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Can North Ballarat create history?



AFL VICTORIA

ROUND 1, APRIL 2-3, 2011

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2011 VFL & TAC Cup season kicks off



Welcome all football fans to the opening of what shapes to be an enthralling VFL and TAC Cup season on several fronts.

MORE than 1000 players across the two competitions from around Victoria will showcase their undoubted talents.

Many will hope to attract the attention of the AFL recruiters with a view to elevating their football to the game's elite competition, the AFL, while others will enjoy playing at the highest standard available.

Certainly, the status of both competitions were enhanced following the NAB AFL National, Pre-Season and Rookie drafts, which underscored the TAC Cup as the best nursery of talent and the VFL as the best Statewide competition.

Already, we've seen several ex VFL players – North Ballarat premiership player Cam Richardson, Box Hill Hawks best and fairest winner Ed Curnow and Box Hill Hawks teammates Cameron Pedersen and Lucas Markovic - play in the AFL in Round 1.

TAC Cup graduates Jake Batchelor (Dandenong Stingrays), Cameron Guthrie (Calder Cannons), Jasper Pittard (Geelong Falcons), Cameron O'Shea (Eastern Ranges), Jayden Pitt (Geelong Falcons), Dyson Heppell (Gippsland Power), Tom Liberatore (Calder Cannons), Andrew Gaff (Oakleigh Chargers) and Shaun Atley (North Melbourne) all made their AFL debuts.

Those exiting TAC Cup players looking at the VFL as a second chance to launch an AFL career have been afforded a great opportunity with the 23rd player rule being expanded.

Now VFL clubs have the opportunity to play a 23rd player providing he's a former TAC Cup player in all home and away games as well as throughout the final series. Significantly, AFL Victoria is proud to announce Peter Jackson Menswear Melbourne as the naming right sponsor

of the VFL for the next two seasons.

Acacia Learning Solutions also comes on board as a major sponsor while one of sport's most enduring and significant sponsorships enters its 20th year with the TAC again sponsoring the TAC Cup, the country's foremost and elite under age competition.

Another feature of the VFL competition is that three clubs – North Ballarat, Northern Bullants and Williamstown – will participate in the inaugural Foxtel Cup, which brings together State League clubs from every State and Territory. It's just another exciting addition to the VFL and will promote the competition and its players before a national audience with all Foxtel Cup packed in a two hour program on Foxtel.

Enjoy your VFL and TAC Cup football weekend.

- John Hook
Football Operations Manager



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APRIL 2nd-3rd, 2011

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New beginnings



Welcome to the brand new AFL Victoria Record for season 2011.

ONE OF THE first things you will notice with the Record this year is the addition of more pages and a return to a combined VFL and TAC Cup Record. Last year we received various feedback about the Record, and in 2011 we hope to return the Record to a must read each and every round of the VFL and TAC Cup season.

As the season progresses, you will notice the Record evolve – we will be trialling different features and articles and trying to find the right mix. We always appreciate your feedback with what we are doing with the Record, and let's be honest, you are the one reading the Record, so we want to know what you want in the Record. Throughout the year we will be looking for your feedback, story ideas, comments and opinions, and you never know, we might even publish some of them right here in the Record.

Apart from the Record, there will be increased coverage of the VFL and TAC Cup competitions

via our websites and social media sites. Our followers for these sites have been slowly growing during the off season, and remember to keep an eye on our Twitter and Facebook sites for regular updates and even some competitions during the year.

To kick off the season, this week's Record previews the year in the VFL and TAC Cup for 2011. Today's record includes:

- After another long off season, we take a look at all the ins and outs for the VFL and TAC Cup sides.
- We take a look at the three VFL teams competing in the Foxtel Cup (North Ballarat, Northern Bullants and Williamstown).
- We feature a story on the growing rivalry between the Box Hill Hawks and Port Melbourne.
- At the AFL Victoria Season Launch it was revealed the new naming rights sponsor of the VFL would be Peter Jackson Menswear Melbourne, and we look at their arrival

to the AFL Victoria stable of sponsors, as well as Acacia Learning solutions and the return of the TAC for their 20th year.

- We also get the expert opinions of various media identities regarding their thoughts and predictions for season 2011 in the VFL – sure to be used as motivation or ammunition as the year progresses.

- And for those trivia buffs out there, test your VFL knowledge with 'Spider's Trivia' I hope you enjoy week one of the new AFL Victoria Record.

**- Anthony Stanguts
Communications Officer**

PS: feel free to send me your feedback, letters to the editor or story ideas to anthony.stanguts@aflvic.com.au. In fact if you send through your feedback or letter this week, one lucky person will win a VFL/TAC Cup season pass. Winner revealed next week.

footy online

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VFL

season 2011 preview

Rolling full steam into round 1 of the 2011 VFL season, we take a brief look at the pre-season happenings of each of the competing clubs and what 2011 has in store for them.

AFTER North Ballarat left an indelible imprint on the storied history of the VFA/VFL competition with its third successive premiership, the burning question as the 2011 season kicks off is can the Roosters do what only one other team has achieved.

And, history buffs must scroll back to the late 19th century to find the only club – Essendon – in the 134-year history of the competition to win four successive flags. The Bombers won premierships in 1891-92-93-94, a feat North Ballarat will attempt to match this season. History tells us it's a herculean assignment, one which has been made all that more difficult with the departure of a host of key North Ballarat players and also from affiliate North Melbourne.

And, other clubs have ramped up their list in a bid to wrest away North Ballarat's dominance. High profile recruits like Brendan Fevola, Travis Tuck, Troy Selwood and Wayne Skipper as well as a raft of emerging young players from the TAC, suburban and country leagues come into the competition.

Adding another intangible to an already unique Statewide competition is the advent of the Foxtel Cup, which involves North Ballarat, Northern

Bullants and Williamstown. One by-product of the Foxtel Cup is that each club has four byes during the home and away season, another imponderable for clubs and coaches to factor into the mix. So, how does your club shape up? Who's new, who's no longer there and who does your club play only once as the hunt begins for season 2011 premiers?

BENDIGO BOMBERS

Coach: Shannon Grant

AFL Affiliate: Essendon

Last season: 10-8

Finish: Eighth

New: Matthew Little (Williamstown), Justin Maddern (Kangaroo Flat), Tory Dickson (Noble Park), Sam O'Brien (Rochester), Sam Vale (Rochester), Shane Page (Bendigo Pioneers), Josh Freezer (Old Melburnians)
Gone: James Flaherty (Peel Thunder), Jason Cloke (Spotswood), Hayden Skipworth (Aberfeldie), Paul Scanlon (Northcote Park), Michael James (Keilor)

Rookies: Stewart Crameri, Josh Jenkins, Jay Neagle, Michael Quinn, Tate Silverlock, Tyson Slattery, James Webster

Play once: Casey Scorpions, Sandringham, Box Hill Hawks, Williamstown, Frankston.

Snapshot: After a frightful

'09 season where they failed to win a match, Bendigo Bombers mounted a significant recovery last season. Not only did the VFL Bombers snap its embarrassing losing streak, but they won more games than they lost to play finals football for the first time since 2007. Bendigo lost much experience since its Elimination Final loss to Box Hill Hawks. Captain James Flaherty, defender Jason Cloke and former Adelaide/Essendon player Hayden Skipworth have all left. But, following a selective and extensive recruiting drive Bendigo can expect to again play finals in '11 and they've addressed a significant deficiency – bolstering its forward power. Netting 'Frosty' Miller medallist Matthew Little is the recruiting coup of the season. Little, coming off a career season where he also won the Frank Johnson Medal for his seven goal haul in the VFL win against WA, provides Bendigo with a bona fide target. Complimenting Little is Justin Maddern who kicked a 100 goals for Kangaroo Flat in the local Bendigo league. Add former Frankston player Tory Dickson combined with an improved Essendon list and Bendigo looks well equipped to play finals.

BOX HILL HAWKS

Coach: Damian Carroll

AFL Affiliate: Hawthorn

Last Season: 11-7

Finish: Fourth

New: Jackson Sketcher (Sandringham Dragons), Taylor Gilchrist (Sydney Swans rookie), Beau Muston (Hawthorn), Adam Pattison (St Kilda), Jarrad Boumann (Western Bulldogs rookie), Sam Cust (Oakleigh Chargers), Tim Northe (Gippsland Power)
Gone: Ed Curnow (Carlton), Steve Kenna (Balwyn), Cam Pedersen (North Melbourne), Luke Ablett (Mulgrave), Robert Campbell (Melbourne)

Rookies: Luke Breust, Will Langford, Jack Mahony, Sam Menegola, Riley Milne, Tom Schneider, Will Sierakowski, Derick Wanganeen

Play once: Geelong, Frankston, Bendigo Bombers, Collingwood, Casey Scorpions.

