RINGWOOD SPIDERS

ALL-ABILITIES SPORTS CLUB

DEVELOPING LIVES

FIDA

2026

'Attitude is Everything...'



TROPHY PRESENTATION & END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

Welcome



This year probably should have been harder than it felt, particularly given the Blacks moved up a division. But it has in fact felt easier and been very enjoyable.

This is despite having the biggest playing list in the Spiders 34 year history with 54 players across our two teams.

We have also had the largest amount of volunteers to share the load which has gone a long way to making 2026 an enjoyable year and see the club flourish.

And tonight is all about celebrating the great club we are part of. Celebrating the teamwork, the friendships, the achievements, the funny moments, and celebrating just being together.

We give thanks to everyone who helps make our club great; the committee and volunteers, the coaches and game day helpers, and the EFL umpires who so generously give up their time to support us, and of course the players. Thank you.

All of these people give their time freely. No one is paid and it is great to have so many people involved; and it is extremely rewarding to be a part of, that's why we keep coming back!

Of course, we wouldn't be here without our sponsors and community partners. Their support provides the backbone to allow us to do all we can. Thank you.

On behalf of everyone we would also like to make a special thank you to president Paul House.

Not only does Paul dedicate a large amount of time each week to the club, but is also a board member with FIDA.

He literally lives and breathes the Spiders to ensure all areas are being given his full attention, even the vacuum cleaner heads!

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

Spiders Committee



Year in Review; President's Report



2026 A Season Worth Spinning a Web!

In the Blacks first season in the FIDA A-Grade division, we didn't just show up… we made a statement. We delivered commanding wins, finished second on the ladder and powered through the semi-final to earn our place in the Grand Final.

Wow, what a year and what a game! Falling short by just one point was tough, but it didn't define us, it revealed us. We proved exactly who we are: a team built on grit, maturity, and relentless determination.

A team that deserves to be in A-Grade. A team to watch. A team to be respected.

The Spiders have shown that we belong at the highest level of the FIDA competition, and we've earned every bit of that respect through hard work, unity, and unwavering belief in one another.

On Field Highlights

The Blacks didn't just arrive in A-Grade Division this year, they walked in, hung up their hoodies, and said, "We're staying."

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'

Earning that spot wasn't luck or coincidence; it was the result of a united team playing smart, disciplined football from Round 1 to the final siren of 2026. Well managed, well led, and fuelled by pure Spiders spirit, the Blacks delivered a season they can proudly stand behind.



The Reds also put together a terrific year, playing with heart, persistence, and that never say never attitude that keeps supporters leaning forward in their seats.

The Finals may have slipped away by a very small margin, but their spirit was unmistakably Spiders; determined, passionate and impossible not to cheer for.

Both teams lived our values: fun, teamwork, passion, and looking out for one another. To every player, you inspired us, impressed us, and gave us enough bragging material to last well into next season.

To our families, volunteers, supporters and sponsors, your commitment is the heartbeat of this club.

We celebrate this season with you, because without you, none of this happens.

The club atmosphere has been a-buzz all year. Training nights, game days, team dinners, the energy has been positive, welcoming, and full of connection. That's what makes us a great club: respect, teamwork, and having fun while doing it.

Acknowledging FIDA

FIDA kicked off 2026 with a major restructure, welcoming a new management team:

- John Kostopulos – General Manager
- Patrick Nickeus – Competition Coordinator
- Jordan Loughnane – Office Administrator

This team brought fresh organisation, professionalism, and support to clubs across the league. New board members also joined, adding valuable skills and strengthening FIDA's direction.



The bar has been raised, and we will all benefit as we move forward into 2027.

Coaching & Player Development

Leadership and growth remain at the core of who we are.

Our Head Coach, Andy Payne, continues to be the steady, positive force behind our success and culture. His focus on skills,



respect, and fun has shaped not just our players, but the entire club environment.

Andy's influence is everywhere, and it shows in our success and if you listen carefully, you can hear his name being whispered by the players.

The Developing Lives Program, now in its 12th year, remains one of our proudest achievements. It's more than football, it's life skills, learning, and connection. This year's guest speakers included:

- Social Media; the good, bad and the ugly (thanks to Sarah Exton Waverley Social Enterprise)
- Managing Your Money (thanks to Bendigo Bank Croydon)
- Oral Health (courtesy of My Body Dental Croydon)

The Developing Lives Program is woven into everything we do, training, game days, shared experiences, and life lessons. It strengthens independence, inclusion, and belonging. It's who we are.

