

# NEWSLETTER of



## President's Report - 2009 season wrap up

The Club was able to celebrate a very successful 2009 season at BellsøHotel following the Grand Finals on Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup>. Iød like to thank Frank Boland for organizing the night, Perry in his customary MC role and Scott Emerson for arranging all the Trophies and awards. Those present all had a great night no doubt fuelled by the success earlier in the day when we won 4 Premierships.

At the start of each season the coaching panel meets to select and enter teams that will be most beneficial to the Club and to each player. This results in us entering multiple teams in more than one grade and extending many of our Junior players in higher age groups.

This year we entered 3 teams in Menø SL2, 2 teams in Junior Men/Under 18, 2 teams in Youth Men/Under 16. The only grades we did not enter teams were in SL1 Women, SL3 Women and SL4 Men. Our SL4 Menø team has been playing up in SL3 the last 2 years and this year finished a strong 4<sup>th</sup>.

Our 5 year plan for Womenø development is on track and we will enter a SL1 Womenø team in the near future.

The SL2 menø teams were the Blackballs, the Eels and the Rays. The Blackballs were smarting from last yearø loss and convincingly won the Grand Final against Richmond. The Eels were our true secondsøteams where players would move between SL1 and SL2. The Rays were an Under 16 team made up largely of our Under 16 National Club Championships team.

In the Junior division we had the Blue team who were mainly the Under 16 National Club Championships team plus Blake Edwards and the Gold team which had some Under 17 players and Under 13 players. Junior Blue defeated Junior Gold in the Grand Final.

The Youth/Under 16 teams were the Lions, made up mainly of Under 14 players and the Gorillas, made up mainly of Under 13 players. We split the National Club Under 16 team players between the Lions and the Gorillas. Unfortunately none of these players in the Lions were available for the Finals.

g, 13 reached Finals, and 7 reached Grand Finals for

Probably the highlight of the day was our victory in the SL1 Men's grand final after some years. Congratulations to Travis, the team and the support staff. The most complete performance was the Blackball's overpowering of Richmond. We must congratulate the Junior Women on reaching the Grand Final against the odds and their determination against a very strong Monash team in the Grand Final. Well done to the Junior Blue and Youth Gorillas for their hard fought victories.

### **National Club Under 16 Championships**

We sent a Boys team to the Under 16 National Club Championships through the year. Travis Bloom (Head coach) and Anthony Edwards (Development Coach) prepared the boys brilliantly. The team only lost one game but with the lop-sided draw finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place, not a true representation of their performance. Congratulations to the team, to the coaches and special thanks to Lyn Celotti who managed the team.

The Club, with the support of VWPI, was able to arrange a Special Permit for some players to play with other VWPI clubs without transferring if their Club was not competing. This allowed some of our girls to play with Essendon. Guilia Fuscaldo competed with Essendon and was selected in the 1994 National squad. The boys had 2 players from Footscray. One of these boys, Daniel Egan, was selected in the Australian squad along with Gabriel Addley and Matt Perrott from our club. Well done to these players.

In 2010 we plan to send boys and girls teams to the National Club Under 16 and Under 14 Championships.

### **Other representative Players**

Blake Edwards travelled with the Australian Youth team to the World championships through the year.

Blake, Jamie Ogilvie-Lee and Oliver Booth were selected in the 2009 Australian schoolboy team. Blake was Captain and MVP.

### **Board**

There were some changes at the recent AGM. Tony Addley (work commitments), Frank Boland (going to Sydney for work) and Tom Denehy (going overseas for study) have stepped down. On behalf of the Club I'd like to thank them for their contribution over the years. Tony is going to retain his property steward role.

We welcome Lyn Celotti and John Wall on to the Board.

2009 has been another big year for the Club. It has been successful based on many measures. We continue to expand and continue to look for ways to help our players to improve their Water Polo. We do try to maximize participation and enjoyment and must balance this with achieving success.

