



# TROPHY PRESENTATION 2017

A large, light gray spider web is centered on the page. A black spider with a red eye is positioned in the middle of the web. Various sports and activities are written in red, sans-serif font along the web's strands, arranged in a circular pattern around the central spider. The text includes: 'Football' at the top, 'Community' on the right, 'Juniors' on the bottom right, 'Social' at the bottom, 'Friendship' on the bottom left, 'Netball' on the left, 'Learning' on the far left, and 'Recreation' on the top left.

Football  
Community  
Juniors  
Social  
Friendship  
Netball  
Learning  
Recreation



Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017

---

## Welcome Spiders Supporters

As you will read and hear throughout the evening, this year has been one of change and evolution. It has also been a year of success, even though that may not be immediately obvious.

It takes a lot to run a club, even one as fairly modest as ours, and it is here where there has been much of the success.

As with everything in life, things change, and this is so for us. Particularly when it comes to dealing with Sponsors, Council's many departments, FIDA (now AFL Victoria), Netball Victoria and the many other groups and businesses who's support we need to continue operating.



It takes a lot of work and as a committee we are especially grateful to Chairman Paul House who has put in an enormous amount of work in these areas this year.

In addition to maintaining our relationships with long-term sponsors such as LJ Hooker and Printer Services, Paul has gained the support of local MPs Michael Sukkar (Federal) and Dee Ryall (State).

As Councillors and Council staff have come and gone, Paul has ensured we remain relevant to everyone at Maroondah Council who has once again provided significant support this year.

We have also developed a great relationship with Bunnings Ringwood and the committee have given up a few Saturdays cooking sausages to raise funds for the club. Also a thanks here to the parents that joined in and helped out.

This year saw committee members Leanne Baldwin and Michelle Kingma step back, but still support us in the canteen and at functions, and we sincerely thank them.

Kevin Hare and Terry Wynne took up the call and joined the committee and have provided valuable input, support and undertaken roles throughout the year, and we thank them also.

We also thank the EFL umpires, Yarra Valley Old Boys, Cathy MacDonald for her work coaching our Juniors and Kelly Ross for her work coaching the Netballers.

So please enjoy the evening, have a laugh and take a moment to appreciate being part of this wonderful group. Also take-in this wonderful venue and learn a bit about the RSL's role in the community, whom we sincerely thank for their support.

*Ringwood Spiders Committee*

---

## Year in Review; Chairman's Report

We come to the end of year with mixed emotions: Sad to see the season finish, yet great to see all the players develop in many areas, both on and off the field.

Even though our wins were a little thin, the determination and courage of our players was too be admired. However, this year was different to previous years' in fielding only one team for the FIDA competition.

A composite of our Reds, Blacks and new players, it was a challenge for the coaching team to get all the players playing as a seasoned team... in reality it was a new team.

It was great to see that at our last game (semi-final) we had most of the team playing; and playing their best against a tough competitor. The score may have been one-sided and not in our favour, but the Spiders spirit and determination showed through to the final siren. Congratulations!

We continue to forge a strong relationship with the EFL-UA (Umpires Association), a bond that has grown over many years. As you will read further on, we participated in a training night and barbecue with them.

It was so successful they have decided to make it an annual event. The players, and really all of us that attended, learnt that being an umpire takes time, commitment and plenty of practice; something many of our players were not aware.



In 2017 we had a number of special evenings. The NDIS evening was one that was well received as it is a most important and complex new subject. To all the parents and carers that came along, thank you.

The other special evening was a motivation and pie night with Redbacks coach and past AFL player Patrick Bowden. This was a great night, well attended by the players with lots of interaction between Patrick and the team.

### **Ringwood Spiders All-abilities Sports Club's Vision:**

*'To provide and promote active participation in community sport and social activities for people with a disability',*

### **Ringwood Spiders All-abilities Sports Club Mission Statement:**

*'To provide people with a disability an opportunity to interact, participate and build social skills and leadership within the community'*

---

The message of 'not giving up' and 'playing to your best' was not lost by the team for the rest of the season.

At the end of the day and season though, what are we here for?

For me and the committee, it is the little things; as a proud club of 26 years we have and will continue to play competitive sport 'in the spirit of the game'. But it is about the friendships, achieving something as one and mostly, having fun.



Each year we congratulate the players for their efforts throughout the year and this year is no different. But seeing our senior players work to develop their skills as well as support and encourage the other players requiring that little extra help, is very rewarding.

As mentioned often, we are more than a football club. Our juniors also had a great year, coached by Cathy McDonald with the support of Gavin and Sue Ross. With many parents participating, it is real community.