Snapshot: Following its sustained second half surge, which took it to a Preliminary Final, where they were beaten by subsequent premiers North Ballarat, Box Hill Hawks have suffered a hefty loss of top end players. Captain Steve Kenna has departed for local footy; Ed Curnow, whose season was cruelly ended mid-season by injury, and Cam Pederson find themselves on AFL lists and Luke Ablett also has gone. Compounding matters, Hawthorn recruit Beau Muston will miss much of the first half following an ankle reconstruction. While Adam Pattison will provide much needed weekly physical presence both in the ruck and around the ground, Box Hill Hawks will rely heavily on its



Casey Scorpions Kyle Matthews (left) in action.

Hawthorn list. One added bonus is that former Frankston captain Shaun Pollard is ready to resume after missing all last season through injury. He'll stiffen up the VFL Hawks' defence. Virtually all its new players are youngsters in their first year out of the TAC Cup and it can take a season or two for them to adjust to playing against bigger bodied, more experienced players.

CASEY SCORPIONS

Coach: Brad Gotch

AFL Affiliate: Melbourne

Last Season: 14-4

Finish: Fifth

New: Nathan Allen (Dandenong Stingrays), Mitch Gent (Dandenong Stingrays), Daniel Harrison (Dandenong Stingrays), Aiden Lindsay (Gippsland Power), Aaron Purves (Rowville), Blake Carew (Gippsland Power), Tom Corry (Gippsland Power)

Gone: Ben MacReadie (West Adelaide), Scott Simpson, Glenn Chivers, Ryan Creed, James Taylor

Rookies: Robert Campbell, Michael Evans, Cameron Johnston, Kelvin Lawrence, Tom McNamara, Michael Newton, Daniel Nicholson
Play once: North Ballarat, Bendigo Bombers, Williamstown, Box Hill Hawks, Collingwood.

Snapshot: Casey welcomes back captain Kyle Matthews after his sickening assault during last season's pre-season, which robbed him of all the '10 season. Matthews is an inspirational player and it's to be hoped he can return to his best form. Another comeback player is the talented Michael Stockdale, who's still young and good enough to make it to the AFL. The Scorpions have lost prolific possession winning midfielder Ben Macreadie, but they still have a strong core of VFL players led by James Wall, Evan Panozza and Tim Mohr. Last season the Scorpions caught most clubs unaware and its ability to win close games – 8/2 in games decided by 15-points or less



Nick Carnell, congratulated by his Coburg teammates.

- guaranteed them a top four finish. But, Casey was bundled out of the finals in straight sets, underlining its inexperience in a crunch. Certainly, Melbourne's emerging list will have a strong say in just where the Scorpions finish, but finals shape to be in the equation.

COBURG TIGERS

Coach: Adam Potter

AFL Affiliate: Richmond

Last Season: 5-13

Finish: Eleventh

New: Jamason Daniels (Western Bulldogs rookie), Glenn Grgic (Northern Knights), Luke Cartelli (Williamstown), Michael Tanner (Williamstown), Nick Lynch (McLeod), Willie Wheeler (Murray Bushrangers), Rohan Hore (Traralgon), Leigh Masters (Bendigo Pioneers)
Gone: Jason Morgan, Shane Puselli

Rookies: Pat Conin, Robert Hicks, Tom Hislop, Ben Jakobi, Brad Miller, Jamie O'Reilly, Nick Westhoff

Play once: Sandringham,

Williamstown, Collingwood

Snapshot: Coburg Tigers have been huge disappointments the past two seasons.

Admittedly, the club lost six games by 16 points or less last season, but the bottom line is they found ways to lose and that was reflected in its 5-13 season scoreline. And, Coburg Tigers inability to consistently kick big scores continually put them under the pump. For the fourth time in four years, Coburg Tigers have a new coach, but at least Adam Potter takes charge of a list that has seen little movement over the off season. Importantly, Coburg Tigers retained captain Nick Carnell, Sam Power, Damien Rayson, Rhett Jordan, Andrew Duhau and Ben Clifton. The VFL Tigers have added some experience with Jamason Daniels, Nick Lynch and Luke Cartelli and Michael Tanner from Williamstown. Certainly, Potter has enough VFL talent coupled with an untapped Richmond list to suggest

Coburg Tigers won't under achieve in 2011.

COLLINGWOOD

Coach: Tarkyn Lockyer

Last Season: 10-8

Finish: Seventh

New: Brett Eddy (Sandringham), Rob Condy (Newtown)

Rookies: Jye Bolton, Paul Cribbin, Thomas Gordon, Tom Hunter, Shae McNamara, Jack Perham, Scott Reed, Declan Reilly

Play once: Werribee, North Ballarat, Port Melbourne, Coburg Tigers, Casey Scorpions, Box Hill Hawks.

Snapshot: Collingwood farewelled many veterans, most of whom played in the Magpies VFL team during 2010, including new coach Tarkyn Lockyer. Collingwood has chosen not to recruit an elder statesman like they did with Damien Peverill and Nigel Carmody in previous seasons and what that does is expose a sea of young, fresh faces to a most competitive competition. Winning the VFL premiership is not high on the Pies priority list with the club more focused on developing its young players into AFL quality players who can play the brand of game that netted the club the 2010 AFL flag. Having said that, Collingwood made it to a VFL Preliminary Final two seasons ago. Energetic, enthusiastic young players are always capable of surprises and that's why Collingwood cannot be discarded.



North Ballarat Rooster's star Myles Sewell.

FRANKSTON

Coach: Simon Goosey
VFL Stand Alone

Last Season: 1-17

Finish: Last

New: James Appleford (Rye), Nick Boland (Sandringham), Riley Heddles (Dandenong Stingrays), Rob McCallum (Drouin), Joel West (Kangaroo Flat), Dale Whelan (Mornington)

Gone: Michael Hibberd (Essendon), Ryan Hobbs

Play once: Sandringham, Bendigo Bombers, Northern Bullants, Box Hill Hawks, Werribee, Geelong.

Snapshot: After defeating a Coburg Tigers team that featured Ben Cousins, Robin Nahas, Angus Graham, Nathan Foley, Jake King and Luke McGuane in Round 2, Frankston endured a season from hell. The Dolphins lost its next 15 games to finish a long and lonely last with the opposition scoring twice as many points as they did. It was not altogether surprising given the mass exodus of players from the club at the start of the

2010 season. Coach Simon Goosey put all his faith in young, local kids and they certainly found the step up to the semi-professional ranks of the VFL a quantum leap. Importantly, Frankston has retained most of its list and with a season behind them, Frankston will be better equipped to be more competitive, but to what extent will only be determined as the season pans out. Once again, Goosey has concentrated on an influx of young players from the TAC Cup and local leagues in a bid for the club to firstly end its losing streak, climb out of the cellar and again become a competitive force in the competition.

GEELONG

Coach: Dale Amos

Last Season: 5-13

Finish: Twelveth

New: Jaxson Barham (Collingwood), Troy Selwood (Brisbane), Casey Tutungi (Casey Scorpions), Garreth Phillips (Rupertswood), Tom Maas (South Barwon), Anthony

Bremans (South Barwon), Anthony Elliott (Lara)

Gone: Daniel O'Keeffe, Tom Allwright (Werribee), Bryn Weadon

Rookies: Ryan Bathie, George Burbury, Ben Johnson, Jon Simpkin, Jesse Stringer, Josh Walker, Jack Westpon

Play once: Williamstown, North Ballarat, Box Hill Hawks, Port Melbourne, Coburg Tigers.

Snapshot: Geelong failed to gain any traction last season as its largely young squad were unable to make an impact when it counted. The Cats' undoubted highlight was a win against subsequent premiers North Ballarat, but apart from that its wins were against Frankston, Werribee and Gold Coast, who ended up below or just ahead of them on the ladder. Geelong has bolstered its VFL ranks with the signing of ex Brisbane Lion Troy Selwood and Jaxson Barham, who played with Collingwood. It certainly provides some much needed experience to lead what again shapes as a youthful, inexperienced team. Geelong's status in the VFL will again be dictated to a large extent by the injuries incurred at the top end of its list. If Geelong can maintain a healthy list it will help its VFL team, which has the added advantage of playing many of its home games as curtain raisers to the AFL Cats.

