



# RINGWOOD SPIDERS

ALL-ABILITIES SPORTS CLUB



## END OF YEAR CELEBRATION & TROPHY PRESENTATION

September 2022

DEVELOPING LIVES



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## Welcome All, Welcome Back!

Do you believe that our last trophy presentation evening was in 2019... where has that time gone?

So to say it is great to be back is an understatement, and even more-so, it's been great to see the players and juniors back.

That's not to mean we've been sitting back twiddling our thumbs in that time. You may have noticed a new pavilion and new lights, and the indoor training centre starting to take shape. These don't happen by themselves, and there have been many in-person, on-site and Teams meetings to get these projects underway and completed. More on that further on.

We have welcomed several new faces to the Spiders committee since 2019 – Carolyn Sparkes, Sheriden Hackett and juniors dad Roger Barr.

This is in addition to Terry Wynne, Kevin Hare, Sue Ross, Ian Firth, Bronwyn Taylor, Michael Baldwin, Gavin Ross and Paul House who continue on the committee.



We are very thankful to our volunteers who put their hand up to help out each week; Cathy McDonald, Jeremy Zandt, Will and Liam Hackett, Leanne Baldwin, Pauline Ryan, Nat and Rick Wheeler, Diana & Dean Amato, Diana and Ruby Gibson, Bryan Smith and Andy Payne. Thank you.

Also, a huge thank-you to the EFL umpires who have once again been great support to us at all home games.

As with any organisation, 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.

For a long time, we have wanted to provide dinners and social activities after Wednesday training. Now that we have our new clubrooms, we have been able to do that this year, and with great success.

They have been well supported with an average of 30 players and parents staying back, enjoying the great meals and playing the odd trivia game.

Special thanks to Paul, Carolyn and Ian for volunteering their time, as it takes a lot of preparation and work to do this each week. Also thanks to the helpers that pitched in to get the meals out.

So please enjoy this 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



2022; the first season in our new pavilion and under new lights, but more about that a little later.

It was great to finally finish a season without COVID forcing FIDA to cancel games. It was also a pleasure to us all to see how the Spiders players have developed; both on their own during the COVID break, throughout preseason, and the football season. I, along with the committee, congratulate all the players and the coaching team for their efforts throughout the 2022 season.

### Seniors

This year saw two junior players move up to the senior team and put in a significant effort for their first season. As always, our experienced senior players provided support and encouragement to all the team, and this is what our club is all about.

Our coaching and training team headed by Michael Baldwin and with the help of Jeremy Zandt (who commenced playing in 1992 when we were the Blues) continued to focus on improving the skills of each player.

### **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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This year, even with COVID still hanging around, everyone has seen the cohesion and the improvement of the players during the 2022 season. No matter how the game ended, everyone enjoyed the game.

## **FIDA**

When the COVID virus first broke out, FIDA management decided that in the best interest of our league it would be better if FIDA took back the running of our competition from the VFL. A decision embraced and supported by the VFL, who at that time were facing their own challenges with COVID.



During 2020 and 2021 a number of FIDA committee members started working on a new handbook for our competition. On top of that, a new management structure was put in place to better support the FIDA competition and all clubs throughout Victoria.

The FIDA competition has been operating since 1991 and today has 28 clubs (16 metro and 12 country) across Victoria with approximately 820 registered players.

FIDA was founded in 1991 by Peter Ryan and he is still the current President with Tamara Startin taking on the role of General Manager this year. They are supported by seven committee members including myself.

Thanks to Frank Sullivan, the Ringwood Spiders has been associated with FIDA from the beginning when we were known as the Ringwood Blues before changing our name in 2005.

## **Juniors**

Junior development is the heart of any club, and our Junior Squad has once again thrived with the support of Cathy McDonald as well as Gavin and Sue who are helping to develop our next generation of Spiders.

I get down to as many clinics as I can and often end up serving the coffees to keep the parents warm on the cold mornings; those that aren't out on the field joining in that is.

Seeing the juniors practicing their skills and keeping fit (along with many parents) participating in the training, having fun and enjoying a real 'Spiders' moment of community spirit, is great to see.

