my purse and found \$4 in coins.

'It's all I've got,' I apologised as I handed it over.

'No worries,' said dusty older woman. 'Nobody has cash these days.'

A gust of wind caught her and she coughed loud and long. She smiled at me. 'With any



luck I'll get pneumonia and die!' Then she cackled like a wicked Disney witch.

I looked back. Lime green girl was walking toward us carrying a big grey flop ear rabbit in a basket.

'Only the strong survive!' she shouted as she and bunny cruised past.

I had come out for milk after a morning reading about the world and feeling sick at heart about war and famine and brutality. Normal dismal stuff. I'd been thinking about

the lack of funding for the arts, the deep entrenchment of patriarchy and how people object to cycleways, yet here were today's lessons.

You can't save them all and only the strong survive. I'm told that the world is full of meaning and symbols are everywhere, but I wasn't sure how to interpret these strange messengers.

I looked around. Dusty lady had disappeared and Lime green girl was lying on the grass, drinking strawberry milk while her bunny lay alongside in the sun. They looked quite peaceful.

New message I decided, one I could understand. When the world seems confusing, get yourself some strawberry milk, a bunny and lie in the sun.

I went on into the supermarket where cheeky pigeons lurked in the aisle and kids whined for lollies. Another ordinary day indeed.

ELLEN SANDELL

GREENS STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

Hi, I'm Ellen, your local state MP.
I'm here to help. Don't hesitate to get in touch.

(03) 9328 4637
office@ellensandell.com

60 Leicester Street
Carlton VIC 3053