NORTH BALLARAT

Coach: Gerard FitzGerald

AFL Affiliate: North Melbourne (partial)

Last Season: 15-3

Finish: Premiers

New: Pat Barber (North Ballarat Rebels), Lachie George (Box Hill

Hawks), Sam Hughes (Geelong VFL), Levi Dare (Cobden), Ben Evans (St Albans), Jandre Slabbert (North Ballarat Rebels), Marcus Darmody (North Ballarat Rebels), Lucas Anderson (Bendigo Pioneers), Ben Dobson (Koroit)

Play once: Sandringham, Northern Bullants, Port Melbourne, Geelong, Collingwood

Gone: Shaune Moloney (retired), Stephen Clifton (Greater Western Sydney), Stevie Dinnell (overseas), Daniel Feery (overseas), Corey Jones (retired), Leigh Harding (Werribee), Isaac Smith (Hawthorn), Josh Smith (East Perth)

Rookies: Luke Delaney, Aaron Mullett, Marcus White.

Snapshot: Can North Ballarat make it four in a row, a feat achieved only once before and that was by Essendon in the late 19th century? Certainly, it's a massive assignment, but any club coached by the legendary Gerard FitzGerald must be considered a legitimate shot. FitzGerald has the innate ability to prize the maximum ability from all those who play under his regimented and processed format. What will make the Roosters task all the more challenging is that it has lost so much experience. Captain Shaune Moloney, Liston Trophy winner Stephen Clifton and the under rated, but highly effective Dan Feery and Stevie Dinnell are significant departures, so, too the loss of North Melbourne players Corey Jones, Josh Smith and Leigh Harding. Jones and Smith were the prime goal kicking targets, so North Ballarat need to find two new players to supply 100 plus goals a season

– not an easy ask. It's not all doom and gloom however. North Ballarat still has a very good list and just as importantly the best coach in the competition.

NORTHERN BULLANTS

Coach: Darren Harris

AFL Affiliate: Carlton

Last Season: 10-8

Finish: Runner-up

New: Tom German (Williamstown), Bryce Carroll (Aspley), Adam Marcon (Northern Knights), Nick Meese (West Preston), Kane Lambert (Northern Knights), Josh Marchbank (Northern Knights), Josh Nesbitt (Keilor), Daniel Toman (Assumption College)

Play once: North Ballarat, Frankston, Bendigo Bombers, Sandringham, Werribee
Gone: Anton Woods (Williamstown), Luke Morgan (Wangaratta), Shane Neaves (amateurs), Shane Austin (Wallan)

Rookies: Blake Bray, Jaryd Cachia, Mitchell Carter, Levi Cashboults, Ed Curnow, Joe Dare, Rhys O'Keeffe, Zach Tuohy, Wayde Twomey.

Snapshot: In any other era Northern Bullants could reasonably have expected to win at least one flag given its performance, but the Bullants had the misfortune to bump into the all-conquering North Ballarat. Northern Bullants have retained its key plays – captain Adam Iacobucci, Jarrod McCorkell, Ash Arrowsmith and the exciting Ahmed Saad - improved its list with some exciting youngsters headed by Daniel Toman, Bryce Carroll and Adam Marcon, son of club stalwart, Adrian. Add to that mix a Carlton list that is deep in talent and it augurs well. The

Bullants lost David Teague, who coached the club to the past two Grand Finals, but replacement Darren Harris has led clubs to premierships both in Victorian country as well as in West Australia, where he also worked with John Worsfold.

Northern Bullants will again be a leading contender for the flag.

PORT MELBOURNE

Coach: Gary Ayres

VFL Stand Alone

Last Season: 13-5

Finish: Fifth

New: Patrick Rose (Western Bulldogs/Williamstown), Wayde Skipper (Hawthorn), Jake Edwards (Carlton), Tristan Francis (Collingwood rookie), Tomi Johnston (Sandringham)
Gone: Dylan McLaren (Sale), Matthew Suckling (Norwood), Phil Raymond (Glenelg), Wayne Schultz (Castlemaine)

Play once: Coburg Tigers, Collingwood, Geelong, North Ballarat, Casey Scorpions, Werribee.

Snapshot: Gary Ayres saddles up for his fourth year at the Borough after taking the stand alone club to a Grand Final, a Preliminary Final and a Semi Final in the past three years. While the performance graph may be going south, Port Melbourne's achievement last season should be put in context. The Borough was without captain John Baird throughout the season and best and fairest winner Sam Dwyer was reduced to a cameo role also through injury. Both players are ready from the get-go this season. And, while ruckman Dylan McLaren is a significant loss, Port has recruited well.



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Wayde Skipper should cover McLaren's departure. He's an outstanding player at this level. Patrick Rose is a proven goal kicker – he's finished in the top four goal kickers in the VFL the past three years – and Jake Edwards and Tristan Francis have experienced life at an AFL club. Add to that impressive list all the usual suspects – veteran Ryan McMahon, Liston Trophy winner Shane Valenti, best and fairest winner Sam Pleming and co and Port Melbourne looks well placed to again be a powerhouse.

SANDRINGHAM

Coach: Brett Lovett

AFL Affiliate: St Kilda

Last Season: 7-11

Finish: Ninth

New: Marcus Marilgiani (Essendon), Brett Dore (Nar Nar Goon), Madison Andrews (Dandenong Stingrays), James Orr (Box Hill Hawks), Rod Jetta (Sandringham Dragons), Paul Fermanis (Oakleigh Districts), Daniel Grant (Sorrento), Matt Wade (Nar Nar Goon), Tim Quick (Perth Demons)

Gone: Nick Sautner (retired), Shane Tregear (West Perth), Clay Johnston (Port Melbourne), Tomi Johnson (Port Melbourne), Kallen Geary (Broadbeach), Cam Hunter (retired)

Rookies: Warwick Andreoli, Daniel Archer, Thomas Curren, Robert Eddy, Jackson Ferguson, Steven Gaertner, Tommy Walsh
Play once: North Ballarat, Northern Bullants, Williamstown, Bendigo Bombers, Coburg Tigers, Frankston.

Snapshot: Former Frankston coach Brett Lovett comes to the



Port Melbourne's Shane Valenti will be looking for a repeat of 2010's success.

Trevor Barker Oval to turn around the fortunes of Sandringham, who own the unflattering moniker of the biggest under achievers of recent seasons. The Zebras, the envy of all during the early 2000s with four flags in seven seasons, have missed the finals the past three years. You have to trawl back more than 20 years to find the club sinking to such depths. Lovett takes over a club that will be without goal kicking goliath Nick Sautner, who, through work commitments, couldn't meet Lovett's strict, non-negotiable training regimen. It will be interesting to watch Sandringham post Sautner and how they construct their avenue to goal. Lovett has brought with him a team-orientated discipline that saw Frankston reach lofty heights few expected. Interestingly, several former Dolphins have joined Sandringham, which already boasts a number of players Lovett coached at Frankston. Expect Sandringham, favoured by a kind draw, to be more

competitive than in previous seasons and look for the Zebras to be finalists once again.

WERRIBEE

Coach: Paul Satterley

AFL Affiliate: North Melbourne (partial)

Last Season: 4-13-1

Finish: 13th

New: Travis Tuck (Hawthorn), Will Sullivan (West Coast Eagles), Leigh Harding (North Melbourne/North Ballarat), Michael Still (Essendon), Tom Allwright (Geelong rookie), Michael Sodomaco (Geelong Falcons), Matt O'Dwyer (Sydney), Gavin Urquhart (North Melbourne player whose VFL club last season was North Ballarat)

Gone: Marty Pask, Cameron Wight, Teghan Henderson, Matt Laidlaw

Rookies: Majak Daw, Cameron Pederson, Matthew Scott
Play once: Northern Bullants, Frankston, Williamstown, Collingwood, Port Melbourne
Snapshot: Paul Satterley, who won a Liston Medal when playing for Werribee in 1995,

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takes over coach. Satterley has worked in a coaching capacity the past couple of seasons at Chirnside Park and has a good handle on the list. Werribee has been aggressive pre-season with a much needed recruiting drive to bolster a club that disappointed last season. Leigh Harding will add experience while youngsters Will Sullivan, Michael Still, Tom Allwright and Michael Sodomaco have much to offer. Unlike previous seasons, Werribee were unable to capitalise on its significant home ground advantage and was unable to apply consistent scoreboard pressure. Clearly, Werribee can improve, but they will need to in what shapes as a most competitive season.