The running of the club is largely voluntary and I must thank all those who have contributed. In particular, I'd like to thank the Board, the coaches, the managers and those parents/players who are always the first to help out on table duty etc. All help is gratefully received and vital for us to continue to develop.

Club's inaugural Junior Holiday Clinic from 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Close to 30 players attended. This was a great success. Congratulations to AJ and the coaches: James Woods, Luke Edwards, Blake Edwards, Matt Perrott, Josh Barrington and Monique Woods.

We all look forward to 2010. Have a great holiday.

Rod Woods

## Final Results 2009

### Division 1 Mens

#### SL1

M/Collegians 11 def Richmond 10, ***PREMIERS***

The MCWPC Men's State League 1 team defeated Richmond Tigers (11-10) to become 2009 Victorian Champions in an undefeated season.

A lot of time and effort went into succeeding at these championships and all players and people affiliated with the SL1 group over the last 4 years need to be congratulated of their efforts.

The group was confident going into the game but wary Richmond possessed certain players of value if left unchecked. We planned our matchups and aimed to restrict Richmond of moving the ball to eliminate their big shooters from getting into dangerous shooting positions.

MC were fired up racing out to a 3 6 0 head start scoring fantastic team goals which caught Richmond on the back foot. But with most Grand Finals and to Richmond's benefit, we started to tense up a little in front of goal, which allowed Richmond to capitalize on our mistakes and get back into the game.

With Richmond able to settle, the pressure built for both teams and scoring became increasingly difficult. This proved to make an enthralling battle for all the fans that came to watch these two very proud clubs.

Richmond had their two experienced imports keeping them in the game and even pulled their team to a one-goal lead at one stage.

But this was to be Melbourne Collegians year, the group had been determined to win this season since last year's disappointing loss in the preliminary final. Anthony and Blake Edwards had flown back from NZ to contribute 6 goals between them. And with their other brother Luke being resolute in defence with Simon Gardner, James Woods and Jade Vidal, these guys weren't going to let this slip without a fight.

Along with their teammates, the guys have got themselves and the club to the top of Victorian Water Polo Men's Water Polo and will be sure to maintain that status in years to come.

Congratulations and looking forward to seeing the club progress further next year.

## M/C Blackballs TO GET RICHMOND 1, **PREMIERS**

The Blackballs were determined this year to make amends for their *stinging defeat* in last years Summer Competition Grand Final.

We managed to finish in third place after the final round, meaning we faced the unusual task of having to play three *knockout* finals games for the week. For the first time in several years we were able to get a full team together and managed to play some of our best team polo for many seasons.

We faced the task of having to defeat both our Junior Melbourne Collegians teams just to make the Grand Final. We had to pull out all stops and play our best polo to get over both the Rays and the Eels, and it was made crystal clear what a sensational position our club is in to have so many talented young players coming up through the ranks to challenge the SL1 boys for positions in the coming years. Everyone involved in the rebuilding of our great club is to be congratulated.

Come Grand Final Day everything fell into place. We faced our old foes the Richmond Tigers. Our entire team knew their own individual role and we played it out perfectly as a team. We downed the Tigers 10 goals to 1 and celebrated like it was our first flag.

## M/Coll Eels lost 11-8 to Blackballs in Prelim

The MC Eels Men's State League 2 team finished top of the ladder after the regular season but lost both major and preliminary finals preventing them from back to back titles.

This team was primarily made up of players on the brink of SL1 selection and club 18's looking to further their water polo expertise. Lead by Travis Bloom and Nathan Pratt, the team was cruising along nicely until player unavailability handicapped the team come finals. Paul Tan and Kenneth Wee had to return to Singapore for their national team, Ben Mason succumbed to a chronic groin injury and Ashley Gaylard lost his life to the police. Certain players from the SL1 team became ineligible because they played too many games in the higher grade, which caused the team to have no bench come finals.

