



# END OF YEAR CELEBRATION & TROPHY PRESENTATION

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## Welcome All

Another great year..!

Welcome to our 2019 Trophy Presentation evening. Tonight is an opportunity to look back on the year and celebrate what it is to be part of this wonderful group.

It has been a busy time with a lot going on, both on-field and behind the scenes.

At our 2018 AGM we welcomed three new faces to the Spiders committee – and it is great that we have more women: Bronwyn Taylor, Jodie Bendle (also our first committee member from the junior development squad) and Ian Firth.

This is in addition to Terry Wynne, Kevin Hare, Sue Ross, Michael Baldwin (Coach and Treasurer) Gavin Ross (Secretary) and Paul House (Chairman).

The number of volunteers around the club who put their hand up to help out each week has also grown; Leanne Baldwin, Pauline Ryan, Nat and Rick Wheeler, Sheridan, Will and Liam Hackett, Carolyn Walker, Diana & Dean Amato, Mitchell

House, Cathy McDonald (Juniors coach) Jeremy Zandt and Damian Petrucci who just came along and asked if there was some way he could join in and help.

As you can see it takes a lot of people to keep the club running. But it is great to have so many people involved and is extremely rewarding to be a part of.

There have been many behind the scenes activities also. The committee and a few interested parents have participated in a program regarding gender equality. This program aims at ensuring everything we do is inclusive to all, regardless of gender, race, religion and more. It has been very interesting. There are areas we can improve and as the program continues we will implement any actions required to ensure we continue to be an equitable club.

Paul and Gavin have also participated in the Jubilee Park clubroom redevelopment planning subcommittee. While this hasn't moved ahead as quickly as everyone would have liked, Council has recognised the importance of getting not only the clubroom development right, but the entire Jubilee Park precinct. We are hoping for some exciting news later in the year.

So please enjoy the evening, have a laugh and take a moment to appreciate being part of this wonderful group.

*Ringwood Spiders Committee*



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## Year in Review; Chairman's Report



It gives us all a great deal of pleasure to see how the Spiders continue to develop and mature both as a team and as individuals. I congratulate the players and support team for their efforts throughout the year.

Seeing a player 'kicking that first goal', a player being awarded the game-day ball for being best on the ground and seeing how the rest of the team reacts... is priceless. And watching our senior players encourage those who require that little extra help is very rewarding and what our club is all about.

This year the new VFFL divisional structure provided a much fairer competition for all clubs and one the Spiders were able to embrace by making the grand final.

I am also involved in supporting the VFFL and FIDA and see first-hand the amount of work behind the scenes it takes to run our competition and to make it fair. Those people are often overlooked, but I would like to thank them and in particular Scott Nicholas (VFFL) and Peter Ryan (FIDA) and acknowledge their efforts and commitment throughout the year.

### **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'*

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Our coaching and training team continued to focus on improving the natural skills of each player and to use that skill to their advantage which has been great to see.

For the first time in a couple of years no matter how the game ended everyone enjoyed the game and the competition.

We are dedicated to providing more than just football (or sport). Our Developing Lives evenings have provided informative themes on a range of everyday subjects.



This year we brought in specialists to cover topics such as; eating the right food, preparing wills and trusts, and being aware of scams and scammers. We have more to come next year.

Our approach to RESPECT both on and off the playing field is part of our core values. To help in this approach we again had a special training night with the EFLUA (Umpires Association) which gives the players a better understanding of the value of the umpire and the role they play in contributing in our games.

This continued strong relationship with the EFLUA provides a high level of professionalism for us and to our game.

As a club within the VFFL competition, we are one of the most well-respected teams; something we are very proud of. We continue to play competitive sport and most importantly, we play 'in the spirit of the game'. But it is also about achieving something else; bonding within the team, friendships and having fun.

Junior development is the heart of any club and our Juniors Squad has once again thrived with the support of Cathy McDonald, Gavin, Sue and Jodie all helping to develop our next generation of Spiders. Seeing the juniors practicing their skills and keeping fit (along with the parents) all participating in the training and enjoying a real 'Spider' moment of community spirit and having fun is great to witness.

