

2007 Sport and Recreation Awards Winners and Finalists



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life™



Message from the Minister

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate all the winners and finalists in the 2007 *Go for your life* Sport and Recreation Awards.

This is the 11th year the Victorian Government has presented these awards to individuals and organisations for their positive and inspirational contributions to sport and recreation in communities across Victoria.

Sport and recreation is integral to the fabric of Victorian communities - bringing people together, helping them get active and encouraging people of all ages and abilities to pursue their sporting goals and fulfil their potential.

And this is largely due to the hard work and dedication of people such as this year's award winners and finalists.

I was impressed by the diversity of this year's finalists and the innovative ways they have had a positive and lasting impact on their sport, their local community and their state.

Whether they have spent many hours organising events, found new ways to get people involved or worked to improve the viability of a club, I am sure all winners and finalists have inspired more Victorians to become healthy, active and involved.

I would like to acknowledge the support of our sponsors – Victoria University and AFL Victoria for helping make these valuable community awards possible.



I would also like to thank our pool of judges who spent many hours choosing this year's winners and finalists from an outstanding field of nominations.

But most importantly, I want to thank everyone who took the time to support local sport and recreation by preparing a nomination and highlighting the extraordinary achievements of Victorians from all walks of life and all regions of the state.

These Awards are a highlight of the Victorian Government's ongoing efforts to improve the health and well-being of all Victorians by promoting physical activity and healthy eating and wherever possible encouraging them to *Go for your life*.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Merlino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JAMES MERLINO MP
Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs

Minister's Award for Lifetime Achievement

Winner: Paul Collins

For almost 50 years, Paul Collins has been devoted to supporting and improving the sport of baseball in Victoria. Since Paul first got involved in 1958, he has seen baseball grow from a minor winter sport through to one that boasts 15,000 participants statewide. Most of the 30 Victorians currently playing professionally overseas would not be there if it was not for the hard work and dedication that Paul has committed to raising the profile of the sport.

Paul has fostered the sport at all levels, from grassroots through to elite participation. For 20 years before the luxury of email and the internet, while most people would be spending Sunday nights relaxing with their families, Paul would be writing out the fixtures for multiple divisions and then providing the results to media outlets.

Paul knew that the key to successfully growing the sport was to raise its profile, so when the emergence of a professional league was on the cards in the mid 1980's, he successfully lobbied the State Government to help fund a purpose-built baseball stadium. But his involvement did not end there; he also acted as a volunteer consultant during the construction of the State Baseball Centre at Altona.

As a player, umpire, secretary, vice-president, president, chairman, executive officer, committee member and lobbyist, Paul has volunteered a large part of his life to the sport of baseball and ensuring the quality of participation that players now enjoy.

Contact Paul Collins on 0418 323 659



Minister's Award for Lifetime Achievement

Finalist: Ross Synot

For many years, Ross Synot's life has been committed to badminton. Originally becoming involved as a player, Ross took up his first administrative role in 1962 as the Vice President of the St Albans Uniting Church Badminton Club and he has never looked back.

Ross has helped raise the profile of the sport in the Geelong area, which has resulted in increased funding. He developed and implemented a strategic plan for the Geelong Badminton Association, which has succeeded in bringing all of the different groups, committees and finances together under a board structure.

He has also been heavily involved in the Geelong Regional Alliance (G21) sports development plan (of which badminton is a part) that lays the foundations for the delivery of successful and sustainable sporting opportunities into the future.

Contact Ross Synot on 03 5221 4257

Finalist: Ken Raab

Ken Raab is every club's dream supporter. For more than 10 years he has been the official cameraman for the senior men's basketball team The Altona Gators. It is a requirement of all teams in the Big V competition that games be filmed and Ken takes his role very seriously – so seriously that he has never missed a game either at home or on the road. Five years ago he also began filming for the women's senior team.

What makes Ken's work even more outstanding is the fact that he was born with an intellectual disability and a severe hearing impairment. These disabilities may have meant that Ken was not able to play basketball at an elite level but he is certainly considered a most valuable member of the Gators Team.

Contact Luba Grigorovitch on 0411 898 605

Go for your life Community Participation Award

Winner: Moreland City Council, BRAVE Young Men's Program

When confronted with a shortage of suitably qualified life guards to staff leisure centres, the Moreland City Council developed an innovation solution to the problem. The result is the BRAVE Young Men's Program.

The program's aim is to provide young at risk men with a structured fitness program. The program provides a physical outlet for the young men as well as developing supportive relationships between the participants, and increasing their links with the local community.