Seeing the kids practicing their skills, marking the ball, rucking and kicking, not to mention keeping fit, we as a club benefit from this great program. Making friends, learning new skills... oh yes, and also having fun are the kids reward.

Our Netball team in the Eastern All Abilities Netball has continued to develop and grow. As a partner to the Whitehorse Netball Club also and with the support of SportLink in Vermont South, the potential future growth is huge. But this doesn't just happen, and without the drive and support of Sue and Kelly Ross it would not have got to where it is today.

Our Assistance Card continues to find new acceptance. I was fortunate earlier this year to present this initiative to the FIDA delegates and clubs and received a positive response. It will take time to grow, but in the meantime it's providing peace of mind to the existing card holders and their families.

As a club we gratefully acknowledge the ongoing and valuable support of our sponsors and community partners: LJ Hooker, Printer Services and Bendigo Bank East Ringwood. Their support allows us to wear our colours, travel to the games together, and helps subsidise our activities.

The support also from Maroondah Council, Dee Ryall State MP, and Michael Sukkar

---

Federal MP is also invaluable and we thank them sincerely.

This year we formed a great relationship with Bunnings Ringwood who gave us a number of sausage sizzle allocations as well as raffle donation support.

A number of other local organisations have also supported the Spiders throughout the year: Coles Croydon, Officeworks Chirnside Park, The Good Guys Chirnside Park and the EFL Umpires Association. We thank them for the support.

Of course, all of these things don't just happen, the smooth running and the behind the scenes efforts in putting it all together every week is due to the teamwork of a great committee and volunteers.

I would like to thank the committee: Gavin Ross, Sue Ross, Michael Baldwin, John Kingma, Frank Sullivan, Terry Wynne and Kevin Hare for their hard work and valuable support.

A special thank you to Cathy McDonald for coaching and mentoring our juniors and to Kelly Ross for your coaching and support of our Netballers.

Also a special thank you to the behind seen volunteers; Pauline Ryan, Leanne Baldwin, Michelle Kingma, Jeremy Zandt, Caroline Walker, Natalie & Rick Weller and Diana & Dean Amato for their invaluable support during the year.

The relationship we have with the Yarra Valley Old Boys has once again been fantastic and on behalf of all players, a sincere thank you for your support.

As we grow, so has our reputation as a respected, fair and well organised club which is something we should all be proud of. This was reflected by FIDA recommending us to Latrobe University to participate in a study they were conducting.



Gavin & Paul receiving a Grant from Cr. Kylie Spears

Finally, I would like to recognise our Life Members: Frank Sullivan, Ian Barnes, Clinton Fullgrave, Bill Fry, Greg Hay, Adam Law, Jeremy Zandt, Damien Kilner, Steve Zaresky, Liam Hescroff, Jaren Hare, Luke Dawson, Trevor Finch and Michael Ross.

And finally, don't forget to support our end of year and pre-season events... keeping fit, have fun and staying in touch.

On behalf of our committee, thank you for your support to the Spiders, your involvement is the key to our success.

*Paul House, Chairman*

---

## Assistance Card

We are proud to offer this important initiative. Designed to provide a support-net to Spiders members, most of whom have a mild intellectual disability, the Assistance Card is simple and effective.

We encourage our participants to be independent as much as practical. However, sometimes a situation may arise where they may not be sure on what to do, or how to get help.



Many people with an intellectual disability appear no different to anyone else which is great, but when it comes to dealing with many situations it can make it difficult for others to comprehend the need for that extra bit of patience and understanding.

The Assistance Card started as an idea by one of our parents.

She was concerned that if her son was questioned by an authoritative person, he might not be able to cope with the situation, or answer questions.

There is a chance the officer may also not comprehend her son has an intellectual disability and instead think he was intoxicated, for example.

So in a situation such as this, he could hand the officer his Assistance Card. The officer would then realise the person has a disability and if required, contact the assistance provider listed on the card to enable the situation to be settled in a calm manner. This provides confidence to people with a disability and brings independence to their lives.

The beauty of the Assistance Card is its simplicity. It only contains a brief message advising why the card has been presented, the cardholder's name and a photo; to ensure the card holder is the person presenting the card.

Importantly, also included are an assistance provider's name (parent, carer, etc.) and their phone number: That's it!

See a committee member if you would like to know more.



*The Ringwood Spiders Assistance Card is proudly supported and endorsed by Maroondah City Council.*



---

## 2017 in Review; Football

The 2017 season has drawn to a close and as I once again reflect on the season that was, I also look back on my last 5 years of coaching and think about how the team has dealt with the ups and downs of the competition; from premierships to battling to field a team.