WILLIAMSTOWN

Coach: Peter German

AFL Affiliate: Western Bulldogs

Last Season: 15-3

Finish: Third

New: Adam Cook (Wodonga),

Dale Hoghton (Gippsland Power), Brett Goodes (NT Thunder), Anton Woods (Northern Bullants), Jack Frost (Sandringham Dragons), Stephen Witkowski (Northern Knights)

Gone: Matthew Little (Bendigo Bombers), Patrick Rose (Port Melbourne), Peter Faulks (Fremantle)

Rookies: Ed Barlow, Luke Dahlhaus, Mitch Hahn, Jason Johannissen, Matthew Panos, Eddie Pratto

Play once: Sandringham, Geelong, Bendigo Bombers, Casey Scorpions, Werribee.

Snapshot: After the curtain came down before expectations again in a Preliminary Final – the fourth time in the past five seasons the Seagulls have fallen short of going to the big dance – Williamstown was left with plenty of soul searching over the pre-season. The Seagulls dominated the home and away season, just as it has so often, but inexplicably came up short in the finals. Williamstown

enter the 2011 season without Matthew Little who topped the competition goal kicking in a career year; proven goal kicker Patrick Rose who has moved to arch rival Port Melbourne and Peter Faulks, who was rewarded for his splendid season with another chance at AFL level. The Seagulls picked up Brett Goodes, brother of dual Brownlow medallist Adam, who returns from a year in the Northern Territory. Goodes is a bona fide star of the VFL. Williamstown will be well served by Western Bulldogs mature rookie Mitch Hahn and Ed Barlow, who shape to spend most of the season in the VFL. With its Point Gellibrand headquarters undergoing a makeover and therefore out of action, Williamstown will lose its home ground advantage, which, apart from North Ballarat, is the most distinct in the competition. It would surprise if Williamstown didn't feature prominently, but the true test awaits in September.

- Adrian Dunn

Williamstown's Skipper Brett Johnson will be looking to put 2010 behind him and his team, and once again challenge for the flag.





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What's new in season 2011

Season 2011 looks to be the year for new faces, new places, new rules and a whole new set of competitive challenges.

COACHES



New Northern Bullants Coach Darren Harris and new Werribee Tigers Coach Paul Slaterry.

SIX new coaches will feature thz is season in the VFL, although Sandringham's off field leader Brett Lovett is no stranger to the competition.

Lovett spent six seasons at neighbouring club Frankston, guiding them into the finals three times and to a Semi-Final in his last year, 2008.

The former Melbourne defender, who takes over from Andy Lovell - who had spent three seasons at Trevor Barker Oval - has spent the past two seasons coaching his son's junior club.

Adam Potter is the fourth coach in as many seasons with Coburg Tigers, but he's no stranger to the club.

Potter spent two season's coaching Coburg Tigers' reserves, including the '07 flag, and a couple of years as assistant coach before moving to Williamstown last year as senior assistant coach.

Springvale legend, premiership player and club games record holder Damian Carroll returns to the VFL as Box Hill Hawk's coach. Carroll was captain-coach on Bonbeach for three years then coached Gippsland Power for two seasons and took them to last

year's TAC Cup Grand Final. Tarkyn Lockyer retired at the end of last season after playing 227 games for Collingwood. He comes aboard as the club's VFL coach after Gavin Brown, the coach for the past three seasons, joined Carlton as an assistant coach.

Darren Harris takes charge of the Northern Bullants from David Teague, who gained an assistant role with Fremantle.

Harris is a premiership coach in the WAFL as well as in country Victoria.

Paul Satterley is the new coach of Werribee. Satterley is a local product and won the 1995 Liston Trophy when playing at Werribee under the legendary Donald McDonald.

NEW VENUES

With Point Gellibrand, formidable home ground of Williamstown, undergoing a major overhaul, the Seagulls won't be playing any games at the venue until the 2012 season.

Consequently, Williamstown will play all its 'home' games at a variety of venues - Chirnside Park, Werribee; Torquay Football Club, Torquay (v Geelong, Rd 4); Keilor Football Club, Keilor (v North Ballarat, Rd 11); Norm Minns Oval, Wangaratta (v Collingwood, Rd 16) Bendigo Bombers will play four of its home matches at Windy Hill, the training headquarters of its AFL affiliate, Essendon.

BYES

With Gold Coast Suns joining the AFL and Greater Western Sydney

deciding not to play in the VFL, it necessitates a bye each week. And, with the season stretching over 22 consecutive weekends, each club will have four byes during the home and away season

PLAYER RULES

Following the success in recent seasons of the 23rd player rule, it has been expanded in season 2011 to include all home and away games as well as the finals. Clubs are able to use a 23rd player to promote a TAC Cup graduate from the 2010 season or to allow a TAC player from the aligned club to experience VFL football.

FOXTEL CUP

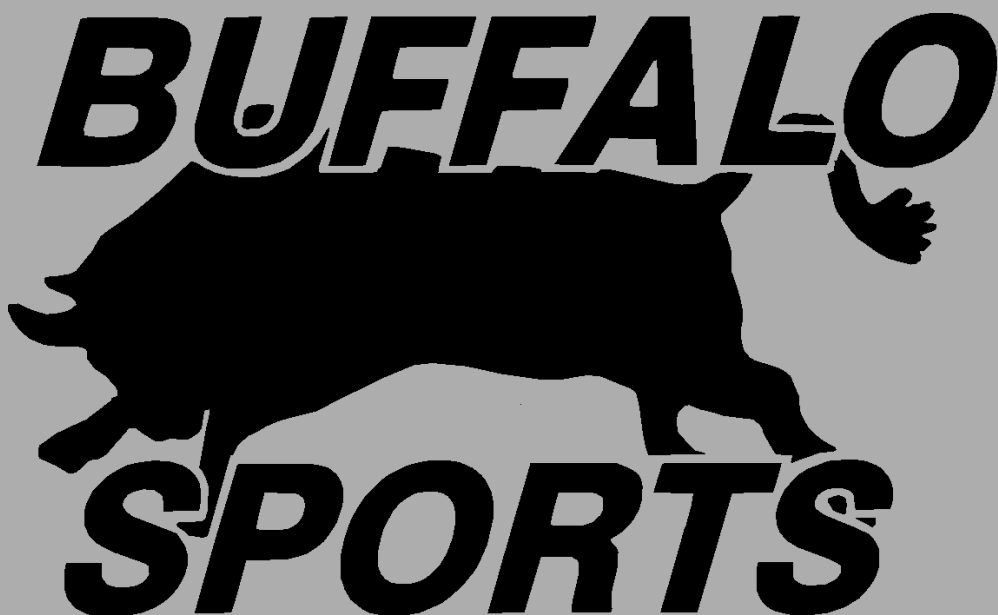
Invited clubs from each State League around the country will compete in the inaugural Foxtel Cup, which will be staged throughout season 2011.

Reigning premiers North Ballarat, runner-up Northern Bullants and minor premiers Williamstown are the VFL clubs competing.

The Foxtel Cup is a knockout competition - only the winners advance to the next round - played at various venues around the country. North Ballarat and Williamstown play their respective first matches at Patersons Stadium, Subiaco while Northern Bullants will play its opening match at the MCG.

All Foxtel Cup games will be televised in a two hour package on Foxtel.

Venues for the Qualifying, Semi and Grand Finals have yet to be finalised. The Grand Final is on Saturday, August 6.



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2011 Foxtel Cup Preview



Not content with a cabinet bursting with silverware, North Ballarat wants to add two more Cups this season to its bulging collection.

OBVIOUSLY, a record equalling fourth successive VFL premiership is the priority, but right behind that is the inaugural Foxtel Cup.

North Ballarat coach Gerard FitzGerald views the Foxtel Cup, which brings together clubs from every State and Territory, as an "exciting addition" not a distraction as other clubs in other States may perceive it.

The Roosters, Northern Bullants and Williamstown are the three invited VFL clubs to compete in the 16-club knockout competition, which begins this Saturday when North Ballarat travel to West Australia to play East Perth at Patersons Stadium, Subiaco. Williamstown also heads west to play Swan Districts, also at Patersons Stadium, on April 9 while Northern Bullants takes on Kevin Sheedy's Greater Western Sydney at the MCG on April 30.

Other clubs in the competition

are Morningside, Labrador (Queensland), NT Thunder (Northern Territory), West Adelaide, Port Adelaide Magpies, North Adelaide (South Australia), Ainslie (ACT), Clarence (Tasmania), Claremont (West Australia), East Coast Eagles (AFL Sydney).

The Foxtel Cup follows a simple format: win and advance to the next round, lose and you're eliminated.

All Foxtel Cup games will be televised in a two hour package on Foxtel and telecast on the day of the match. Most games will be shown on Foxtel between 5pm and 7pm or 6pm and 8pm leading into a live AFL match.

Venues for the Qualifying, Semi and Grand Finals have yet to be finalised. The Grand Final is on Saturday, August 6.