The program has benefits beyond the exercise program by providing opportunities for local employment. The young men who participate in the program gain a vocational qualification, make connections with social supports and have access to job opportunities. The potential for employment acts as strong motivator for the young men to stay involved in the program.

General fitness is measured at the beginning and end of the program so the participants can see how much they had improved. Healthy eating and diet was also discussed as part of the program to ensure knowledge of good overall health.

At the end of the program participants are offered the opportunity to obtain their lifeguard certificates, which can lead to employment at the local leisure centre. The cost of the course is covered by the Council.

The program has been so successful that it is now being adopted in other councils and will be extended to basketball referee training in the local Moreland area.

Contact Nicholas Burt on 03 9240 2301



Go for your life Community Participation Award

Finalist: Aqualink Box Hill, Strong Body, Strong Mind

Strong Body, Strong Mind is an exercise program tailored to people with mental health issues – a group that face substantial barriers to good physical health. The program is run as a partnership between Aqualink Box Hill, Eastern Health, and Eastern Recreation and Leisure Services.

In the past, mental health consumers have not accessed gym weight training due to cost and lack of self-confidence. The Strong Body, Strong Mind program is specifically designed to ensure people feel comfortable in the environment and that the exercise they do has the best physical outcomes.

When the program commenced in October 2004 it had eight participants. The average is now 150.

Contact Christine Irvine on 03 9898 2099

Finalist: Tennis Victoria, Mums' Tennis Program

The Mums' Tennis program encourages mothers to play tennis with a five week subsidised coaching program. The program is open to mums of all standards and aims to promote the social, fun, fitness and health benefits of tennis in a non-competitive environment.

The Mums' Tennis Program has seen phenomenal success, growing from five initial pilot programs in 2003 to 175 tennis clubs in both metropolitan and regional Victoria, catering to over 2500 mothers.

To help mothers of young children who don't have childcare, a Tiny Tots program runs at the same time. The program is also positive for the children, encouraging them to be physically active and develop fundamental motor skills.

To help participants continue playing tennis after the coaching program, a social tennis network has been established and 90 per cent of the mums get involved in this program.

Contact Ian Clark on 03 8420 8420

Volunteer Involvement Award

Winner: Scott Ivey

Scott Ivey's passion for lifesaving began at an early age. At his earliest possible opportunity – the age of seven – Scott became a member of the Williamstown Swimming and Lifesaving Club. He has continued to be an active member of the Club for 22 years.

Scott has volunteered at the club since the age of 14 when he formed the first Junior Committee. Scott's leadership role at the club grew as he took on roles as a member of the Senior Committee, and serving as Patrol and Inflatable Rescue Boat captain. Scott now has a key role as Club Captain and member of the Executive. Scott also holds a volunteer position at Lifesaving Victoria.

As a talented lifesaver himself, Scott has had great success in competition at both state and national levels.

Scott has driven many innovations at the club. He initiated women's competitions, driving greater community involvement and a higher ranking for the club. As a coach he has been involved in new training techniques ensuing competitors have the full range of skills.

As a high level competitor there is no doubt Scott likes to win. However his main motivation for being involved in lifesaving has always been to teach people how to keep people safe and save lives at the beach.

Contact Scott Ivey on 0412 667 269



Volunteer Involvement Award

Finalist: Brenda Murray

Brenda Murray loves playing lawn bowls. When she lost her sight due to a degenerative eye disorder two years ago, the support of her family and Brenda's fierce determination meant she wasn't off the green for long.

Brenda established Victoria's only regional blind bowling association – the East Gippsland Vision Impaired People (VIP). The group has had a major impact on the lives of people with vision impairment in the region. Through blind bowls people who were often isolated now have a social outlet. They interact with people in similar circumstances while participating in a social, healthy and competitive activity.

Brenda has kept blind bowls running through her determined fund-raising. She has found sponsors and held events to raise money for transport, uniforms and equipment.

Brenda was always a highly competitive player and coach. In establishing the East Gippsland VIPs Brenda has married this competitive drive with a greater altruism to improve the lives of other people.

Contact Brenda Murray on 03 5156 0506

Finalist: Jim Penaluna

Port Melbourne is very lucky to have Jim Penaluna call it his home. Jim's 50 year involvement in the sport and recreation sector in Port Melbourne has had a major impact on the region.