The Netball has evolved as you will read in this booklet. This is hugely rewarding to see, particularly as the participation numbers for girls and women with a disability in sport are much lower than for boys and men. Well done to everyone for continuing to develop this important program.

The Spiders gratefully acknowledge the ongoing and valuable support of our Sponsors and Community Partners: LJ Hooker, Printer Services, Simultech Australia and Bendigo Bank - East Ringwood.





Their support allows us to wear our colours, travel to the games, enjoy our BBQ's and helps subsidise other activities.

We were honoured to receive a Deakin Community Award from Federal MP for Deakin Michael Sukkar. This is a great recognition of the work that everyone puts in to successfully run our club.

Thank you Michael.

Thank you to Maroondah City Council for their wonderful ongoing support, without this we would not be able to continue and have access to the best playing field in the VFFL.

Thanks also to Dustin Halse - State MP for Ringwood for his continued support.

Bunnings Ringwood has been a Community Partner for the past three years and have supported us with a number of sausage sizzle allocations, as well as providing raffle donations to support our functions.

Coles Croydon has also been a valued Community Partner for the past three years providing valued support to our club.

Putting all the events together doesn't just happen, the smooth running and the behind the scene 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, Jodie Bendle, Terry Wynne, Ian Firth, Bronwyn Taylor and Kevin Hare for their hard work and valuable support.

Thank you also to Cathy McDonald for coaching and mentoring our juniors.

Also a special thank you to our volunteers: Leanne Baldwin, Pauline Ryan, Sheridan Hackett, Jeremy Zandt, Carolyn Walker, Natalie & Rick Wheeler and Diana & Dean Amato for your hard work and support.

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*

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## Football Review



Congratulations to all our players for your efforts during the season and for making another Grand Final!

While the result didn't go our way, we are very proud of the way you fought out the game until the end. You should be proud of your efforts also.

I have seen plenty of development in everyone this year and know that we are in a good position to continue our success next year and beyond.

This year saw the VFFL change the structure of the competition by introducing an eight team combined Division 2/3. After the first seven rounds, the top 4 teams were split into Division 2 and the bottom 4 into Division 3. In my view this initiative has certainly evened out the competition giving all teams a chance to play in finals against similar level clubs.

Our Sunday preseason sessions started mid-February and saw more than 20 players regularly attend the weekly Sunday training sessions as we prepared ourselves for pending season.

My wife and I were able to travel for five weeks overseas which meant I had to rely on others to help at training and game day. So I thank the committee, players, support staff and especially Damian and Jeremy who have supported me during this period.

As the season panned out, we covered a lot of territory, playing at Geelong, Sunbury (twice), St Albans and being competitive in most games before settling mid-field and ultimately finding our position in Division 3.

Again, we continue to respect the players as they faced each and every game as an opportunity to win or at least learn and become a better team player.

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When we did lose or didn't play as well as we would have liked, we accepted the result, regrouped at training with enthusiasm and spirit and set our sights on the next game.

This year we did focus training more on skills and teamwork and it's wonderful to see many players embracing and showing improvement at training and in the games, well done all!

Pleasingly, regardless of how the season panned out, we had 24 players giving there all on the training track week in, week out and fighting it out on game day. During our last few games we were able to throw the team around and we witnessed a number of players able to kick a goal or two – some for the first time. To see the smile and excitement of getting on the scoreboard was priceless.

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, it's participating, developing, and learning. And our guys have excelled at all of those, and we can all learn something from them.

So well done to the Spiders group of 2019.

On a sad note Adam Law is retiring after an illustrious career spanning 1992- 2019 which is an amazing effort, with more to be said on our presentation night, I would like to personally acknowledge Adam's loyalty to the Spiders and the support he has given me as coach over the last 7 years. I know we will see Adam around the club but I do wish him well for the future.

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



Many thanks to the committee, Sue and Gavin Ross who organise the team lists and wash and prepare the jumpers and shorts; hours of work that is easily taken for granted.