FitzGerald said North Ballarat jumped at the chance to participate when the competition was mooted late last year.

"We would have said 'yes' within a minute of the invitation being here. We didn't even need to have a committee meeting or whatever to discuss it," FitzGerald said.

"For anyone at the club whether it is the coach, the administration, a player you would have to be excited by it.

"It's a great chance to showcase not only your State, but also your club."

FitzGerald said the advent of the Foxtel Cup changed the emphasis in how the club approached the pre-season. He said pre-season normally gives him a chance to reward players for their training regimen over summer or see if a player could develop into a particular role, the focus this year had been to prepare for the Foxtel Cup, which in effect is the club's first game of 2011.

"It's changed our mindset of how we treated the practice matches," FitzGerald said.

"It's cut-throat. You could play really well and just come up short, but it's the end of you. We will be taking our best possible available team. We will have an emphasis on players who are extremely fit and can cover the ground.

"Players who may have been very good players over the journey, but who are not right to go, well, we won't be taking them.

"There is a lot more urgency in this game for us than there would normally be in Round 1."

And, that would suggest trouble for any team that encounters North Ballarat in the Foxtel Cup.



North Ballarat Roosters Coach Gerard FitzGerald will lead his side against East Perth on April 2.

Spider's trivia

Test your knowledge of the VFL in Matt 'Spider' Lee's 10 question trivia quiz.

- 1 Who won the 2010 VFL Premiership?
- 2 Brett Lovett will coach which VFL team this season?
- 3 Who won the 2008 J.J.Liston Trophy?
- 4 Casey Scorpions have an alignment with which AFL Team?
- 5 Who finished top of the VFL Ladder in 2010?
- 6 Who was named full back in the 2010 VFL Team of the Year?
- 7 North Melbourne are aligned to which two VFL teams?
- 8 Who won the 2009 'Fothergill-Round' Medal?
- 9 New Box Hill Coach Damian Carroll played VFA/ VFL football for which club?
- 10 Michael Hibberd was drafted by which AFL Club in the 2010 NAB AFL Pre Season Draft?

Answers
 1. North Ballarat, 2. Sandringham, 3. James Podosiadly (Werribee), 4. Melbourne, 5. Williamstown, 6. Peter Faulks, 7. North Ballarat & Werribee, 8. Michael Barlow, 9. Casey Scorpions (Springvale), 10. Essendon

Matt 'Spider' Lee is a VFL commentator & producer of Evenings with Mark Fine on 1116 SEN



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Rivalry not lost on 2011 Hawks

The Box Hill Hawks may have a new coach, new captain, new president and even a new caterer, but the recent rivalry with Port Melbourne has definitely not been lost in the changeover.

THE RECENT history between these two clubs has been one of pure excitement with less than a kick being the margin in the last four encounters. Who will ever forget the Preliminary Final of 2009 that Peter Donegan called, "the best game of VFL Football in a decade" during his opening comments at the 2009 Liston Trophy.

Season 2011 sees Damian Carroll take the senior coaching role at the Hawks after a successful stint coaching the Gippsland Power in the TAC Cup. The 233-game player from the Springvale / Casey Scorpions has made a smooth transition from player to coach, but 2011 is the biggest challenge so far.

The previous Box Hill Hawks coach, Brendan Bolton brought a new focus, perspective, ferocity and culture to the Hawks over two seasons and they are big shoes to fill. But change brings opportunities for all players old and new, and Box Hill certainly have their share of new players. A turn-over of 24 players on the Hawks list has brought in new players looking to start their careers and others looking to reignite theirs.

New captain of the Hawks, Sam Gibson has an experienced leadership group behind him including Beau Muston as vice captain. Unfortunately for Beau, he has an achilles injury and will miss up to 12-weeks. New player to the club, Adam Pattison is named as deputy vice captain. The 198 cm

ruckman / forward has played 66 AFL games with Richmond and St Kilda and brings a wealth of experience to the Hawks.

Shaun Pollard who missed the entire 2010 season through injury is set to make a return to VFL football with the Hawks. Expect to see him and Ryan Jackson show leadership on and off the field. Other senior Box Hill players that will show good form will be Haydn Kiel, Ben Fagan, Brad Neil and Kris Nye who will make a return after being sidelined with a long term injury. Leigh Kitchen, Brent Wallace and Jayden Hoegel will also get their opportunities to shine.

Skipper Sam Gibson, 24, has played 85 games with Box Hill and if he stays injury free, will play his 100th game for the Hawks this season. This will earn him Life Membership with the club he has played his entire senior career with.

For Port Melbourne, their stand-alone status gives them a list of 65 players, all super keen to wear the Borough guernsey.

John Baird is again captain for season 2011 and will be looking to make an impact after his injury-interrupted 2010. There are co-vice captains in Liston Trophy winner, Shane Valenti and Sam Fleming and multiple deputy vice-captains in Adam Bentick, Adrian Bonaddio and Toby Pinwill.

There are 21 first-year players at Port Melbourne this year including a group from the Oakleigh Chargers and a strong



New Box Hill Hawks Coach Damian Carroll.

contingent of second year players looking to take that extra step.

Port coach, Gary Ayres theme for Season 2011 is "Seize The Moment", and this will not be lost amongst a group that expects success from themselves. The Borough are a proud group and are hungry for their 16th premiership, the last one coming in 1982.

Round 1 sees the Hawks take on the might of the Borough at Box Hill City Oval, a clash with high expectations from both sides. Box Hill ended Port's finals campaign last season with a six-point victory in a semi-final at TEAC Oval.

Port Melbourne were three-point winners in round 6 of 2010 and who could forget the Preliminary Final of 2009 or the eight-point margin to the Hawks in round 15 of 2009.

The newest genuine rivalry in the VFL is back in round one. Let's hope it is another classic and both sides come out with all guns blazing.

- Paul Hooper

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VFL naming rights sponsor announced

Peter Jackson Menswear Melbourne has been revealed as the new naming rights sponsor of the Victorian Football League.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT was made by AFL Victoria Board Chairman Grant O'Riley at the AFL Victoria season launch for the VFL and TAC Cup competitions at Visy Park in mid March.

After a number of years without an official naming rights sponsor, Peter Jackson Melbourne will join the league in a two year deal. The naming rights sponsorship was one of three announcements made at the season launch, with Acacia Learning Solutions welcomed as a new sponsor for 2011, and TAC renewing their commitment to the under 18 competition for the 20th year. "Reflecting the strong pathway system - where Victorian players made up almost 60% of AFL draftees - has been the offseason interest from sponsors wanting to align themselves with our brands," O'Riley said.

"While the brand Peter Jackson Melbourne has been synonymous with radio and TV advertising over a number of years, we looking forward to building an association with them for the Peter Jackson Melbourne VFL."

Speaking on behalf of Peter Jackson Melbourne, Nick Jackson spoke of his company's excitement in joining the VFL as naming rights sponsor this year. "It is a huge honour for our business to be the naming rights partner of such a sensational competition that is the VFL.

"We have always been a proud and passionate football family, and we have always tried to transfer that into our business

objectives and initiatives ... so it was an obvious progression to step up to support a league competition," Jackson said. Acacia Learning Solutions will join as a major sponsor in 2011. Acacia will be running Certificate 2 in Sport training programs in the TAC Cup clubs, helping to invest in the players that are in the system.

"Footy binds communities. We looked at our football program six months ago and it was not a hard strategy to decide that we wanted to be involved more in communities. We are genuinely enthusiastic about helping educate footballers off the field," Acacia CEO David Griffen said at the launch.

"We have toured the TAC Cup clubs over the last three months to try and understand what the players learn from a development and football perspective for life skills ... we realise these players are elite athletes on the field, so our job with the TAC Cup players is to help them off the field and give them other opportunities."

AFL Victoria was also pleased to announce the continued support of the TAC.

"To have a sponsor commit to an organisation for such a long period of time is a rarity in this current day, and we are once again grateful to them for their ongoing support of our under 18 competition," O'Riley said.

In response, TAC Senior Manager, Road Safety and Marketing John Thompson spoke of the partnership that had been built between the two

organisations over a number of years. "It is great that we have two very proud organisations working hand in hand in partnership, and that partnership is built around those players that are part of this competition," Thompson said.

"That is why we are here, and that is why we are going to remain involved in the TAC Cup." Apart from the new sponsorship announcements, the launch also helped showcase players and coaches the VFL and TAC Cup have produced over the years. Speakers at the launch included North Melbourne draftee Shaun Atley (formerly of Murray Bushrangers in the TAC Cup), three time North Ballarat premiership coach Gerard FitzGerald (who had three players drafted to the AFL at the end of last season), Calder Cannons premiership coach Martin Allison (the Cannons boasted nine AFL draftees at the end of last year) and 2010 Collingwood VFL captain, and state representative Kris Pendlebury.