In 1957 Jim established the Port Melbourne Colts Football Club (PMCFC), which allowed kids from all backgrounds to actively participate in the sport. The club has continued its success and now more than 250 kids a year participate in teams. In 1971 he founded the Port Colts Cricket Club (PCCC) now a vital part of the community's summer.

It is Jim's belief that teams provide a strong support network on and off the field. This drove Jim's desire to establish the PMCFC football teams for people with an intellectual disability. This team has provided huge benefits for the players, building their confidence and providing physical activity.

Contact Mark Penaluna on 0409 252 660

Club and Organisational Management Award

Winner: Drouin Cricket Club

The Drouin Cricket Club is an outstanding example of a thriving and inclusive local cricket club.

The club embraces players and members from all walks of life and with all levels of ability. As well as the traditional junior through to senior divisions for males, there are also a number of girl's teams and 24 "no boundaries" cricketers with a disability.

All members are encouraged to socialise together and that strong sense of community sees them remain with the club for many years. Members are kept up-to-date through the club's website and regular newsletters and the club also holds regular reunion events to encourage past players and members to stay involved.

During the past five years, the club has implemented a plan to improve its structure and management. They have clearly documented the different roles within the club, which has improved the transition process dramatically when new people become involved. As the club continues to change and grow, the organisational structure and financial management practices also evolve.

The club is very supportive of all its members and works hard to provide the best possible coaching, training and facilities for everyone to enjoy. They have successfully forged good relationships with local businesses who are now sponsors of the club.

Contact Michael Wardle on 03 5625 1823



Club and Organisational Management Award

Finalist: Tennis Victoria

Under the direction of new CEO, Ian Clark, Tennis Victoria has implemented their 2006-2010 Strategic Plan. With a strong focus on player and facility development, the plan has received overwhelming support from the tennis community. Being a public document, the plan demonstrates transparency and makes Tennis Victoria more accountable to its stakeholders.

In developing the plan, Tennis Victoria consulted widely with their stakeholders and it was their feedback and input that help shape its five key strategic goals. These goals include retaining members and growing the sport through positive promotion and partnering with stakeholders to become the leader in Australia for developing world class junior players.

The plan provides clear and defined future directions and has introduced new practices at a board, management, staff and tennis club level.

Contact Ian Clark on 03 8420 8420

Finalist: Sandringham Yacht Club

The Sandringham Yacht Club has been in operation for more than 100 years and offers a wide range of services and facilities including a 350 berth marina. The club offers training facilities for beginners through to elite young athletes and is set to become the base for all Victorian State, National, World and Olympic aspirants.

In April this year the club became a Registered Training Organisation, which will allow them to offer certificate qualification and training courses in boating services from 2008. They are one of only two sporting clubs in Victoria to achieve RTO status.

While actively servicing their existing members, the club is always looking for ways to attract new members and introduce more people to the sport. In particular they are focused on attracting young people through innovative vocational education programs and community partnerships, which provide pathways for entry in to the sport.

Contact Deb Ganderton on 03 9599 4466

Young People in Sport Award



Joint Winner: Jacob Moresi

At just 15 years of age, Jacob Moresi packs more into his average day than the rest of us could even contemplate. Not only is he an exceptional hockey player, Jacob is considered by many to be the heart and soul of the Boort Hockey Club of which he has been a member for six years. He is also an excellent umpire with a natural flare and style that immediately gains the respect of players of all ages.

On an average Saturday Jacob will: warm up the under 13's team; act as a mentor for the under 13's umpire; play his own underage match; umpire the women's match; and then play in the men's match (although he sometimes umpires this one as well).

On Friday nights before a home game, Jacob marks out the lines for the forthcoming matches and he is always on hand for a working bee to repair drought damage to the pitch. Every Sunday he makes a 200km round-trip to Bendigo to play for his second Kerang based club. Over the summer he plays junior and senior tennis for the Boort Tennis Club as well as playing basketball and umpiring two nights a week.

Jacob is an excellent role model and mentor thanks to his enthusiasm, commitment and excellent sense of humour. He has achieved a great deal for a young man who has chosen a sport that doesn't take top billing in the schoolyard.

Contact Jacob Moresi on 03 5455 2200



Young People in Sport Award



Joint Winner: Penny Cula-Reid

Penny Cula-Reid began playing Australian Rules Football for the Murrumbidgee Junior Football Club at the age of six after another club turned her away saying they would let her brother play but not her. She went on to play through the age-groups and along the way became the first girl to play in her primary school team and at Caulfield Grammar became the first girl ever to play football within the Associated Public Schools of Victoria.