At the end of 2016, we had a wealth of experience either retire or move on with their football direction. Pleasingly, at the start of this year we have had a number of new team members come on-board.

We took the step to field one team, combining the Blacks & Reds.

All these outcomes meant the Spiders had a new look and feel, which made for a tougher season than we would have hoped for; particularly as we really weren't in the division we should have been, but it is very hard to gauge that at the start of the year with so many new faces.

Pleasingly, regardless of how the season panned out we had 27 players giving there all on the training track week in, week out and fighting it out on game day.

To train, play and enjoy the mateship that the Ringwood Spiders provides and to see these guys grow in confidence and develop new skills, is what's it's all about. Sure everyone likes to win, but that's not what life is always about; it's not winning, its participating, developing, learning.

So I would like to congratulate all the Spiders players who have tried their best this year and achieved those three points.



2017 certainly provided a number of challenges with two very strong teams proving very difficult to match-up on game day, resulting in some very one sided games.

But to the credit of the team they tried there hardest and didn't complain (too much...) and just got on with the game and prepared for the next challenge.

As usual there are a number of factors that play their part in a season; injuries, availability and significantly this year, Special Olympics commitments.



---

Some weeks we had seven players on the bench, while for example, at the last home and away game we could only field 10 players.



These factors impacted the team structure with players being asked to play in positions they weren't accustomed to, or to sit on the bench for a half of football. To their credit once again they accepted the challenge and fought the games out.

I am proud that we are able to provide a safe environment for these guys to socialise, train, play football – the game they love – and feel part of a team environment.



To come into the rooms after a win, the passion, excitement and camaraderie they have as they sing the team song is obvious.

It takes many volunteers to make this team run, so many thanks to the Spiders committee, in particular Sue Ross who organises the team lists and washes and prepares the jumpers and shorts; hours of work that is easily taken for granted.

I would also like to thank Barney and Peter Ryan from the Ringwood Redbacks for their ongoing support.

Special thanks to John Kingma and Jeremy Zandt and to all the water carriers for your support throughout the year.

Finally, two of our older Juniors, Michael Kirby and Lochlan Whyte, have been transitioning to the senior team and attended Wednesday training pretty much every week. They have both also helped out on game days.

But in particular I would like to thank Michael and his Aunt, Caroline, for carrying water at every game. Caroline has been an inspiration to everyone for the way she is supporting and mentoring Michael; she does a pretty good ice cream cake as well!

I know the guys will be looking forward to preseason in 2018, so once again thanks to everyone who make the Ringwood Spiders.

*Michael Baldwin, Football Coach*



---

## 2017 in Review; Netball

The Eastern All-abilities Netball competition has continued its success over the past year. With the continued support of SportLink for the regular Friday games and Vermont South Special School for training, the program has been all about participation, enjoyment and skill development.

Netball Victoria has also been proactive in the development of all-abilities netball and when it comes to State Titles, we are now zoned into the Chisholm district.

Late last year we took two teams (Spiders and Warriors), each in separate divisions, to the Victorian State titles.

The day consisted of five matches, followed by finals for successful teams. It was a great challenge for our players, requiring strength, stamina and persistence to make it through all the games.

Both teams made it to the semi-finals, with the Spiders finishing 3rd and the Warriors finishing on top of the ladder!

The Spiders were defeated in their semi' after a brilliant effort by all. The Warriors showed their strength and won the semi, but were then defeated in the grand final.

It was a fantastic day all round. There were some outstanding contests and we were really proud of the effort everyone put in.

In 2017 we have continued to run the Monday night training sessions as well as a match on Friday evening.

All players have shown great improvement and we have been seeing some competitive, close matches of late.



Another highlight has been the inclusion of a wheelchair-bound participant joining in at Monday training. Josie joins in and throws beanbags and balls, and performs many other activities. Her spirit and enthusiasm has been inspirational and it has been great fun seeing her enjoying the activities and being part of the group.

We would love more girls or boys to join netball, so please contact Sue Ross if you know anyone interested.

*Kelly Ross, Netball Coach*



---

## 2017 in Review; Junior Development Squad

As with last year, we once again pooled resources with Vermont South Special School to conduct our Juniors program.

Again under the wonderful guidance of Cathy McDonald, who we sincerely thank, the program covered all facets of skill development while still providing fun and kicking a few goals. We can't finish a session without that..!



