

Their cup of cheer

By Danica Harris

A GROUP of Ringwood footballers have had an up-close look at Hawthorn's AFL premierships cup.

The Ringwood Spiders Football Club were paid a visit by Hawks players Clinton Young and Grant Birchall and senior development manager Jason Burt at a motivation dinner at Jubilee Park.

The Spiders team, formed in 1993, gives people with intellectual disabilities a chance to take part in sporting and social activities.

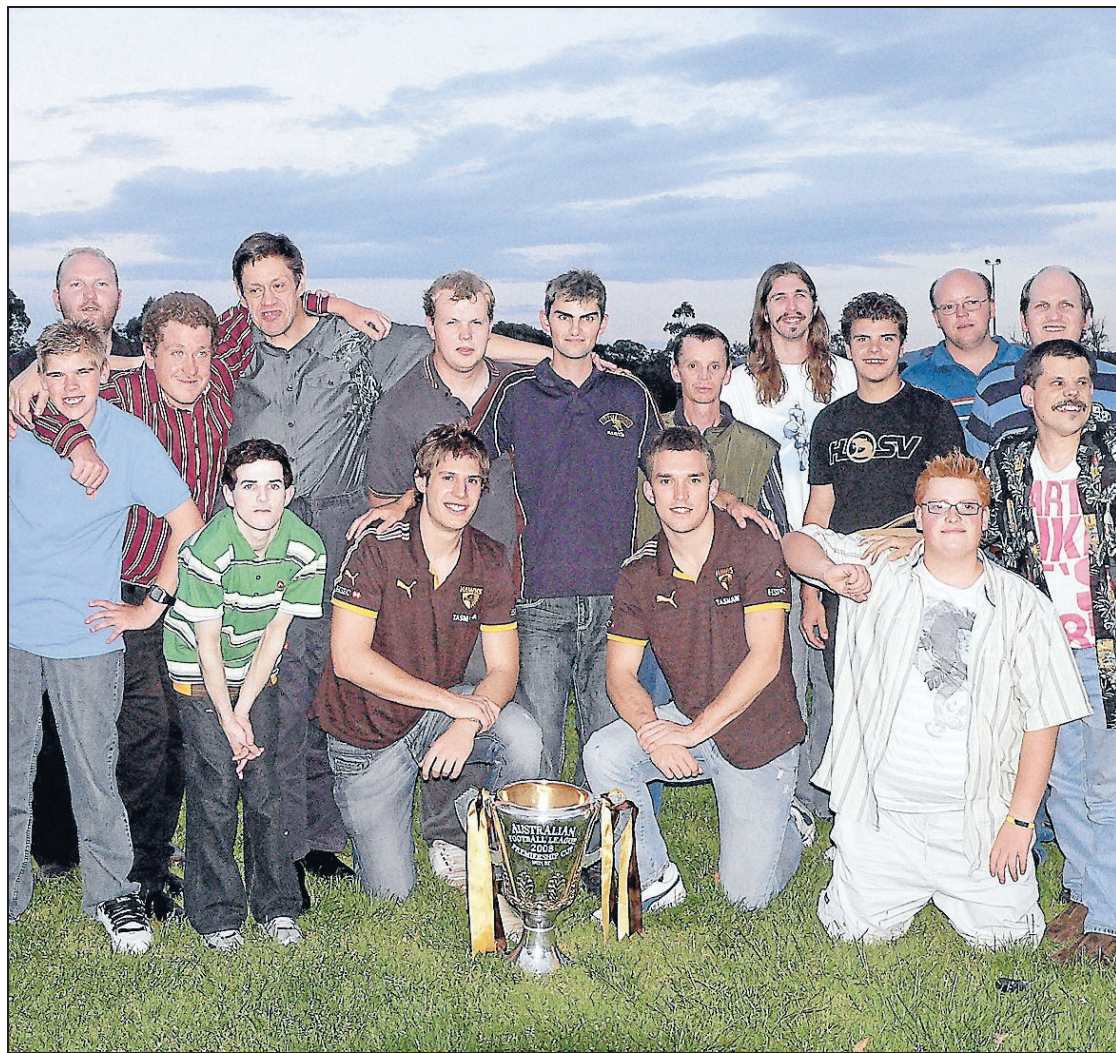
The side competes in the 16-team statewide Football Integration Development Association, under the auspice of the Victorian Amateur Football Association.

There are 16 sides, spread across the state, in the competition.

Spiders' spokesman Frank Sullivan said the club had players from all walks of life and with varying levels of disability.

"But we're more than just a football club.

"We are a place for these people to get together and to take part in the community."



Glories shared: Grant Birchall and Clinton Young show off the premierships cup to the Spiders.

Mr Sullivan said the Hawks spoke to the team about their role at the club, both on and off the field.

"It could be seen that these young men were not only premierships players.

"They are also fine ambassadors for this great family club."

Mr Sullivan said a cheerleader squad would join the Spiders next year to cater for people with disabilities who were unable to

physically take part in the game.

"The Spiders will also form a junior development squad to cater for children between the ages of 12 to 16 with disabilities to be involved with football."