Community Spirit

Our community spirit continues to grow, and 2026 was no exception.

- Wednesday Night Dinners: Over 1,000 meals served! Our catering team cooked from scratch every week, proving once again that they could probably run a restaurant if they ever got bored of football.
- Family & Friends Day: Another huge success and a favourite among players, supporters, and families. It's our chance to say thank you to the people who make our club possible, sponsors, families, friends, and supporters.



Reputation & Relationships

After 35 years, the Spiders have built a reputation across FIDA and Maroondah as a well managed, respectful, and long standing club.

We're known for sportsmanship, friendships, and being one of the longest participating clubs in the FIDA league, not bad for a bunch of Spiders who started spinning their web back in the day.

Our partnership with the EFL umpires remains a cornerstone of our success.

Their professionalism helps our players grow, and the AFL umpires' involvement on Family & Friends Day was a highlight for everyone. A 20 year relationship with the EFL umpires is something we deeply value.

Sponsors & Community Partners

To our supporters, thank you. Your generosity and support keep the Spiders thriving year on year.

- Gold Signature Sponsor: Ringwood RSL
- Club Sponsors: Printer Services & Simultech Australia
- Community Partners: Maroondah City Council, Bendigo Bank Croydon & East Ringwood, Will Fowles Member for Ringwood, Bunnings Ringwood, Nick McGowan Victorian Legislative Council, Croydon North Discount Pharmacy



Your support to the Spiders helps us maintain a high standard across our club, from the upkeep of our clubrooms and training equipment to ensuring we have first class first aid equipment and quality healthy meals.

Most importantly, it strengthens the healthy, positive club culture that makes our community truly unique.

Behind the Scenes

The Spiders run on volunteer power, and what a team we have.

- Committee:
  Gavin Ross, Michael Baldwin, Ian Firth, Carolyn Sparkes, Sue Ross, Kevin Hare, Terry Wynne, Will Hackett, Roger Barr, Hailey Hackett
- Coaching & On-field Team:
  Andy Payne (Head Coach), James Dennis (Reds Coach), Jeremy Zandt (Assistant to the Coaches).

Supported by Michael Baldwin, Bryan Smith, Liam Hackett, Will Hackett, Yvonne Zeniou, Hailey Hackett

- Catering Team:
  Carolyn Sparkes, Ian Firth, Kevin Hare, Will Hackett, Natalie Wheeler and Paul House (Keeping us fed, happy, and occasionally going back for seconds.)
- Canteen Crew:
  Pauline Ryan, Leanne Baldwin, Natalie Wheeler, Melissa Barr, Michelle Caruso and Suzie King, (Your smiles and energy make the canteen the place to be.)
- Merchandise Officer:
  A new role this year with Roger Barr as Merch Officer. Caps and scarves successfully launched in 2026…

and let's just say there's more to come, so watch this space…

Looking Ahead

As we head into the off season, let's carry forward the friendships, spirit, and energy that made 2026 so special.

It's been a fantastic year both on and off the field, and 2027 is shaping up to be even bigger.

To every sponsor, volunteer, player, supporter, and family member, thank you. You make the Spiders who we are. We've proven once again that this club is more than football. It's community, inclusive, and developing lives in a positive way.

Warm regards, *Paul House, President*

Honouring those who served

As part of our Developing Lives program, earlier this year a large group of Spiders players braved the cold Melbourne winter morning and attended the Anzac Day Dawn Service at Ringwood Clock Tower.

It is both an amazing and humbling experience to attend with so many others and hear of the sacrifices made by those during active service in the wars.

Brittney, Josh, Mel and Jackson laid a wreath on behalf of the Spiders community, and we joined the broader community at a breakfast provided by volunteers at the RSL.



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.

Ringwood RSL

"Your Local Club"
"Your RSL"
"Ringwood RSL"

The RSL has supported us for many years with our annual trophy presentation functions. They have now been our major sponsor for two years now.

Everyone is welcome at the RSL, be it for a catchup with friends for a drink, or for a meal in the bistro. There is plenty more the RSL provides as well. For more than 100 years they have supported veterans and their families along with many community activities and supports throughout the year.

Save money by becoming a member to receive discounts on food and drinks while knowing you are supporting a great cause!