Albeit, the team regrouped and pushed the Blackballs in the preliminary final only losing the game late in the final corner 11 to 8. On behalf of the Eels, congratulations to the Blackballs for whitewashing Richmond Tigers in the Grand Final, it was just a pity we could not have met in the GF.

I would to congratulate Leo Van Veenendal for playing as goalie in the finals, Tom Lovelock for his courageous efforts in centre forward, Anders Floden who possesses a lot of talent which was shown with a great goal against Simon Magazanik in the preliminary final and finally Eric Yuen with his leadership at games and training. A fun and enjoyable season.

## M/Coll Rays lost 10-5 to Blackballs in Minor semi

## M/Coll Gorillas 7 def Richmond Panthers 6, *PREMIERS*

The MC Gorillas finished second after the regular season was completed. The Gorillas finished with 10wins, 2 Draws and 2 Losers. The team went into the finals series ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> and faced Richmond Panthers in the Major Semi Final. Richmond got off to a good start scoring the first couple of goals, but to the teams credit they pulled back the difference and overpowered the opposition to win 9-6, putting them straight into the grand final.

The Gorillas then had to wait to see who they would be facing in the grand final. The prelim final was between Richmond Panthers vs. MC Lions. The MC Lions had a depleted as many players were away at the time. This allowed The Panthers to win easily over the Lions 18-1. This set up a great grand final that would be battled out between the two best teams of the year.

The Gorillas came into the final confident as they had won or drawn all their games with the Panthers. With all the top age players in the team and ready to go, it sent a real buzz through the team. The scene was set, the game plan was put into place, and it was now up to the players. It was Game Time.

Richmond came out of the blocks strong, putting away the first couple of goals. The guys then regrouped and started to implement the game plan. Shutting down the Richmond attack with some fantastic team defense, lead by Ben Ernest, Josh and Nick Barrington, and Chris Perrott.

This strong defense then allowed the team to push up and get attack after attack, against an exhausted Richmond defense. It was just a matter of time before the Gorillas would penetrate the Panthers goals. Continuous counter attacks were being generated from Tom Moore and Lloyd Tarrant wearing down the Richmond players. As the Richmond player became tired it allowed our powerhouse twin towers go to work in the hole. Josh Barrington and Lachlan Edwards started to draw many kick-outs and were getting away a number of shoots. Combining this with our out top specialist shooters Matt and Chris Perrott, it gave Richmond no hope in winning. Even though the Richmond Panthers fought out the game strong, they were no match for a fitter, stronger, skillful and well drilled team. Allowing the boys to take out the title and win 2009 State Championship Youth Boys.

This was an excellent effort as the majority of the team was made up of U/14 players. These players were given the opportunity to play up an age group to further develop their skills and knowledge of the sport. A special thanks needs to be given to these players which include Max Mellor, Louis Cerdan, Lachlan Edwards, William Lovelock, Henry Moore, George Van Veenendaal, Chris Perrott, Will Woodhouse, Oscar Woinarski and Jordan Stojcevski, as without them the team wouldn't have made it into the finals.

The Best Player for the season was award to Josh Barrington ó for his outstanding performance in the finals series and regular season. In the close games the team had this season Josh stood up and got the team over the line with his ability to perform under pressure.

## M/C Lions 1 lost to Richmond Panthers 18 in Prelim

...ing 3<sup>rd</sup> losing to Richmond's top team in the  
...o give many of our Under 14 players an opportunity  
...e season. They were ably supported by the top age  
players particularly in the harder games. Unfortunately our 4 Under 16 National Club  
team reps could not play in the Finals. Best player for the year was Michael Heil. The  
team was ably coached by Jamie Ogilvie Lee when free of SL1 responsibilities.