In 2003, she played her 149th and final game for the club in the under 15 grand final but that nearly didn't happen. Football Victoria (now AFL Victoria) discovered that she and two other females were over the "legal" age of 12 to still be participating in the boy's competition said she could no longer play. Penny took Football Victoria to VCAT and won an injunction that allowed her to play out the season and ultimately saw the age limit lifted to 15.

Now 19, Penny still enjoys great success as a player for the St Kilda Women's Football Club – with State and National team selections – and has chosen to start giving back to the sport she loves by coaching junior teams and umpiring. Penny is a powerful force both on and off the field and an inspiration to many young women finding their way in this traditionally male dominated sport.

*Contact Chyloe Kurdas
on 03 8663 3042*



Community Event Award

Winner: 2006 RACV Energy Breakthrough

The RACV Energy Breakthrough is a four day recumbent cycling endurance event held in Maryborough annually. The event has a strong environmental message encouraging primary and secondary school age students to use the event as an impetus to review their environmental impact and change behaviour.

Participants are required to plan, develop and construct a recumbent tricycle that will represent an 'energy breakthrough'. Entrants are scored on display and presentation, vehicle design and construction, and performance during the 24-hour endurance trial.

The program has grown since it began with 33 entries in 1991 to 300 entries in 2006. Each entry includes a riding team of eight as well as support staff of nearly 20 people, making the total number of participants around 7650. Cheering them on are more than 15,000 spectators and volunteers.

This rate of participation also has a big flow on to the Maryborough community, injecting approximately \$2.8 million into the local economy. The volunteer effort from the local community is outstanding ensuring a positive experience for all the competitors.

Traditionally science and technology have been relatively low profile school disciplines. This event has injected excitement and fun into these subjects motivating both teachers and students to enrich the school curriculum.

The RACV Energy Breakthrough event encapsulates innovation, environmental responsibility and activity as a positive educational experience.

Contact Martin Mark on 03 5461 0621



Community Event Award

Finalist: Maccabi Victoria, Maccabi Junior Carnival

Maccabi Victoria's motto is 'connecting our community through sport' and with 1100 young people attending the event in January 2007, the organisation is living up to its motto.

Maccabi Australia is the peak body for Jewish sport and holds an annual sporting event rotating across the Australian states and New Zealand. In 2007 the event was held in Melbourne with the theme 'Friends for Life'.

The event is not just tailored to elite athletes but serves to introduce young people to a range of sports and activities. Participants from interstate were billeted with Melbourne families helping to build lifelong friendships. Relationships from past events have led to a number of 'Maccabi marriages'.

More than 300 volunteers were involved in organising the event ensuring huge community involvement.

Contact Russell Jaffe on 03 9272 5660

Finalist: Corangamite Shire Council, Recreation "Give it a Go" Week

'Recreation, Give it a Go!' Week is an annual week long event conducted by the Corangamite Shire in conjunction with community organisations. The week provides free recreational activities for residents of all ages from across the region.

'Recreation, Give it a Go!' Week has been running for eight years and has seen phenomenal growth in participation. In 2007 the week included 46 events across the shire with more than 4300 participants. This represents 25 per cent of the Shire's population.

Participants are encouraged to try something new, an innovation in an area that is dominated by the traditional regional sporting pursuits of football, cricket and netball. The event also focuses on making the most of the shire's natural resources such as lakes and walking tracks.

Contact Brooke Love on 03 5593 7100

Applied Research in Sport and Recreation Science Award

**Winner: Deakin University,
The Geelong Exercise & Nutrition Training Study**

The Geelong Exercise and Nutrition Training Study (GENTS Lifestyle Program) was an 18-month community-based study that examined the influence of a multi-component physical activity program and healthy eating on the musculoskeletal health and function of older men living in a regional area.

Musculoskeletal conditions such as osteoporosis and age-related loss of muscle mass (sarcopenia) are serious health issues in Australia. One in three men are likely to suffer a fracture as a result of osteoporosis and with our aging populations it is a major public health problem. The current pharmaceutical treatment is limited to those who already have the disease or are at greater risk, so this study aimed to find a way of preventing it in the first place.

180 men were allocated to one of four groups who either: 1. exercised and drank fortified milk; 2. exercised; 3. drank fortified milk; or 4. undertook their usual activity. The exercise program included a combination of high-intensity resistance training with moderate weight-bearing balance activities and balance/agility exercises.