Cathy structures the program and each week focuses on a particular skill - ball handling, kicking, handball, marking, etc.

We had plenty of siblings – and parents – involved to join in or help with the drills and activities.



They all got as much out of it as the kids did and, as always, there were plenty of laughs to be had.

This year, two Juniors from 2016 – Lochlan Whyte and Michael Kirdy – moved up to the Spiders seniors. Although not old enough to play in the FIDA competition, they both joined in Wednesday training and enjoyed the move. This is what the Juniors is all about; to provide a pathway. That wasn't there 10 years ago and many young children have been lost to football as a result.

Once again this year there was the opportunity for two Spiders home game curtain raisers on Jubilee Park. These were as crazy as ever, although one that was in the middle of the school holidays only saw 6 participants, so it was a good fast game, with impressive skills on display, which bodes well for the future.

To finish the year we held a family fun day and barbecue at Vermont South Special School recently. We presented the participants with their trophies, of which they were all very proud.

Unfortunately a few couldn't make it but received theirs the following week in school; and were very proud to show them to the other kids!

Thanks Cathy and all, it was great fun.

*Gavin Ross, Juniors Coordinator*

---

## Our Thanks; EFL Umpires

This year, FIDA (AFL Victoria) introduced an intuitive to improve the umpiring standards throughout the competition. And while the standard did improve considerably, maybe we're biased, but no one comes close to the EFL Umpires who bring umpiring standards of the highest level.

Our home games remain the only games within FIDA featuring a full compliment of umpires. We are also the only club to present the game day ball to a best-on-ground player – even if they're not a Spider...



This is entirely due to the support the EFL Umpires bring and we cannot thank them enough for the time and support they give.

This year the umpires invited us to participate in one of their weekly training sessions and join them for a barbecue.

It was a great night with many of the younger umpires conducting drills that our players participated. Ruck contests, set-shot goal kicking, boundary throw-ins; all the plays where umpires and players interact. It was a great initiative.



It was enlightening for all of us to see the work and the incredible amount of planning and coordination it takes to field umpires to the 120 or so games that are played within the EFL each week.

We were also the beneficiaries of tickets to the footy show that a few of our players attended thanks to the EFL Umpires. This was something the participants had never experienced and they enjoyed the night.

To Trevor Finch, Sean Clarke and everyone at the EFL Umpires Association, we sincerely thank you for your commitment to our club, home games and to the FIDA competition.



---

## Yarra Valley Old Boys

Incredibly, this is the fifth year the Yarra Valley Old Boys football club have supported the Spiders.

Although they weren't able to get to every session due to work commitments, they once again did a fantastic job enthusiastically passing on their knowledge and skills at Wednesday training.

During the year we were once again guests at a joint training evening where the YVOB players hooked up with our players and had a great time participating in the various drills and games.

The club put on pizzas for everyone afterwards and it was another great evening and a positive community initiative.

We thank everyone at Yarra Valley Old Boys for their wonderful support.

In particular, our sincere thanks to Simon and Ryan who are to be congratulated for their dedication and enthusiasm, which is appreciated by everyone at the Spiders.



## Around the Club

### Jubilee Park Redevelopment

After many years of lobbying by all three Jubilee Park tenants – Spiders, Redbacks and RAMs Cricket Club – we are pleased to announce the first stage of redevelopment has commenced.

Even though the playing field is the size of the MCG, incredibly there is about a 3 metre drop between the goal lines. To make it into a premier ground, particularly for District Cricket, the playing surface will be levelled, re-profiled and have new drainage installed. Special grass will then be sowed. New fencing will also be installed.

This is expected to take until at least April next year, but depending on weather and other conditions encountered during the redevelopment, it may not be available until June.

We are working with FIDA and Council which will probably result in a different venue for Wednesday training and it is likely most of our early games will be played away in the first half of the season. We will keep you informed.

### FIDA – AFL Victoria

This year marked the completion of the transition of the FIDA competition being incorporated within AFL Victoria. FIDA is there as name only, however an advisory committee has been setup consisting the previous FIDA board, a representative



---

from AFL Victoria (Tim Neild) and our own Paul House representing the clubs.

Logan Whitaker, the previous FIDA General manager has moved to a new role within the AFL as a national All-abilities development manager.

Tim has done a great job in his first year and has many initiatives that will hopefully improve the competition into the future.

### **Developing Lives Evenings**

We aim to provide everyone with a bit more than just sport and recreation, and our Developing Lives evenings are part of that. While we didn't have as many this year as planned for various reasons, we did successfully host an NDIS evening for parents and carers that proved extremely informative and got everyone talking about this complex program.