## **Social**

We provide more than just football (or sport) and getting together and having fun is a strong part of who we are.



This year we began Wednesday night dinners and the occasional trivia challenge after Wednesday training for the players and families.

Our creative kitchen team produced fantastic dinners (not my words... but feedback from the players) such as pasta with creamy carbonara sauce with mushroom and bacon, roasted BBQ chicken and scallop potatoes and everyone's favourite chicken parma just to mention a few.

We also had a movie night – Top Gun – which was great fun and attended by club members and families... Thank you Ian and Teena for supporting us with this.

And talking about food and having fun, our family and friends' day went off with a bang; an enjoyable day of football with the juniors putting on a game, followed by the senior game.

The family and friends' day was a way to say thank you to everyone who supported us during the year. This was the first year we catered, or should I say cooked, a sit-down meal for 95 people, which tested us, but we came through with flying colours!

Once again a big thank you to the kitchen crew and everyone that helped to serve the meals.

### **Pavilion and Lights**

There is more to a club than great clubrooms, it is the people that makes the club that counts. But a great facility creates the environment to bring those people together.

Over the past 3-4 years, Gavin and I have been part of a joint committee with the other tenant clubs and Council to help bring the building to life. The new pavilion was designed to allow all three clubs to grow and be one of the key sports facilities and focal points within the Jubilee sports precinct.

We now have a fully renovated ground, a new pavilion with an emphasis on female friendliness and are continuing to work towards a safe environment that will come next year with better access along with the indoor training pavilion.

This is something that everyone is to be proud of.





### **Respect**

As a club within FIDA, we are one of the most well-respected; something of which we are proud. 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; RESPECT and bonding within the team, friendships and having fun.

### **Sponsors and Community Partners**

I would like to take this opportunity to send a special thank you to our valuable sponsors and community partners. Their support allows us to wear our colours, travel to the games, enjoy our barbecues, dinners and functions and helps subsidise other programmes and activities.

Thanks to:

Our sponsors; Simultech Australia,  
LJ Hooker and Printer Services.

Our community partners; Bendigo Bank –  
East Ringwood and Croydon,  
Dustin Halse – State MP for Ringwood,

Michael Sukkar – Federal MP for Deakin,  
Maroondah City Council, Bunnings  
Ringwood.

### **Committee and Volunteers**

Putting all the events together does not just happen, running of the club 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,  
Ian Firth, Carolyn Sparks, Terry Wynne,  
Sheriden Hackett, Bronwyn Taylor,  
Kevin Hare and Roger Barr for their hard  
work and valuable support.

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

Also, a special thank you to our volunteers:  
Will Hackett, Leanne Baldwin,  
Pauline Ryan, Natalie & Rick Wheeler,  
Jeremy Zandt, Liam Hackett, Andy Payne,  
Bryan Smith and Diana & Dean Amato for  
their hard work and support.

Finally, do not forget to support our end of  
year and pre-season events... keeping fit,  
having 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, President*

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## Football Review



The last time we held a trophy presentation, we had just competed in the Grand Final! While the result didn't go our way, it is hard to believe it was three years ago in 2019.

As another season draws to a close, we participated in another finals campaign with some strong teams to beat if we were to hold up the cup. It wasn't our year, but as with life in general, with the right frame of mind and consistent intensity at the ball, anything is possible. And there's always next year...

The 2022 season has been another mixed-up year with COVID & Flu still playing a role in interrupting our season preparations, along with fixture issues and players missing training/games through health issues and injury.

That said, we have had a fantastic season with good numbers at training. Our enthusiasm on and off the field is obvious to everyone, as a close-knit spider's unit being maintained throughout the year.

We have also picked up several new players and congratulate Terry and Mark on a great year. Another two, Oscar and Lochlan, joined Alex in transitioning from our junior squad. They both immediately made an impact with their desire to win the ball, run and compete with great skill.

This year has seen the Spiders benefit from one of the best ground facilities in the league, including a fantastic ground surface at Jubilee plus the edition of our new complex and the amazing lighting which has supported a significant lift in our training intensity.