Simultech Australia

Simultech Australia

Ian Firth is an integral part of the Spiders; as a sponsor through his company Simultech, an active committee member, barbecue cook and kitchen chef feeding the team each week at our dinners!

So what does Simultech do? Well, they are a leading supplier of environmental simulation and measurement equipment to Industry and Research sectors across Australia and New Zealand.

While that is not something that directly correlates with the Spiders activities, it shows the commitment to the club Ian and the Simultech team has.

On behalf of all our players, a big thank you Ian for your support.

Maroondah City Council

Maroondah City Council

We would not be here without the support of Maroondah City Council who have been with us since our inception in 1992.
We all benefit from Council's dedication to sport, leisure and making Maroondah such a wonderful place to live and play.

Each year, we are the recipient of a Council community grant which helps us offset the cost of our impressive home-ground facility. We thank the Mayor, Councillors and the wonderful staff for their support.

Printer Services

printerservices

Doug and Kathi from Printer Services have been supporters of the Spiders for more than sixteen years! We truly thank them for their ongoing support.
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

Bendigo Bank
East Ringwood & Croydon

Being a community bank means Bendigo Bank East Ringwood and Croydon have to return a substantial portion of their profit back to the community.

This is by way of community grants, of which we have been recipients for several years now, and support to local groups.

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

Will Fowles, State MP



Will returned this year and is a big supporter of the local community and the Spiders. Will is proud to represent Ringwood and looks forward to getting along to Spiders games. We look forward to Will's ongoing support.

Nick McGowan, State MP



We welcome Nick McGowan, State MP for North Eastern Metropolitan region to the Spiders family. Nick has followed the Spiders for a while now and is proud to be on-board!

Croydon North Pharmacy

Croydon North
DISCOUNT
PHARMACY
LOCALLY OWNED, PROUDLY INDEPENDENT

Our newest community partner, we warmly welcome the Croydon North Discount Pharmacy team to the Spiders.

The pharmacy offers Professional Service and Advice to all customers and provides discount prescriptions, medication advice, equipment hire and more.

Football Review; Andy Payne, Head Coach



After an indifferent start to our season, we set ourselves a simple theme: '*Attitude is Everything!*'

Every training session, every game, every challenge, every setback, we came back to those three words. We knew there would be moments when things wouldn't go our way. We knew A-Grade football would be tougher, faster and more demanding than anything we'd faced before.

After earning promotion from B-Grade last year, our goal was straight forward: *Stay in A-Grade. That's it... No talk of premierships... No talk of grand finals... Just prove that we belong.*

Well, as it turns out, the Spiders Blacks had much bigger plans.

Not only did we stay in A-Grade, but we made back-to-back Grand Finals.

In doing so, we may have become the first club in FIDA history to play in consecutive Grand Finals immediately after being promoted.

Whether that's officially true or not doesn't matter, it sounds impressive so we're sticking with it until someone proves otherwise.

What made this season so special wasn't just the results. It was the way our players overcame challenges.

When we played with the right attitude, we were unstoppable.

It didn't matter whether we were in front, behind, playing a top side or battling through a tough day. When our players supported each other, encouraged their teammates, worked hard and believed in themselves, amazing things happened.

As coach, and a club, we could see the improvement every week.

- The growth in confidence
- The improvement in skills
- The willingness to keep trying after making a mistake

The excitement of celebrating a team-mate's success as loudly as their own.

Of course, no season would be complete without a few moments that tested everyone's patience and occasionally left the coaching staff questioning whether our instructions had somehow been translated into another language before reaching the field.

It turns out that "*stay on your man*" can mean several different things depending on who you're talking to.





And while we spent a lot of time working on game plans and ball movement, we're still trying to work out how some of our players managed to create entirely new positions that don't appear anywhere in the official rules of Australian football… every game.

But that's part of what makes this team, and this club so special.

Every player brought their own personality, energy and enthusiasm to the group. Every player contributed to making the Spiders Blacks a team that opponents respected and our supporters loved watching.

Most importantly, this season reminded us that success comes in many forms.



Yes, playing in another Grand Final was an incredible achievement. Yes, establishing ourselves as an A-Grade team exceeded our expectations. But the real success was watching our players grow, their confidence flourish and they achieved things they may not have thought possible at the start of the year.



To our families, carers, volunteers and supporters, thank you. Your encouragement, dedication and unwavering support make everything we do possible.