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The results showed that exercise proved the most beneficial, having a significant effect on bone density, structure and strength. Those that also drank the fortified milk had no significant additional benefits but this was likely due to participants already having a diet that included the required calcium intake.

Contact Dr Robin Daly on 03 9251 7013



Applied Research in Sport and Recreation Science Award

**Finalist: La Trobe University,
Community based exercise programs
for adults with Down syndrome**

The aim of this study was to determine if progressive resistance training was beneficial for people with Down syndrome, and secondly, to develop a model for promoting and supporting people with the condition to participate in exercise opportunities available within their local community.

Research has shown that most adults with Down syndrome do not undertake the recommended levels of exercise to maintain good health with 45 per cent of men and 56 per cent of women being overweight.

The study found that strength training is a safe and feasible option for people with Down syndrome and is effective in improving upper limb muscle endurance. It also found that in order to be successful, exercise needed to be fun, low cost, have a social component to it and, if possible, a system of rewards and encouragement by carers.

Contact Dr Nora Shields on 03 9479 5852

Inspired by the stories of this year's winners and finalists? Discover more great programs keeping Victorians healthy and active on our website.



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Sport and Recreation Education Award

Winner: Brimbank Sports Club Development Networks

Brimbank City Council has 85 sporting clubs utilising 62 sporting facilities including outdoor ovals, indoor stadiums and aquatic facilities. The relationship that the Council had with the clubs was limited to the daily practicalities of usage agreements and maintenance so at the end of 2006, the Council did a major review to see how they could improve club development and create more participation opportunities for the community.

As a result of the review the council developed a new approach that saw them working directly with the state sporting associations to create a framework to tie together all of the supports available to clubs. Six distinct Sports Development Networks were established: four to accommodate the most popular sports of cricket, soccer, football and tennis; and two multisport networks for those with lower participation rates.

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The response to the program so far has been very positive with clubs embracing the planning resources and assistance available to them. The success of the initiative and the improved relationship between clubs and council was evident when 67 of the 85 clubs attended a Development Networks meeting held recently, compared with 14 for a similar meeting at the end of 2006.

Contact Ken Phillips on 03 9249 4990



Sport and Recreation Education Award

Finalist: Whitehorse Pioneers Football Club, Tutoring Program

Like most clubs, The Whitehorse Pioneers Football Club see their junior teams, in particular their under 18's Colts, as the future of their club and wanted ensure their ongoing involvement and success. But they were experiencing attendance problems for training and match day from players who were completing their VCE. Trying to balance study with everything else in their lives was proving difficult.

Three years ago the club came up with the unique idea of offering players free optional tutoring sessions in the club rooms by qualified teachers in all VCE subjects. The response has been amazing with participation rates at the tutoring session, training and game day close to 100 per cent. The players are benefiting from the balance between study and physical activity, and the results on the field speak for themselves with a premiership for the Colts in 2004 and those same players winning the premiership this year in the senior division.

Contact Zane Job on 0439 991 040

Finalist: La Trobe University, Sport Management: Principles & Applications

La Trobe University have changed the way that sport and leisure management is being taught by moving away from the traditional lecture and tutorial format and introducing a lecture free curriculum that engages and excites student.

Research has shown that students want and need dynamic and high quality resources to support their learning and first year students in particular need to see the connection between what they are studying and the “real world”. To address these needs, Dr Matthew Nicholson and Associate Professor Russell Hoye have developed the Sport Management: Principles and Applications program which includes a textbook, workshop tutorial program and multimedia DVD.

Students have responded well to the new format and relish the flexibility of using the DVD in place of attending lectures. There are plans to expand the concept into other units of the degree.

Contact Dr Matthew Nicholson on 03 9479 3899

Community Facility Design Award

**Winner: Cardinia Shire Council,
Cardinia LiFE**

The Cardinia LiFE facility is the largest single construction project ever undertaken by the Cardinia Shire Council. The facility, which was opened in July 2006, includes three heated pools, a gymnasium, exercise rooms, crèche, café, administration areas and group change facilities. It was built as an addition to the existing Cardinia Stadium, which is now undergoing a major expansion of its own.

The facility has a number of special features including a state-of-the-art dehumidification system that takes the moisture out of the air and reduces humidity to a comfortable 40 per cent. Low maintenance aluminum wall and roof cladding were used and multicell polycarbonate cladding was added to the central skylight to facilitate good natural lighting during the day while eliminating the effects of solar heat.

During the planning and development phases, the council consulted broadly with stakeholders to ensure that the end result would meet the needs of the growing community.