Special thanks to the those who supported me at training and game day, especially Jeremy Zandt for supporting the team and providing expert advice to me.



Also, thanks to Damian who is new to the Spiders and came down to offer his help at training and ultimately coached the team in my absence. I'm sure he enjoyed being part of this special group.

Thanks also to the water carriers for your support throughout the year; especially Carolyn for all the help she provides. To Sheridan for your support attending to any medical issues also.

I know the guys will be looking forward to the off-season activities and preseason in 2020, so once again thanks to everyone who make the Ringwood Spiders.

*Michael Baldwin, Football Coach*

## Netball Update

**It has been a big year for our all-abilities netball; and it is only going to get bigger!**

Eastern All-abilities Netball (EAAN) has teamed up with Melbourne East Netball Association (MENA) to provide an all-abilities netball competition at the new \$16 million Maroondah Nets complex in Heathmont's HE Parker reserve.

This is a great opportunity to continue the development of all-abilities netball in the Eastern suburbs and we are very excited about what the future holds.

Eastern All-abilities netball started as a social activity eight years ago for girls watching the Spiders.

After a few come-and-try sessions, we continued as a social program. A few boys also joined in and played only to discover netball is a really good game!

Also at the time, Whitehorse had a small all-abilities netball program running at SportLink in Vermont South. We started playing games together – Spiders vs Whitehorse – but soon outgrew that and pooled our resources.

After a while, SportLink needed the court space, so we moved to Knox, but due to its location the numbers fell away.

We were able to return to SportLink, where we have been for the last few years, but they were only offering a court for an hour a week; we now need more.





We have grown and regularly have more than enough players for three teams.

Earlier this year we held discussions with MENA's President Kylie Spears, who just happens to be Deputy Mayor of Maroondah Council and knows all about the Spiders.

All-abilities netball has always been on MENA's agenda and was included in the funding application for the redevelopment at HE Parker.

So a partnership has been developed with MENA and the support they bring will go beyond just providing a court, as they will be involved in helping us continue the competition's growth.

We will play on Friday evenings for the remainder of this year and aim to bring all-abilities netball to Saturdays from 2020; running alongside mainstream netball programs.

5000 people pass through the Nets on a Saturday, so it will certainly raise the profile of all-abilities netball.

We also participate in tournaments with other all-abilities competitions across Melbourne and plan to host our own next year. Most of our players also participate in the Netball Victoria State titles, representing the Chisholm region.

After many years of hard work, all-abilities netball is finally enjoying the growth and recognition it deserves in providing real options for girls and boys of all ages.

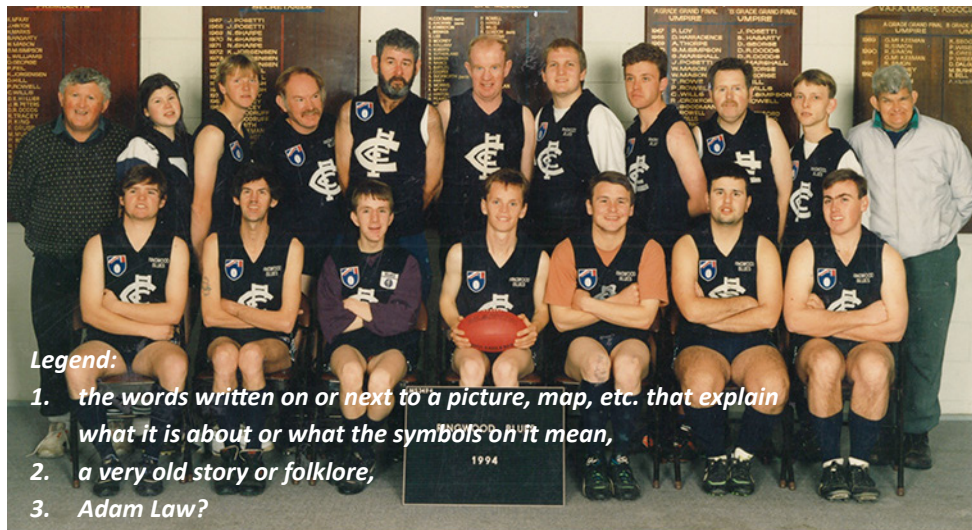
Eastern All-abilities netball has been at the forefront of this growth and we now look forward to an exciting future.