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

This year saw FIDA back in charge of the competition after several years under AFL Victoria, which is a change for the better. Six teams competed in Division 2 including a couple of strong teams in Monash and Ballarat. We were generally competitive in most games; hence a shot at the finals.

The players/team viewed each game as an opportunity to win, or at least learn and become a better team player, and 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 finals panned out, we had 28 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 mate-ship 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.

The highlight of Wednesday training this year has been the gourmet meals being served up after training, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Particular thanks to Chef's Paul, Ian & Carolyn who carried the load.



So, well done to the Spiders group of 2022. 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.

There are many volunteers who support the Ringwood Spiders and I especially say many thanks to the committee, who put in many hours behind the scenes to make this club one of the best run clubs in the competition.





Special thanks to the those who supported me at training and on game day, especially Jeremy Zandt for his enduring support.

Also, thanks to Andy Payne who has stepped in and helped at training and filled in coaching in my absence, and to Will and Bryan for also running and assisting on game day.

Special thanks to Liam Hackett who wears many hats as runner, medical, and is a great clubman who just chips-in and helps anywhere, it is a credit to you and greatly appreciated.

Finally, I will be officially announcing at our presentation night that 2022 will be my last season as Coach. After nine years of coaching the Spiders, it has been a privilege and a pleasure to be part of a great group of achievers who have grown as individuals and as a team. I will say more on the night, suffice to say I'll still be around to lend a hand.

I know the guys will be looking forward to the off-season activities and preseason in 2023, so once again thanks to everyone who make the Ringwood Spiders.

*Michael Baldwin, Football Coach*



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## Junior Development Squad



Following an interrupted 2020 and 2021 , it was great to get back to Jubilee Park and have a full juniors season.

Even though we didn't really promote the program outside the main core of current participants and Vermont and Heatherwood schools – due to the uncertainty at the start of the year – we still had 16 registered participants, plus a few siblings. The hard part, as always, is getting them all there at the one time.

We had some cold mornings and luckily not too much rain, so were able to get all sessions in. And the sense of community and fun has also continued.

Coach Cathy McDonald continued fronting up on the chilly winter mornings to guide the juniors through all facets of skill development.

As usual, there were also plenty of laughs – and chaos – along the way!

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

We were also able to have a juniors curtain raiser game before our family and friends day home game. If one thing hasn't change through the COVID break, it is these are still as crazy as ever.



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It was good fun though, and helps connect the Juniors with the rest of the club.

Each clinic finishes with the now mandatory kids vs parents game. Unfortunately the parents haven't improved and are still to snag a win; but they try anyway. 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.

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

The age range of the juniors is 5 to 14 year olds and it is particularly pleasing to see some of our juniors progress to the senior team. This year Alex Lazare has continued his development in the seniors, and Lochlan Whyte and Oscar Payne have come on-board to become integral in the seniors line-up.



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 Roger Barr, the dad of one of our juniors, join the Spiders committee this year. Thanks Roger!

Thanks also to all the parents for joining in and making the Juniors great fun.

Last, but certainly not least, this year marks 10 years of dedication by Cathy McDonald to the Junior squad. Cathy jumped in without hesitation in 2013 and brought her skill as a PE teacher and enthusiasm for kids with disabilities to take the juniors program to a new level.

We sincerely thank Cathy, as the juniors program wouldn't be what it is without her, which is a safe place for the kids to be themselves, and just have fun!

*Gavin Ross, Juniors Coordinator*



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## Netball Update



For the last two years, the netball world has been turned upside down with COVID 19. Cancellations of our Saturday competition and Tuesday night training because of lock-downs have been tough. This year however, with no interruptions our netball world is going along nicely.

In our Saturday afternoon competition, we now have 19 players which is made up of 14 girls and 5 boys who all look forward to participating at 3.30pm on Saturday afternoons and playing indoor at Maroondah Nets.

Tuesday night training is also going very well at the Nets, with at least 12 players turning up every week regardless of whether it is cold or wet, and being on an outside court. I call that dedication!

I would like to thank Kelly Ross for coaching the players on a Tuesday night. They look forward to her being there each week.

This year we participated in several netball tournaments.

In May we played in the Doncaster & Districts All-abilities netball tournament. We entered one team and won all of the games including the Grand Final. A great result!