Nick Jackson from Peter Jackson Menswear (Left) is interviewed by Craig Willis at the AFL Victoria Season Launch.

Media season predictions

As we enter round one of the VFL season, we thought we would find out the season predictions from various people in the know.

Nigel Carmody

Nigel played 160 VFL games with Casey and Collingwood between 2000-2008 and is now a VFL Radio commentator and regular contributor on Evenings with Mark Fine on SEN.

Premiers: Williamstown

Wooden spooner: Frankston

Liston Medallist: Brett Johnson (Williamstown)

Player/s to watch: Kyle Matthews (on his return to Casey)

Big improvers: Bendigo

AFL draftee from VFL to watch:

Issac Smith (North Ballarat - Hawthorn)

VFL Headline you would like to see this year: "Record draft numbers expected for VFL"

Brent Diamond

Brent has been a VFL reporter for The Age since 2008. Before that, he also reported on the VFL and TAC Cup for Fairfax Community Newspapers, the Geelong Advertiser and Sportal.

Premiers: Box Hill Hawks

Wooden spooner: Frankston

Liston Medallist: Matthew Little (Bendigo Bombers)

Players to watch: Oliver Tate (North Ballarat), Travis Tuck (Werribee Tigers), Brendan Fevola (Casey Scorpions)

Big improvers: Bendigo Bombers and Werribee Tigers

AFL draftee from VFL to watch: Ed Curnow (Box Hill Hawks - Carlton)

VFL headline you would like to see this year: Fev Defies Critics To Resurrect His AFL Career

Paul Amy

Paul covers the VFL for Leader Newspapers and Inside Football.

Premiers: Port Melbourne

Wooden spooner: Frankston

Liston Medallist: Nick Peters (North Ballarat)

Player/s to watch: Ahmed Saad (Northern Bullants), Chris Irving (Sandringham),

Big improvers: Werribee/Geelong/Sandringham

AFL draftee from VFL to watch:

Tommy Schneider (Hawthorn)

VFL Headline you would like to see this year: Fev On Fire for

Scorps

Sam Landsberger

Sam is a 22-year-old sports journalist covering the VFL for the Herald Sun and Leader Newspapers this season.

Premiers: Williamstown

Wooden spooner: Frankston

Liston Medallist: Michael Stockdale (Casey Scorpions)

Player/s to watch: Ahmed

Saad (Northern Bullants), Matt O'Dwyer (Werribee), Chris Irving (Sandringham)

Big improvers: Werribee to play finals

AFL draftee from VFL to watch:

Isaac Smith (North Ballarat - Hawthorn) Cam Pedersen (Box Hill - North Melbourne)

VFL Headline you would like to see this year: SANFL clubs jealous as all-VFL Foxtel Cup Grand Final shifted to the MCG and sold out!

Adrian Dunn

Adrian has been a sports journalist at The Herald and Herald Sun for more than 30 years. He's been covering the VFA/VFL and editing the weekly VFA/VFL Footy Record for 20 years.

Premiers: North Ballarat

Wooden spooner: Frankston

Liston Medallist: Myles Sewell (North Ballarat)

Player/s to watch: Sam Dwyer

(Port Melbourne)

Big improvers: Sandringham

AFL draftee from VFL to watch: Ed

Curnow (Box Hill - Carlton)

VFL Headline you would like to see this year: Fev kicks 20 in front of 20,000

Ross Booth

Ross played 200 games of VAFA football, did a pre-season at Richmond and teaches economics at Monash University. He is part of the ABC VFL coverage.

Premiers: North Ballarat

Wooden spooner: Frankston

Liston Medallist: Paul Johnson (Box Hill)

Player/s to watch: Tory Dickson (Bendigo)

Big improvers: Geelong

AFL draftee from VFL to watch:

Cam Richardson (North Ballarat - North Melbourne)

VFL Headline you would like to see this year: Shock: VFL teams line up as selected!

Mark Stone

Mark can be heard on 1116 SEN Thursday nights at 8.30pm talking VFL. He has followed the VFL for ten years as a media reporter on many fronts and in the last 4 seasons has been recruiting manager of VFL club the Werribee Tigers.

Premiers: Williamstown

Wooden spooner: Frankston

Liston Medallist: Sam Dwyer (Port Melbourne)

Player/s to watch: Callum Sinclair (Port Melbourne), Russell Gabriel (Frankston), Brett Dore (Sandringham), Tory Dickson (Bendigo), Steven Kennedy (Werribee)

Big improvers: Bendigo Bombers, Werribee

AFL draftee from VFL to watch:

Michael Hibbert (Frankston - Essendon), Cameron Richardson

(North Ballarat - North Melbourne)

VFL Headline you would like

to see this year: The VFL to play more games in Regional areas, taking the game to the people. More exposure to more supporters.

Paul Hooper

Paul is entering his sixth year of calling VFL football on radio. Paul is also the co-producer of radio 3WBC 94.1fm VFL football broadcasts. Paul hosts "The Neutral Corner" sport program on 3WBC. Fridays, 7am till 9am.

Premiers: Box Hill Hawks

Wooden Spooner: Geelong

Liston Medallist: Shane Valenti (Port Melbourne)

Player/s to watch: Ryan Jackson

(Box Hill), Michael Sikora (Sandringham), Adam Iacobucci (Northern Bullants) and Travis Tuck (Werribee)

Big improvers: Frankston and Coburg

AFL draftee from VFL to watch:

Ed Curnow (Box Hill – Carlton) & Cam Pedersen (Box Hill – North Melbourne)

VFL Headline you would like to see this year: Pattison kicks 10 in Box Hill Grand Final Win

The Gospel

The Gospel has been a boom recruit for the VFL Record during the off season. With a keen eye for form, The Gospel is looking to grab this competition by the scruff of the neck and set the pace early. Catch me if you can!

Premiers: Northern Bullants

Wooden Spooner: Frankston

Liston Medallist: Marcus Marigliani (Sandringham)

Player/s to watch: Marcus Marigliani (Sandringham), Ahmed Saad (Northern Bullants), Sam Conroy (North Ballarat), David Mirra (Box Hill), Mitch Keddell (Port Melbourne)

Big Improvers: Werribee Tigers and Bendigo Bombers

AFL draftee from VFL to watch:

Ed Curnow (Carlton from Box Hill), Cam Richardson (North Melbourne from North Ballarat)

VFL Headline you would like

to see: Northern Bullants/ North Ballarat/Williamstown win inaugural Foxtel Cup.

Matt Lee

Matt 'Spider' Lee is a VFL commentator & producer of Evenings with Mark Fine on 1116 SEN.

Premiers: Williamstown

Wooden spooner: Frankston

Liston Medallist: Myles Sewell (North Ballarat) & Sam Gibson (Box Hill Hawks)

Player/s To Watch: Kyle Matthews (Casey), Adrian Bonaddio (Port Melbourne) & Travis Tuck (Werribee)

Big Improvers: Werribee

AFL draftee from VFL to watch:

Michael Hibberd (Frankston – Essendon)

VFL headline you would like to see this year: Fev Boots Scorpions Into The Grand Final

Peter Holden

Peter is a regular commentator with 3WBC 94.1fm.

Premiers: Port Melbourne

Wooden spooner: Frankston

Liston Medallist: Marcus Marigliani (Sandringham)

Player/s to watch: Patrick Rose (Port Melbourne)

Big improvers: Coburg

AFL draftee from VFL to watch: Ed Curnow (Box Hill to Carlton)

VFL Headline you would like to see this year: Frankston Cause First Round Upset

Brad McGrath

Brad is a journalist with The Weekly, (Frankston Weekly, Cranbourne Weekly, Berwick Weekly) and covers Frankston and Casey in the VFL.

Premiers: Port Melbourne

Wooden spooner: Sandringham

Liston Medallist: Shane Valenti (Port Melbourne)

Player/s to watch: Kelvin Lawrence (Casey)

Big improvers: Port Melbourne

AFL draftee from VFL to watch:

Michael Hibberd (Frankston – Essendon)

VFL Headline you would like to see this year: Fevola Bag, Guides Casey To Flag

Kain Pollard

Kain is a commentator with Casey Radio.

Premiers: North Ballarat

Wooden spooner: Frankston

Liston Medallist: Michael Sharkey

Player/s to watch: Sharkey,

Arrowsmith, Fevola, Saad, Tuck

Big improvers: Werribee and Coburg

AFL draftee from VFL to watch:

Peter Faulks (Williamstown – Fremantle)

VFL Headline you would like to see this year: Fevola Kicks A Ton!!