For further information, speak to Sue Ross, email [eaanetball@gmail.com](mailto:eaanetball@gmail.com) or drop in at Maroondah Nets at HE Parker reserve between 5.00 - 6.00 pm Friday evenings.

*Sue Ross, Netball Coordinator*

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## 28 Years; Adam Law



### Legend:

1. the words written on or next to a picture, map, etc. that explain what it is about or what the symbols on it mean,
2. a very old story or folklore,
3. Adam Law?

The Spiders began in 1992 as the Ringwood Blues; due to the fact they wore Carlton jumpers.

At that time two people commenced playing with the club; Jeremy Zandt and Adam Law, both who are still with us today.

Jeremy retired from playing several years ago and is still actively involved with the club as Coaching Assistant.

Adam continued playing and has now just played in his fifth grand final. However, after 28 seasons he has decided to hang up the boots.

Not many – if any – people have played football for such a long period of time; certainly Adam is the longest playing FIDA/VFFL player.

Having spoken to Peter Ryan, President of FIDA recently, it is very difficult to remember Adam missing a game. If that is so, he would have notched up 280 home and away games, plus a many finals and representative games, so he is near 300, possibly more..?

This is an outstanding achievement for anyone, and one we are proud to be part of.

To celebrate, we had Adam run through a banner at our recent preliminary final, with the playing group and Juniors cheering him on.

Adam didn't start his football career until he was about 16. He played in the ruck, but also played forward and played back, so was a versatile player. "I just played wherever the coach put me", was his reply.

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In his third year with the Blues, 1994, the team went through the season undefeated and ultimately won the premiership.

Adam also played in the Spiders premier-ships in 2009 and 2015 and as runner-up in 2012 and 2019. He has played in representative games such as the FIDA All Stars, and on the MCG in front of 65,000 people (who were there to watch Collingwood v Geelong but responded very well to the Spiders vs Mazenod half time game to promote all-abilities football).

Adam has also played on Etihad stadium twice. So he has certainly seen success and had some special experiences.

While Adam is not as quick as he once was, his heart and passion for the game and the club are as strong as ever.

We asked Frank Sullivan, Blues/Spiders founder and coach of Adam for many years about him:

“What do you say about Adam? Things that stand out with me was his communication with his team mates, such as that he was the ‘best ruckman ever’ and his comments on the field; ‘help me help me, I can’t do it all on my own!’

“But seriously, the one thing about Adam was that he was a good player, particularly in his early days... and no one can deny he’s not passionate – about the Blues/Spiders and about his beloved Richmond.



“Yes, he has been a legend”.

Adam is also legendary in his commentary.

One strong memory many of us share was when some Spiders players were asked to assist at a Maroondah Council Business breakfast. Adam was one of the players in attendance.

Special guest speaker at the function was then AFL CEO Andrew Demetriou.

After the official proceedings, Andrew came over and introduced himself to the players. Adam, not one for being backward, asked Andrew how many premierships he had won. When Andrew replied that he had not won any, Adam retorted with, “well I’ve won three so I must be a better player than you!”

We don’t think Andrew had a reply to that...



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Adam was one of the first players to receive life membership with the club, an honour for which he is very proud, along with the number of games he has played. He is quick to tell anyone just how many he has played, and what that equivalent is if he played AFL.

Under the exterior though, Adam does care for the club and its players. He still often mentions two team mates that succumbed to depression and took their own lives; Christian Ampt and Damian Kilner.

When asked his thoughts about the club and players, he just hopes the players can have continued success, win premierships and experience the joy they bring.

He mentioned he would like to thank Frank in particular for all he has done, and everyone else around the club which has been such a big part of his life.