In June we played in the All-abilities Association Championships.

To participate in this competition we played under Melbourne East Netball Association (MENA), as that is the association we are affiliated under at Maroondah Nets.

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This is a representative team and all players had to participate in a trial to be selected to play.

We won all but one game throughout the round-robin stage and then went on to play the Grand Final against Sandringham, which we won 6 – 3. Another great result and congratulations to all that participated!

Another Doncaster & Districts All-Abilities Netball Tournament will be held in September, which the team is looking forward to participating in. We wish everyone good luck.

Finally, after two years of not competing because of COVID, our netball players will also be participating in the Netball Victoria All-abilities State titles in October. This year it will be held at State Netball Centre in Parkville and we will compete under the region of Chisholm. We wish everyone good luck.

We have a similar philosophy as the Spiders, and everyone has a lot of fun and has made some great friendships.



We will have a separate netball trophy presentation at the end of the year, however, I would like to thank all of our players for their continued support.

Next year, we look forward to getting the Wednesday social training program up and running in the new indoor cricket training centre at Jubilee Park. Then the netballers will be able to join the footballers at our Wednesday dinners – I've heard they're pretty good!



This will be another great way of expanding the social interaction of our players and developing friendships further.

On behalf of the Eastern All-abilities netball committee, I would just like to say a big thank you too all.

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 6.00 – 7.00 pm Tuesday evenings or 3.30 – 4.15 pm on a Saturday.

*Sue Ross, Netball Coordinator*



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## Our Thanks; EFL Umpires



There were a few games this year that proved once again how blessed we are to have the support of EFL Umpires Association. While every person that takes to the field to umpire a game is to be commended, the difference in skill that we have witnessed has been vast.

Since 2006, our home games have been the benchmark within the league and it is due to the wonderful support of the EFLUA umpires.

They donate their time and deliver the highest level and professionalism when umpiring Spiders games.

We say this every year, but ours remain the only games within FIDA that feature a full complement of umpires; field (usually two), goal and often boundary. Ours are still the only games where the game day ball (which is donated by the EFL) 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 FIDA are donated back to the club, a wonderful gesture.

Once again this year the Spiders joined with the umpires at a training session in Croydon and stayed on for a barbecue afterward. It was a bit different due to COVID and inclement weather, but a great night all the same.

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, not only this year, but for the last 18 (give or take a few due to COVID...).



## Gender Equity

Prior to COVID we were involved in a gender equality program that aimed to ensure everything we do is inclusive to all, regardless of gender, race, religion, etc.

We hope this will recommence next year and look forward to getting the players and families involved in some activities designed to teach them about this important topic.

Although in many ways, our group is further advanced than some of from older generations.



We have also found that by the very nature of what we do and represent as a club, we are much further advanced than many main-stream clubs, as our core is to be open to people of all-abilities.

We look forward to having everyone's involvement in this.

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## A New Home; Lights, Camera, Action!

There is more to a club than great clubrooms, but a great facility does help! And haven't we been blessed.

We now have a fully renovated ground, a new pavilion with an emphasis on female friendliness and are continuing to work towards a safe environment that will come next year with better access along with the indoor training pavilion.

The new clubrooms were opened on the 1st of March, just in time for the football season. We have put it to good use particularly for the couple of functions we held this year and as a warm retreat after Wednesday training.

Then, new high-tech LED lighting for the ground was turned on in May and the Spiders were the first club to train under the new lights.

For reference, the previous lights were rated at 28 lux, but were very patchy.

We now have 200 and the option of 300 lux lighting; very bright and enough to host a night game should we desire.



500 lux lighting is also available for cricket which is seriously bright and enough for TV broadcasts as Ringwood Rams (who we share with) hope to host Women's Big Bash games here in the future.

For us, we now have a first-class ground and pavilion. All visiting FIDA clubs have been extremely impressed with our new facility and we should all be proud of.

Stage 2, the indoor cricket training centre, is under construction with estimated completion currently March 2023. Fingers crossed!

One feature of the training centre will be an indoor netball practice court. We hope to utilise this to bring the Eastern All-abilities netball players over on a Wednesday evening for a training session and then join us for dinner, further expanding our social network.