Peter Marcato

Peter is part of the VFL Radio team in 2011.

Premiers: Port Melbourne

Wooden spooner: Frankston

Liston Medallist: Shane Valenti (Port Melbourne)

Player/s to watch: Marcus Marigliani (Sandringham)

Big improvers: Coburg

AFL draftee from VFL to watch:

Cameron Richardson (North Ballarat – North Melbourne)

VFL Headline you would like to see this year: Closest VFL season on record! & Record audiences on VFL RADIO!

Phil Cleary

Phil Cleary played 205 games with Coburg, was a member of the 1979 premiership side and coached the side to consecutive flags in 1988/89. He is also part of the ABC VFL coverage.

Premiers: Port Melbourne

Wooden spooner: Frankston

Liston Medallist: Kyle Matthews (Casey)

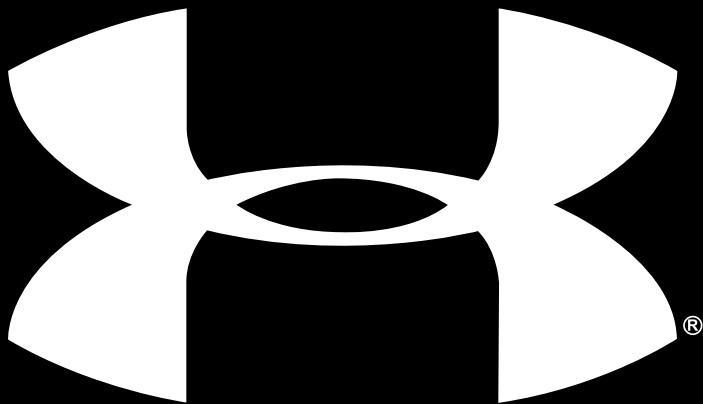
Player/s to watch: Patrick Rose (Port Melbourne)

Big improvers: Frankston

AFL draftee from VFL to watch: James Podsiadly (Geelong)

VFL Headline you would like to see this year: 20,000 Descend On Etihad For Grand Final.

...See the 2011 Tipsters on page 32



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VFL club notes

All the latest news, events and match information from inside each VFL club.



BOX HILL: President's Luncheons: The Box Hill Hawks have secured some big names for our famous President's Luncheons held at each home game throughout the year. \$60 per person for a delicious two-course meal and drinks before the game. Enjoy the match from the stylish Pavilion and the magnificent views from our balconies. Contact the club now on 9890 9442 or admin@boxhillhawks.com.au to secure your tickets. Eastern Business Networking Series: The Box Hill Hawks and Leader Newspapers are proud to present a new series of Luncheons designed to provide invaluable networking for businesses both large and small. Grab your tickets for the first event to be held on Wednesday 22 June with the Hon Jeff Kennett as guest speaker. Tickets are only \$55 per person and can be purchased through the club on 9890 9442 or admin@boxhillhawks.com.au



CASEY: Keep up to date with everything that is happening at the Casey Scorpions by visiting our website. www.scorpions.com.au On Tuesday April 12th our Season Launch and Player Auction event will be held starting at 7:30 and concluding at 10:30pm. There is free entry and complimentary finger food with drinks at bar prices. Bid on a duo/team of Scorpion listed players, and each

time a Player in your duo/team is awarded best on ground in a 2011 Home and Away Match you will win a cash prize! For further details and/or bookings for any Scorpions events contact the club on 5996 1111 or email: danielle@scorpions.com.au



COBURG: The club is hosting a Trivia Night on Friday 8th April at Highgate Function Centre, 225 Grand Boulevard, Craigieburn. The event runs from 7.30pm – 11.00pm. Tickets are \$20 per person, which includes complimentary finger food. Drinks are available for purchase at regular bar prices. RSVP is essential, to book please contact Lenore Smith on 9354 8228 or email lsmith@coburgtigers.com.au. For details on all upcoming Club events, please contact the Club on 9354 8228. Coburg Season Memberships are now available for purchase through the Coburg FC Office. Please call 9354 8228 for further information.



FRANKSTON: Remember to book a table in our Bistro for our home games! At only \$25 a head for a three course luncheon it's great value. We are running a Major Raffle this year with a \$15,000 Travel Voucher as first prize. Tickets are only \$100 each. Are you a member yet? We have our Members Night each Friday with a members draw at 6.15pm. Prize

jackpots each week if not claimed! Junior Footy Clinic will be running on Wednesday 20th April – check the website for details. For any further info contact the Club on 9783 7888.



NORTH BALLARAT: The Year That Was and Season Ahead. Who would have thought? Our third successive VFL flag, our third Liston Medallist and Coach of the Year. As many at the Club have reflected, it is hard to believe! These team and individual successes underline that our Club has, over generations, put down solid foundations on which success both on and off field can be achieved. It is trite to say that success doesn't just happen. Occasionally one can get lucky, but sustained success is built upon the development and adherence to our core philosophies and values. Striving for excellence in all that we do. Importantly, we now have the opportunity to achieve history, no VFA/VFL club has won 4 successive premierships. In order to be successful we must all remind ourselves of the importance of "knowing your role, playing your role and taking responsibility for your role, to be the best of your ability". We look forward to your continued support in Season 2011!



NORTHERN BULLANTS: The Northern Bullants are proud to announce the arrival of their

new and improved website; www.northernbullants.com.au. Supporters are now able to follow the Club's week by week news & photos as well as purchase memberships & merchandise online. Additionally, the Club will be selling Merchandise at all Home Games. Items include; Polo Shirts, Playing Guernsey's, Hooded Jumpers, Caps, Beanies and Scarves. Please enquire at the Canteen. The Northern Bullants would like to take this opportunity to wish all Bullants players the best of luck for Season 2011. GO ANTS!!!



PORT MELBOURNE: Welcome to the 2011 season to all sponsors, members & supporters as we look forward to a very challenging season. With a vigorous recruiting drive we believe we have a list of players that will again provide a top four finish. PMPPA Reunion Saturday June 4, Round 10 v Werribee (TV game) @ TEAC Oval for all bookings contact Gary Brice (0407.560.855). Super Draw to be held on Sunday June 26, only 100 tickets @ \$100.00 ticket admits 3 persons, buffet lunch, beer, wine & soft drink from 11.00 am – 3.00 pm. Guest Entertainer, comedian, Brad Oakes. Outstanding Value. PMPPA Sports Night on Friday July 29 all details TBA. October 7th Presentation Night @ International Receptions tickets are limited to 150 @ \$100.00pp all inclusive. Book early by ringing the club office 9646.2094 or email pmfc@bigpond.net.au. Throughout the season we encourage everyone to buy the VFL Football Record to keep up to date with what is happening at the Borough. Visit our website for the latest information www.pmfc.com.au "Go Boroughs"



SANDRINGHAM: Sandringham Football Club welcomes all to the 2011 VFL Season. Sandringham's social club "Sandy by the Bay" is open for business, with views of the bay and city skyline it is the perfect place to hold your next function visit www.sandybythebay.com.au Next Coterie Lunch – Friday April 15, \$60 for a 3 course meal with special guest speaker to be announced past names have included Wayne Carey, Sam Newman and Kevin Sheedy – Bookings essential contact the club on 9598 8629 or sandyfc@bigpond.net.au Presidents Lunch for all home games - \$30 for a 2 course meal, bookings are essential.



WERRIBEE: The Werribee Football Club welcomes all supporters and members to the start of the 2011 VFL home and away season. What a busy off season it has been for the Tigers. At our 2010 Presentation night we farewelled Simon Atkins, a fantastic servant of our football club and in our first official function for the 2011 season we welcomed Paul Satterley the new full time senior coach. The highlights of the offseason were key signings of Leigh Harding, Travis Tuck, Matt O'Dwyer, Michael Still, Will Sullivan and Tom Allwright along with a host of Geelong Falcon and Western Jets players and former TAC Cup boys. We would also like to welcome the 2011 leadership group led proudly by our captain Dom Gleeson in his 3rd year at the helm. The

2011 season sees a number of new sponsors getting behind the Tigers including the Barro Group; Chatterbox Café; D & B Project Services; Westwood Real Estate; Oz Turf; Fifth Element; Flooring Xtra; Creative Gardens; Vic West Community Teleco; Bev Marks Furniture; Matthews Scrap Metal and Subway Werribee. Thanks for your support now and in the future. We are urging all supporters to become paid up members for 2011. With 10 home games, the most of all VFL clubs, there is incredible value in our membership packages. Go Tigers in 2011. For the latest news, photos and events log onto www.werribeefc.com.au.