Finally when asked what the future holds, his reply was that he wants to remain around the club and be able to help out, like Jeremy does. When pushed a bit further, he said he would like to help being a trainer and first aid, "just like Barney"!





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## Junior Development Squad



Following a big year in 2018, we are proud to report the momentum has continued into 2019. Luckily, the move back to Jubilee Park has not deterred the participants as we moved away from Vermont South special school which was our base in 2018 due to the Jubilee Park redevelopment.

And the sense of community and fun has also continued.

Even though Cathy McDonald has had a year off from teaching, she has continued fronting up on the chilly winter mornings to guide the juniors through all facets of skill development, while still kicking a few goals. There were also plenty of laughs along the way!

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

The age range of the juniors has broadened to 5 to 14 year olds.

We were able to have a juniors curtain raiser game before our family day home game, and another before the seniors played their preliminary final. If one thing never changes, it is that these are still as crazy as ever. It was good fun and helps connect the Juniors with the rest of the club.

We often finish each clinic with a kids vs parents game, unfortunately the parents are still to snag a win; but there's always next time...

Thanks to the continuing generous support of Doug and Kathi Barnard at Printer Services, we were able to once again provide each Junior with a Spiders polo shirt and backpack.

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An equipment grant from Bendigo bank East Ringwood also helped us buy some equipment as previously we had been using some of Vermont South's.

The Juniors is important for giving the kids a sense of being part of something bigger and belonging.



We have had another junior, Alex, commence the transition to the seniors and hopefully continue in the footsteps of current Spiders players Hamish Barnard (junior 2010-2014) and Michael Kirdy (junior 2016-2017) who have both become integral in the seniors line-up.

Alex has been with the juniors for several years now and needed some new challenges so has been joining in Wednesday training sessions and enjoying himself.



This is what the juniors is all about – providing a pathway that wasn't previously available for children with disabilities, and we are proud to be offering this in a safe and fun environment.

It was also great to have Jodie Bendle, the mum of one of our juniors, join the Spiders committee this year and assist at juniors and with seniors games. Thanks Jodie!

Thanks also to all the parents for joining in and making the Juniors great fun and especially to Cathy McDonald without who the juniors wouldn't be what it is, which is just great fun!

*Gavin Ross, Juniors Coordinator*



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## Our Thanks; EFL Umpires



Since 2006 the EFL Umpires Association have been supporting the Spiders, and it is an association we are extremely proud of.

Our home games have been the benchmark for years and it is due to the wonderful support of the EFLUA who donate their time and deliver the highest level of quality and professionalism when umpiring Spiders games.

Ours remain the only games within the VFFL featuring a full complement of umpires; field (usually two), goal and often boundary, and are the only games where the game day ball is presented to a Best-on-ground player by the umpires – even if they're not a Spider!

This is entirely due to the support the EFLUA bring, which is voluntary by the individual umpires who often then go to their 'day job' at an EFL game.

Also, the match payments the EFLUA receive from the VFFL are donated back to the club, a wonderful gesture.

Once again this year the Spiders joined with the umpires at a training session and stayed on for a barbeque afterward. It was a great night with many of the younger umpires conducting drills that Spiders players participate in.

Ruck contests, set-shot goal kicking, boundary throw-ins; all the plays where umpires and players interact.

It is a great initiative and one our players look forward to each year. It has given our guys a great understanding and appreciation of what it takes to be an umpire.

Our sincere thanks to Trevor Finch and all the umpires that have supported us this year; many of whom are with us tonight.



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## Grand Final Snaps



After a comprehensive preliminary final win over Rupertswood, the Spiders played Coburg in the 2019 Division 3 Grand Final at Glen Waverley.



After what seemed like a long preparation due in-part to a delay in the preceding game due to an injury, our game commenced with the National Anthem.

The Spiders got off to a great start with Adam Johnson very strong in the ruck and Jordan and Hamish in support as usual.

We had the first three forward line entries, but unfortunately couldn't convert. Coburg were able to take advantage and rebound from their back line gaining a good lead.