## Junior Men/Under 18

M/Coll Blue 8 def M/Coll Gold 6, **PREMIERS**

The **Junior Blue team** was made up of mainly the National Clubs Under 16 team. Blake joined the team after he came back from National duties. The season was very successful providing an opportunity to extend our Under 16 players against bigger boys. The only competition through the year was against the Gold team. We went into the Final as underdogs but were quietly confident knowing they were missing some players and that we had a full team. Even though this was an intra-club game it was a Final and we were keen to get bragging rights and finish off a campaign that started mid-year. The Final was tight throughout with the Gold team getting an early break. As the game went on our weeks of hard training paid off and once we hit the front we were home - a great team effort. Congratulations to Matt Perrott the Best and Fairest winner in a very even team.

The **Junior Gold team** had a consistent year of results however it was interrupted with a number of boys balancing study with Water Polo. The Gold boys finished on top of the ladder after the regular season only losing one game. With a goal difference of 121, the team boasted the best attack and defence in the competition scoring 172 goals and only conceding 51. Throughout the season every player contributed with goals and also in general play with assists coming from all over the pool. There were a number of close games through the season, including the loss to the other junior team the Junior Blue men 11 ó 10. We also had a few close encounters specifically against Footscray where the team came back from 3 goals down to beat them 9 ó 8. The most memorable victory of the season came against Richmond where it was goal for goal the whole game, until they got a break at 4 ó 3. The senior boys in Jaime Ogilvie-lee, Tait Sengstock and Oliver Booth showed their composure and leadership setting each other up from defence to level the scores at 4 ó 4. With the clock ticking down, the bench rising to egg the players on Oliver Booth steals the ball and with 15 seconds left gives Tait the ball 10m out from goal. As the right hand unleashed the bench jumped in anticipation as it soared into the top right corner to crush the Richmond in the dying seconds. After this game no team came close as the season breezed past and finals were upon us. After making it through to the grand final we knew it would be tough. A full strength Junior Blue team were the only thing that stood in our way. We were missing Ben Mason through injury which was a big loss but the battle was still close and well fought. Losing 8 ó 6 was respectable and only due to a few missed opportunities. Overall the season was extremely enjoyable and I'm certain the boys gained something from it as I know I did.  
Best and Fairest ó Oliver Booth

3. Ben Mason - 17

James Woods

## Division 1 Womens

SL2 M/Collegians finished 6 out of 9 teams

### Junior Women

M/Collegians 3 lost to Monash Uni 9 in Grand Final

### Youth Girls

MC Marlins 2 lost Essendon 6 in Prelim Final

### Women's SL2, U/18 and U/16 Water Polo Report

Well, as they say, it's all over for 2009 bar the shouting.

For those of you who could not make the presentation night and haven't been following the form in the Women's competitions, I thought I would bring you up to speed.

Best Player U/16 Youth Women - Ellie Stott/Kathleen Melton í ..(team finished 3rd )

Best Player U/18 Junior Women - Monique Woodsí í (team finished 2nd)

Best Player SL-2 Senior Women - Asher Batch/Georgia Stott í ..(team finished 6th)

Congratulations to the above girls. Seeing 2 joint winners goes to show that across the board we are improving as a group, which I find very heartening.

Our improvement over the past 2 years has been fantastic. I have had a lot of comments from opposition coaches, SL1 coaches and various Board members about the improvement in our girls' skills and our water polo game generally. This is a reflection of all the hard work over the past 2 years and a credit to all the girls.

Training will ramp up again next year to try to get silverware into the cupboard. This will also involve some variation to the way we currently trainí ..more time dedicated to forward, defence and extra man work and being comfortable to take shots from outside 5m.

Liz Archer (SL2) is working on a swim session for those not already squad swimming (2 x a week) and I will develop a leg work session.

include 25/50m time trials, with a review and retrieval  
provement and more energy in getting ourselves up

As usual, I will organise different/specialist coaches for some sessions and will also look at cross training.

I have enjoyed immensely our season this year and I am very excited about next year as I think things will start to move for us in a big way. It will take a lot of hard work but I think all the girls are up for it. I know I am.