For the players we were privileged to have Redbacks coach and past AFL player Patrick Bowden come along and talk to the team about the importance of teamwork, remaining positive and not giving up. It seemed to work as there was a positive vibe in the room afterwards.

### **Off Season Activities**

It started in October when the challenge of the Clifford Park obstacles tested the Spiders. Naturally they rose to the challenge and had a lot of fun along the way.



Every Wednesday we conducted an informal indoor cricket competition that everyone enjoyed. We also had a ten pin bowling day and rode the Dandenong Creek trail to end up at Jells Park for a picnic lunch and kick of the footy before preseason training kicked off.



For this year, we will start our off-season activities in October, with a nine week boxing/exercise program conducted by MVC boxing. We participated in this program a couple of years ago and it was a great success; and if the initial interest is anything to go by, it will be just as successful this time around.

---

## Sponsors; Making it Possible

It is incredible when at the end of the year Michael Baldwin (Treasurer) presents the financial report, to see what it costs to run a small outfit such as the Spiders. From ground and pavilion fees, insurances, registrations, food, functions and niceties such as club uniforms, activities, etc., it is a big cost.

Many other clubs pass these directly on to players, costing them hundreds. They also don't provide anywhere near the activities we do. We pride ourselves on being proactive and try to make belonging to the Spiders accessible and affordable to all.

So how do we do it?

Sponsors and Community Partners.

They don't ask for much in return, except that if you are in the market for one of their products or services, you consider them. So here is a bit about them.



### **LJ Hooker Real Estate – Major Sponsor**

LJ Hooker has once again committed to be our Major Sponsor for 2018.

They have more than 80 years experience in the real estate market and is one of the largest real estate agency franchise systems in Australasia.

LJ Hooker has more than 80 years experience in the real estate market and is one of the largest real estate agency franchise systems in Australasia, with 700 franchises across Australia and New Zealand.

If you are in the market for a home or rental, we encourage you to speak with the LJ Hooker team as they are the experts in real estate and offer a number of competitive services; and don't forget to tell them your part of the Spiders.



**printerservices**

### **Printer Services – Junior Development Squad Sponsor**

Doug and Kathi from Printer Services have been supporters of the Spiders for more than 7 years, and we truly thank them.

Printer Services is able to assist individuals and companies small and large with laser printer sales, service and repairs.

Do you run a business? Are you after a laser printer for your home office? If so Printer Services is ideally positioned to be able to offer the best service, support and advice.

Give them a call on 1300 138 066.





### **Bendigo Bank, East Ringwood & Heathmont – Community Partner**

The ongoing support provided by use of the community bus has been invaluable, as it allows the team to travel to away games as a group, which is important in team and friendship development.

If you're looking to open an account, take out a loan or mortgage, or after some financial advice, speak to the Bendigo staff.

Being a Community Bank means profits are returned to the community, so let them know you're with the Spiders, as that helps us also.



### **Maroondah City Council – Principal Supporter**

Of course we would not be here without the support of everyone at Maroondah Council who have been with us since our inception in 1992. Council's professionalism and support is greatly appreciated. We thank the Mayor, Councillors and the wonderful staff for their support.



### **Michael Sukkar MP – Community Partner**

Our local Federal Member for Parliament, Michael Sukkar has been a Spiders supporter for several years. This year he has come on-board and supported us even further for which we offer sincere thanks.



### **Dee Ryall MP – Community Partner**

Dee is our local State Member for Parliament. Dee has also been a Spiders supporter for several years regularly attending functions and keeping up with how things are going. This year Dee has also come on-board and supported us even further for which we offer sincere thanks.



## And Finally...

Playing footy and sport, making friends and being part of a group is what being in the Spiders means to these guys, our Juniors, and our Netballers.

A recently published statistic stated that of all people in prison, less than 3 per cent have participated in team sport. This shows how important it is. Can you imagine what our prisons and communities would be like without it?

For people like our players, segregation from the broader community can mean a very lonely existence. Yet it is through programs such as FIDA and club's such as us that barriers are being broken down.

Most of the players could not have lived their dream of playing footy, having so many friends, representing their State, playing on Etihad or the 'G without this.

So as you enjoy this night, please just take a moment to take it in and be proud of what we are part of. Yes there might be the odd bump in the road, but the rewards are more than worth it. Thank you.

For our players, enjoy the break from football and perhaps try our Netball – it is better than you think, or participate in our off-season activities, or do something else, but keep active and enjoy yourselves. Then we'll be ready to do it all again next year..!