



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well it's that time of the year again where we as a club and committee sit back and look over the season gone and discuss, debate and I'm sure sometimes argue over what has transpired and what could and should have been done better. The difference for me this time is that I'm President of the club and this process of reflection has taken on a whole new perspective!!!

Looking back on my first year as President, I believe we made great strides as a club and I am certain that the processes we have implemented will hold our great club in good stead in the immediate and long-term future. While we have taken some new directions, it was the previous administration's hard work and efforts that gave us the springboard to achieve this. My thanks again go to Spud and his past committees for this.

There are a few people I would like to thank. Firstly my 2IC Jim Polonidis, who as Vice President on more than one occasion provided a level-headed approach to situations when a hot-headed President was going off tap!!! Thanks Polla. I'm sure that you will make a great club president one day... Also to the rest of the Executive – Peter Fenaughty as Treasurer and Michael Felle as Secretary, your work and efforts were well appreciated. Mick regrettably left the position mid-season due to health reasons but continued to help out whenever he could.

Thanks Pete and Mick. To the rest of the guys, Paul Comino as Assistant Treasurer, Kevin Gardiner as Equipment Manager, Adele Walker as Canteen Manager, your work and efforts were first class and the club thanks you. Special mention must be made to Joe Ansaldo as Sponsorship Manager. Joe worked his backside off this season and this was reflected in our sponsorship being the highest ever sourced by the club. Thank you very much Joe. Finally I can't forget the great man Charlie Walker. Your work is truly amazing Charlie and there is nothing I can write that comes close to summing up your devotion, professionalism and love for our club. Thank you.

I would also like to take the time to thank Vikash Chand for his efforts in coaching the club in 2006/07. Your efforts were appreciated and the way you conducted yourself around the club was exemplary. We as a club wish you luck in your future endeavors.

I would like to thank all team captains collectively. It's a tough gig leading eleven men (and sometimes boys!) week in, week out and your efforts did not go unnoticed. I would also like to thank Spud as Chairman of Selectors. You just can't keep a good man like Spud down – just when you think he is stepping away and fading into the distance he takes on a tough gig like Chairman of Selectors and coaching Under 10s. Probably tougher than being the Pres I think!! I would also like to thank all our Sponsors for their continued support of our club. Without sponsorship, we would never be able to do the things we do. Thank you all very much.

Special thanks to Danny Terzini, Mark Gauci, Geoff Smith and everyone else that helped with raffles, functions, canteen etc throughout the season.



As a club, we took some new directions and fulfilled some key achievements during the season. These included:

- Thirds on turf – first time MMVCA has approved Sunday home fixtures. Our club led the way.
- 8 senior sides ... and growing
- Hosting the state launch of "Go For Your Life" health initiative with State Health Minister Bronwyn Pike present.
- Establishing our first "Milo Have-A-Go" program, with Moonee Valley chosen from over 200 clubs to play a game on the MCG on Boxing Day.
- New synthetic in the nets, with two more on the way.
- 153 players represented our club in senior ranks last season. And 153 played juniors.
- 20 senior and junior teams.
- 11 of 17 eligible teams played finals.
- 2 Premierships – Under 16s and Under 12 Green.
- Secured Debney Park as long-term second home ground.
- Plans to form Past Players Association.

As a committee, we also had a couple of "misses", but it's a learning process for all concerned and I'm sure we will all be better for the experience next season.

As far as the future is concerned, these are the areas the committee and I are focusing on:

- Continuing and growing the financial viability of our club.
- Capital works, including two new nets and shade cloth area for the pavilion.
- Establishment of senior women's cricket team.
- Continued growth of junior base.
- Aggressive recruitment of senior players to accompany the growth of our "home-grown" talent.
- To benchmark our procedures and constantly "raise the bar".

Once again, I thank everyone involved with the season gone and look forward to the season coming as a great one for "The Valleys".

Sandro Capocchi