Unfortunately, we had lost Roy after he fractured his finger in the preliminary final, and it soon became obvious that we missed his ferociousness at the ball. Roy did take to the field, but was running water. His son – and Spiders Junior – Bailey, was there to help out as well.

That's not taking anything away from those playing, it's just that Coburg seemed to have too many options that we just couldn't cover.







The team fought on and had a much better second quarter which carried on through into the third.

But despite the efforts of the team, Coburg were just too strong on the day.



For Adam Law, it was not to be the fairy tale he had wished for in his final game.



However three premierships out of five Grand Finals is a great achievement.

Congratulations to everyone for the spirit and sportsmanship shown throughout the game. You have done the Spiders proud!



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## Sponsors and Community Partners; Making it Possible

Our Sponsors and Community Partners continue to provide the support and funding needed to keep the club running. Without them, we could not do what we do.

Please support them whenever you can.

### LJ Hooker Home Loans



LJ Hooker has been our Major Sponsor since 2013 and we sincerely thank them for their wonderful support.

If you are in the market for home loan finance, 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.

### Printer Services



**printerservices**

Doug and Kathi from Printer Services have been supporters of the Spiders for more than nine years, and we truly thank them. This year they helped with equipment for the Juniors and beanies for all of the players and juniors.

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.

### Simultech Australia



**Simultech Australia**

One of our players parents asked if there was a way in which their company could help out; was there something needed? So last year Ian from Simultech brought the players training tops. This year it's been a new barbeque and beyond that Ian has become part of the committee and actively assists in many of the behind the scenes activities required to keep the club running. He has also become great at cooking the odd snag also! On behalf of all our players, a big thank you.

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## Bendigo Bank, East Ringwood



The ongoing support provided by use of the Bendigo Bank 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. The Bank also provides community grants, of which we have been recipients of for several years now. This is what being a Community Bank means; profits are returned to the community.

## Maroondah City Council



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.

## Bunnings Ringwood



We have gradually built a rapport with Bunnings Ringwood that has provided much needed funds for the club.

We have participated in several sausage sizzles this year and are on Bunnings emergency list should someone cancel. This is of great help to Bunnings to know that we may be able to help on short notice.

## Michael Sukkar MP

As our local Federal Member for Parliament, Michael has also been a Spiders supporter for several years and has continued his support again for another year, which we offer sincere thanks.



## Dustin Halse MP

Newly elected State Member for Ringwood, Dustin Halse came to our family day and loved what he saw. He was only too happy to support the club and we welcome him.



## Coles – Croydon Central



Coles have supported us with gift vouchers for over a year now. We use these to subsidise the cost of our BBQs and for raffle prizes. Their continued is greatly appreciated.

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## Beyond Football – Around the Club

We once again started our off-season activities in October last year with the MVC boxing/exercise program.

We also had a tour of the MCG and National Sports Museum in November before finishing the year at our Christmas barbeque.

Once Christmas was done and dusted we continued the boxing program until the start of regular training and spent Sunday mornings preparing for the new season at footy training.

It was great that throughout this year we were also able to provide some extras in our 'Developing Lives' evenings. These included several varied topics and we have more ideas for next year.

In our first evening, a nutritionist from Richmond football club joined us for a fun and informative evening .

We learned about foods and what is good, and what is not so good.

In the next session, a Senior Constable from Knox police shared stories and provided tips on how to avoid being scammed; a very real and relevant topic for several of our players.

Then we held an evening covering the important topic of Wills and Estates.



Although this was aimed at parents of children with a disability, many players sat in and learned a bit also.

Recently, we were also able to facilitate a forum on behalf of Council's Youth Services so they could gain feedback on how they can help today's youth and ensure the services they provide are relevant.

This has also provided a reconnect with Youth Services and we hope to do more with them later in the year and into 2020.

Another highlight was participating in Hawthorn football club's Inclusion Round 'Eastern Shield'.

We were invited to play a friendly game against Ferntree Gully at Waverley Park. The team then got to meet Hawthorn players before participating in a Mental Health awareness discussion conducted by SALT.

The Christmas Barbeque and AGM will finish off the year before we do it all again.