Upgrading of the new parking area as well as an additional ground access is also occurring with stage 1 to be completed by April 2023.

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## Caro's Kitchen

It has been great to be a part of the Wednesday Evenings 'Master Chef Meals.'

We have churned out hundreds of edible (non-poisonous) dinners. From Winner Winner Chicken Dinner to Losers Lasagne... depending on the score. With the grand finale of Raving Ringwood Roast Pork and Choke on your Cheesecake..!



There were however a few difficult guests eating at our restaurant, not to give any names away;

- Andy the pescatarian who lives on a lettuce leaf...
- the Ross family (well one or two of them) who have more dietary requests than I own in underwear...
- and Adam. If left unattended, Adam would eat all the meals himself. Not sure where he puts it!

But it was great to see the Spiders and their families, enjoy each other's company on a Wednesday night, for a chat, a laugh and of course great Tucker.

A big thank you goes to Gavin's Trivia Nights, that kept everyone entertained, whilst Paul, Ian and myself were chained to the kitchen sink.

A round of applause please for Paul our grocery guru, preparation chef and boss, (or should I say bossy). If you see Paul, please let him know that Ian and myself are still waiting on a pay rise. Oh, and our first pay.

A big thank you to Ian (our singing Head Chef) for holding the team together when the going got tough. And of course a thank you to our special guest chef Dianne.

It costs a lot to put these dinners on, and on behalf of everyone, a huge thank you to Roger Daniel who donated the money he received from a community award late last year. Further to this, local State MP Dustin Halse has also chipped in.

I look forward to seeing you all again next year, for the return of 'Master Chef Meals'!

*Carolyn Sparkes, Chef*





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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 can't do what we do. Please support them whenever you can.

### LJ Hooker Home Loans



LJ Hooker has been our 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 ten 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.

### Simultech Australia



## Simultech Australia

Ian Firth has become an integral part of the Spiders; as sponsor through his company Simultech, an active committee member, and barbecue cook that has now been promoted to kitchen chef feeding the team each week at our dinners! On behalf of all our players, a big thank you Ian and Teena from Simultech for their support.

### 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.



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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.

The team at East Ringwood, or new branch in Croydon Central, are there to assist with all your financial needs, and let them know you're with the Spiders!

### Dustin Halse MP



Community sport is an important component of a healthy community; something State Member for Ringwood, Dustin Halse advocates. This year Dustin's has supported the Wednesday dinner's that we have provided which have been a great success.

### Michael Sukkar MP

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



### 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 and we have enjoyed working with the teams at Council to develop the clubrooms, ground and greater Jubilee precinct. 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 funds for the club.

We have participated in several sausage sizzles 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. They also help out with raffle prizes which also help us raise funds.

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## Paper Planes, Movies and Trivia

COVID certainly put an end to our social activities over the last few years. We did get in a Christmas barbecue at Croydon Park but not much else. However, we are very proud of the way they team coped with lock-downs and no football. But despite being a bit rusty at the start of the season, they soon bounced back.

It was great to get pre-season training going in February and then Jumper presentation in our new clubrooms before the season commenced in April.

As mentioned elsewhere, dinners became an integral part of our activities, and at many we tested everyone's musical or movie knowledge with some trivia games.

We also had a Toasties and Top Gun lunch and watched the first Top Gun movie in the clubrooms before being shouted to the new release Top Gun Maverick by club sponsors Simultech. A great night!

As part of the aircraft theme, at one of the dinners we had a paper plane competition.



There was certainly a variety of 'aircraft' and the bar was set fairly low. However Shannon soon smashed that with his creation nearly flying the entire length of the function room.

We had him repeat the effort several times – just to ensure it wasn't a fluke, but no he was able to repeat the result with his streamlined piece of A4 paper settling in a foot or so beneath the ceiling and gliding to the other end. Well done Shan!

Now season has completed, we look forward to getting the off-season activities up and running once more. Some will be all about fun, while others may provide a challenge. Regardless it will just be great to be able to leave home and be in everyone's company.

We will then finish the year with our Christmas Barbecue and AGM, before we do it all again!

See you soon.