And to our players, thank you for believing in the message:

- *Attitude is Everything.*
- *You proved that every single week.*
- *You showed that effort matters.*
- *You showed that resilience matters.*
- *You showed that supporting your mates matters.*

And you showed that when a group of people comes together with the right attitude, they can achieve far more than anyone expected. As coach, I couldn't be prouder.

The season may be over, but what this group achieved in 2026 won't be forgotten anytime soon.

The Spiders Blacks came to A-Grade hoping to survive. Instead, they showed everyone that they belong.

Premierships are wonderful, Grand Finals are memorable, but seeing our players grow in confidence, friendship and belief is what makes this team truly successful. Thank you for an unforgettable season.

Andy Payne, Head Coach

Football Review; James Dennis, Reds Coach



2026 was an extremely rewarding and successful season for the Spiders Reds.

We had massive turnouts at preseason with a number of new skilled recruits including Justin Wilson, Shane Robertson, Sam Osborne, Harrison Ward, Sam Woods Nathan Banting and Jai Charles. The return of the Sully / Loy family saw the addition of Adam to make it a truly family affair.

They all fitted in easily and soon settled in to the ebbs and flows of the season.

We also welcomed back Mark (the "General") Wilson from the Blacks team, who provided a steady hand down back with great leadership.

With great turnout at training, the team developed a strong and cohesive bond and showcased the true spirit of FIDA.

A key theme throughout the year was positivity, which all players embraced for the betterment of the club.

There were many highlights during the year, with special mentions to the following:

- Brittney Moran, who continued to improve her footy skills whilst being completely selfless in putting her teammates first.



- the development of our junior players, including Sam Osborne, Harrison Ward, Declan Spruit, Josh Barr and Lachlan Dennis who continued to improve and grow in confidence.
- Alex Spurr for balancing needs of the team by acting as our goal keeper when not dominating in the ruck
- Jordan Zeniou for his ferocious attack on the footy (and anyone who gets in the way!)
- Josh Hackett for his positivity, endurance and leadership
- Sam Woods for his team-first mentality and ability to influence games
- Jamal Kandajki for his goal-kicking and lethal left foot
- Maryanne Sully for her ability to keep finding the footy
- Jason Loy for dominating in the midfield and working tirelessly whilst bringing in team mates





- Adam Sully for his footy nous and capacity to support team mates
- Jaren Hare, Alex Lazare, Mark King, Nathan Banting and Justin Wilson for their ability to play anywhere on the ground and impact the game
- Sean Double for his forward craft and selflessly gifting goals to teammates

I would especially like to thank Yvonne Zeniou for stepping in as coach against Williamstown in the team's biggest win for the season!

Congrat's to all involved, including our assistant coach Jeremy Zandt who's passion for the team is second to none.

Special thanks also those who provided broader support throughout the season, including matchday support, training and those amazing Wednesday night club dinners. Bring on 2027!

James Dennis, Reds Coach

Our Thanks; EFL Umpires



Once again our home games have been the benchmark within the league, and it is due to the support of the EFL umpires.

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

While every person that takes to the field to umpire a game is to be commended, the difference in skill that we witness with the EFL umpires is vast.

For the fourth year in a row, for our Family & Friends Day we were privileged to have current AFL field umpire Cameron Dore officiate the game along side his father, AFL 300 game umpire legend Gavin Dore.

They enjoy it immensely and Cameron also shared some stories during the luncheon.

Also a huge shout-out and thanks to the goal and boundary umpires for supporting our games also.

It is a very rare thing in the FIDA competition to have a full-set of umpires at a game – *even the Grand Final didn't have boundary umpires and we won't mention what many of us think of that...*

Thank you to all the umpires who have volunteered their time to officiate our games this season.

Special mention to ex. Spiders player Jake Corcoran who umpired a couple of games and handled some difficult on-field situations in a fair and professional manner.



Also unique within the league is the umpires presenting the game-day ball to the player they deem best on ground.



Once again, the Spiders joined with the umpires at a training session in Croydon and stayed on for a barbecue afterwards.

It is a great initiative and one that our players look forward to each year.

They participate in various drills with the umpires, working on various aspects of the game. It has given our guys a great understanding and appreciation of what it takes to be an umpire, who without there would not be any games.

Our sincere thanks to Trevor Finch and all the field, boundary and goal umpires that have supported us, not only this year, but for the last 20!