Now that the facility is open, stakeholders continue to have a say in operating decision via the Operation Review Group which was established to monitor activities at the centre.

In its first year of operation Cardinia LiFE had 512,577 visitations and memberships have exceeded 1500.

Contact Jim Davine on 03 5945 0405



Community Facility Design Award

Finalist: Sandringham Family Leisure Centre Refurbishment

Sandringham Family Leisure Centre was the most visited recreation facility in Bayside but after years of use and ad hoc development over the years, it was time for a facelift. It is the only public pool in the municipality so it was always going to be a challenge with time constraints around how long it could be closed for renovation. With a budget of only \$2 million for the refurbishment, innovative and creative design solutions had to be found and ML Design Architects were able to achieve just that.

Consultation undertaken by Bayside Council clearly identified accessibility as the key area of concern and this became the major focus of the refurbishment. The result is a revitalised facility that features a central access point for all services via an integrated ground floor reception and social gathering area.

Contact Deb Ganderton on 03 9599 4466

Finalist: Eastern Ranges Football Club

The Eastern Ranges Football Club moved in to their new facilities at Kilsyth Recreation Reserve in February 2006. The previously unused reserve is now a hive of activity being used by local clubs, schools, Auskick and members of the local community.

The focus of the refurbishment was on improving the playing surface to make it safe for use and drought resistant. The ground was resurfaced, a computerised sprinkler system installed (which has unfortunately not been able to be used due to drought) and four ground lights erected so that the area can be used at night. The existing building was also transformed into offices and function facilities.

The refurbishment has given the Kilsyth Recreation Reserve a new lease on life and made it accessible to for the whole community.

Contact David Beach on 03 9724 9499

Amateurs Achievement Award

Winner: Melbourne Argonauts

The Melbourne Argonauts is a community rowing club run by and for members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) community. The aim of the club is to provide a safe and supportive place for members and friends of the GLBT to participate in the sport of rowing at all levels – from beginner to social rower to regatta competitor.

The Melbourne Argonauts provided the opportunity to introduce people to the sport of rowing when they may not have otherwise participated. Through this involvement competitors have experienced increased self esteem, better health through activity and made important support networks.

The Melbourne Argonauts was first established in 2002 and has grown into a thriving club of 120 members. It is the only incorporated GLBT club in this part of the world. Justice Michael Kirby is the patron of the club and was honoured when the newest boat was named the 'Justice Kirby'.

In 2006 26 members of the Argonauts participated in the Montreal OutGames winning six gold medals.

Rowing is a known to be an expensive sport and so establishing a successful club from scratch with very few resources - just a lot of determination - has been a major win in itself.

Contact Graeme Lewsey on 03 9864 1160



Amateurs Achievement Award

Finalist: Fitzroy Junior Football Club

The Fitzroy Junior Football Club has grown over the past five years and is now the second largest junior football club in Victoria.

While the growth is a success for the Club, the number of teams and players brings a number of challenges. This is exacerbated when you consider that the Club has no Clubrooms. The answer was a virtual clubroom, and so the Club website was borne.

The website is updated weekly during the season and features updates on teams, training details and general club information. The website has become a whole team effort with all 17 teams maintaining their own pages within the site.

The website mirrors the Club's ethos and celebrates the community's diversity. It is not just about celebrating the achievements of star players but recognising the effort of the entire team.

Contact Jeff Richardson on 03 9482 5880

Finalist: Ballarat Sebastopol Cycling Club

The motto of the Ballarat Sebastopol Cycling Club (BSCC) is 'Passion, Perseverance, Pride – Just Ride!' It speaks of a club that has overcome a number of obstacles to become the successful strong team that it is today.

The BSCC has a rich history dating back its establishment in 1869, during the Gold Rush. However in 2006 the club was on the brink of closing. With an attitude of 'nothing ventured nothing gained' a new Board instigated a change in the direction of the Club. They secured new sponsorship and funding and promoted the Club, dramatically expanding its membership base.

This turn-around has also been accompanied by achievements on the track, with the Club winning a number of state medals at Track and Roadside Championships.

The Club's newly found success was also acknowledged when it was recently named Club of the Year.

Contact Chris Liston on 03 5339 0353

Recognising Today...for Tomorrow



AFL Victoria is proud to sponsor the **Young People in Sport Award**. As the major sporting code in this State we view the recognition of young Victorians' contribution as essential to the future of sport. Through this recognition AFL Victoria hopes more young Victorians are encouraged to take a greater role in decision making in sport in this State.

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