I hope all around the Club and their families have a safe and happy Xmas and New Year and I look forward to seeing all the girls back in the pool next year.

A big thanks to the parents (drop offs pick ups & water polo games) for their support during the season. Another big thanks to Ian and Scott for all their work over the year.

A great season for the girls

Perry Gaylard

## Division 2 Mens

### SL3

M/Collegians(3) 4 lost to MHSOB Tigers 5 in Grand Final

M/Collegians(4) 5 lost to M/C (3) in Minor semi

Melbourne Collegians 4 Report

After a slow start to the season struggling to rack up a few wins, we won 6 out of our last 7 games to make the finals in 4<sup>th</sup> position.

This was our 2<sup>nd</sup> full season in State League 3 and the improvement in the team in terms of adjusting to the pace and strength of the other teams was evident; so much so that we beat every team in the competition at least once.

Probably the highlight of our season was the best team game we have played in SL3 in beating MC3/3 who are a terrific team with a pretty good goalie. MC3/3 turned the tables on us in the Semi Final and went on to win the Preliminary Final only to be beaten in the Grand Final; a great effort.

Matt had a great year in goals, Andrew Chard still has a great arm, Graeme as clever and reliable as ever, Steve as cheeky and hard working as an 18 year old, Ross, greatest come back since...can't remember that guys name but you know who I mean!, new dad Heath improving all the time without ever having trained, Michael (Fred) showing signs of his old self, the Italian flair of Giuseppe and the got no idea about



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our multiculturalism and finally William who pops  
refereeing, to which we sincerely thank him for,

In all another great season playing with a top bunch of blokes who enjoy a terrific camaraderie. Everyone shared the load with the tables, book, caps and balls.

We look forward to a New season with.....new caps.....and.....new balls.....well, maybe we will just look forward to a new season.

Best wishes to all at Melbourne Collegians for 2010 from the boys from MC4

Andrew Gilchrist

### **SL5 M/Collegians 7 lost to Monash Sixers 9 in Minor semi**

The MC SL5 team had an encouraging season, despite losing two players to long term injury (Laurent Franklin and Brett Davidson). This cost the team a little swimming speed - and reduced the bench. However we were fortunate in adding the firepower and experience of Mike DeFina and Jim Milne for this campaign. The team had some great wins along the way, and finished a creditable fourth, hence making a welcome return to finals polo! We were knocked out by a much younger Monash side in the first final. This was a tight affair, with honours even in all quarters except the third. MColl eventually succumbed 7-9. The boys are optimistic and keen for the next campaign.

Brett Davidson

**Graham Stalker Memorial trophy Best Finals Player Mens SL1 - Luke Edwards**

**Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy Best Player Mens SL1 - James Woods** (team finished 1st and undefeated)

**Best Player Womens SL2 - Georgia Stott/Asher Batch** (team finished 6th)

**Best Player Mens SL5 - Michael DeFina** (team finished 4th )

**Best Player Mens SL4 - Andrew Gilchrist** (team finished 4th )

**Best Player Mens SL3 - Mark Ekelmans** (team finished 2nd)

**Best Player Mens SL2 Blackballs - Kris Willand** (team finished 1st)

**Best Player Mens SL2 EELS - Travis Bloom** (team finished 3rd)

**Best Player Mens SL2 RAYS -Josh Barrington** (team finished 4th)

**Best Player U/16 Youth Women - Ellie Stott/Kathleen Melton** (team finished 3rd)

**Best Player U/16 Youth Men Lions - Michael Heil** (team finished 3rd)

**Best Player U/16 Youth Men Gorillas - Josh Barrington** (team finished 1st)

**Best Player U/18 Junior Women - Monique Woods** (team finished 2nd)

**Best Player U/18 Junior Men Gold - Oliver Booth** (team finished 2nd)

**Best Player U/18 Junior Men Blue - Matt Perrott** (team finished 1st)

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[www.mcwaterpolo.com](http://www.mcwaterpolo.com)