WILLIAMSTOWN: Williamstown and Spotswood Football Clubs have again joined forces to run our Annual Corporate Golf Day at Koorngal Golf Club on Friday the 13th of May. Cost for the day is \$80.00 per head or \$450 to sponsor a hole which includes green fees for 4 players. Williamstown will be hosting consecutive home games in Rounds 3 and 4. Outlined below are the details of these home games and please book for our famous President Luncheons. Round 3 Sunday 17th April Vs Box Hill at Avalon Airport Oval, Werribee. Guest Speaker – Comedian Wil Anderson. Round 4 Sunday 24th April Vs Geelong at Torquay Football Club, Torquay. Guest Speaker – Barry Round. Match Day Sponsor – The Burbank Group. President Luncheon Costs \$45.00 per head - 2 Course Meal with Complimentary Beer/Wine/Soft Drink. For Bookings or Information call: Brendan Curry / Hana Stipic 9391 0309

2010 VFL statistics

2010 VFL SENIORS

Club	P	W	L	D	F	A	%	PTS
Williamstown	18	15	3	0	2174	1312	165.70	60
North Ballarat	18	15	3	0	1650	1260	130.95	60
Casey Scorpions	18	14	4	0	1619	1471	110.06	56
Port Melbourne	18	13	5	0	1946	1506	129.22	52
Box Hill Hawks	18	11	7	0	1663	1531	108.62	44
Northern Bullants	18	10	8	0	1814	1539	117.87	40
Collingwood	18	10	8	0	1672	1509	110.80	40
Bendigo Bombers	18	10	8	0	1564	1533	102.02	40
Sandringham	18	7	11	0	1366	1463	93.37	28
Gold Coast	18	5	12	1	1409	1706	82.59	22
Coburg Tigers	18	5	13	0	1502	1757	85.49	20
Geelong	18	5	13	0	1401	1743	80.38	20
Werribee Tigers	18	4	13	1	1586	1957	81.04	18
Frankston	18	1	17	0	1000	2079	48.10	4

2010 VFL RESERVES

Club	P	W	L	D	F	A	%	PTS
Williamstown	18	16	2	0	2213	1199	184.57	64
Box Hill Hawks	18	14	4	0	1952	1126	173.36	56
Werribee Tigers	18	14	4	0	2049	1393	147.09	56
Port Melbourne	18	10	8	0	1824	1680	108.57	40
Sandringham	18	9	9	0	1632	1148	142.16	36
Coburg Tigers	18	9	9	0	1525	1680	90.77	36
North Ballarat	18	8	10	0	1438	1633	88.06	32
Casey Scorpions	18	6	12	0	1602	1824	87.83	24
Northern Bullants	18	4	14	0	1397	1896	73.68	16
Frankston	18	0	18	0	807	2860	28.22	0

2011 VFL SENIOR FIELD UMPIRES

Robert Young	2	Jordan Bannister	18
Michael Curtis	3	Jarrold Waight	20
Andrew Mitchell	5	Richard Mills	21
David Harris	6	Andrew McCoy	22
Damian Anderson	8	Tristan Burgess	24
Brendan Hosking	9	Steven Trotter	25
Matthew Oakley	10	Jason Schilling	30
Matthew Brown	11	Adam Pottenger	32
Jamie Grindal	13	Gareth Verberne	34
Andrew Talbot	15	Peter Liakos	36
Shaun Gleeson	16	Daniel Craig	37
Troy McCarthy	17	Robert O'Gorman	38

Note: AFL Umpires will wear 27, 28, 31, 33, 39, 40

VFL 2010 GRAND FINAL RESULTS & AWARD WINNERS

SENIORS

Grand Final

North Ballarat 20.13 (133) def.
Northern Bullants 13.8 (86)

Norm Goss Medal

(Best player in Grand Final)
Myles Sewell, North Ballarat

Umpires

Field: Matthew Leppard, Matthew Brown,
Brett Ritchie
Boundary: Drew Kowalski, Michael Marantelli, Patrick Tongue
Goal: Courtney Lai, Anthony Kyrkou

JJ Liston Trophy

(Best and Fairest)
Steve Clifton (North Ballarat) and
Shane Valenti (Port Melbourne)

Fothergill-Round Medal

(Most promising young player)
Michael Hibberd (Frankston)

Jim 'Frosty' Miller Medal

(Leading goalkicker in the home & away season)
Matthew Little (Williamstown, 80 goals)

RESERVES

Grand Final

Box Hill Hawks 17.20 (122) def.
Williamstown 16.9 (105)

Fred Hill Memorial Medal

(Best player in Grand Final)
Andrew Renton (Box Hill Hawks)

Umpires

Field: Andrew McCoy, Daniel Craig, Jamie Grindal
Boundary: Nicholas Laurence, Stephen Gloag, Matthew Tomkins
Goal: Dean Jones, Michael Richardson

A. Todd Medal

(Best and Fairest)
Matthew Cravino (Williamstown)

VFL tipsters



Paul Amy
Leader Newspapers

Sandringham
Port Melbourne
Northern Bullants
Casey Scorpions
Williamstown
Collingwood



Ross Booth
ABC-TV

Sandringham
Box Hill Hawks
Northern Bullants
Casey Scorpions
Williamstown
Collingwood



Phil Cleary
ABC-TV

Coburg Tigers
Port Melbourne
Northern Bullants
Casey Scorpions
Williamstown
Collingwood



Brad McGrath
The Weekly

Sandringham
Port Melbourne
Northern Bullants
Casey Scorpions
Williamstown
Collingwood



Brent Diamond
The Age

Sandringham
Box Hill Hawks
Northern Bullants
Casey Scorpions
Werribee Tigers
Collingwood



Adrian Dunn
Herald Sun

Sandringham
Port Melbourne
Northern Bullants
Casey Scorpions
Williamstown
Collingwood



John Hook
*Football Operations
Manager AFL Victoria*

Sandringham
Box Hill Hawks
Bendigo Bombers
Geelong
Williamstown
Collingwood



The Gospel

Sandringham
Port Melbourne
Northern Bullants
Casey Scorpions
Williamstown
Collingwood



Paul Hooper
3WBC

Coburg Tigers
Box Hill Hawks
Northern Bullants
Casey Scorpions
Williamstown
Collingwood



Sam Landsberger
Leader

Coburg Tigers
Port Melbourne
Northern Bullants
Casey Scorpions
Williamstown
Collingwood



Nigel Carmody
VFL Radio

Sandringham
Box Hill Hawks
Northern Bullants
Casey Scorpions
Williamstown
Collingwood



**Peter Jackson
Menswear**
Sponsor

Sandringham
Port Melbourne
Bendigo Bombers
Casey Scorpions
Williamstown
Collingwood

media coverage

Round 1, 2nd - 3rd April:

Saturday, 2nd April

3WBC: Box Hill Hawks vs. Port Melbourne from 1pm

ABC TV: Sandringham vs. Coburg Tigers from 1pm

Sunday, 3rd April

VFL Radio: Frankston vs. Collingwood from 1:30pm





VFL seniors season 2011 fixture

ROUND 1

Saturday 2nd April
Sandringham vs. Coburg Tigers *Trevor Barker Beach Oval 1:10 PM*
Box Hill Hawks vs. Port Melbourne *Box Hill City Oval 2:00 PM*
Northern Bullants vs. Bendigo Bombers *Visy Park 2:00 PM*
Casey Scorpions vs. Geelong *Casey Fields 7:00 PM*
Werribee Tigers vs. Williamstown *Avalon Airport Oval 7:00 PM*
Sunday 3rd April
Frankston vs. Collingwood *Frankston Oval 2:00 PM*
BYE - North Ballarat

ROUND 2

Saturday 9th April
North Ballarat vs. Bendigo Bombers *Eureka Stadium 1:10 PM*
Northern Bullants vs. Collingwood *Visy Park 2:00 PM*
Port Melbourne vs. Casey Scorpions *TEAC Oval 2:00 PM*
Sunday 10th April
Geelong vs. Werribee Tigers* *Skilled Stadium 10:40 AM*
Frankston vs. Sandringham *Frankston Oval 2:00 PM*
BYE - Box Hill Hawks, Coburg Tigers, Williamstown

ROUND 3

Saturday 16th April
Collingwood vs. Werribee Tigers *Victoria Park 1:10 PM*
North Ballarat vs. Casey Scorpions *Eureka Stadium 2:00 PM*
Sunday 17th April
Williamstown vs. Box Hill Hawks *Avalon Airport Oval 2:00 PM*
Bendigo Bombers vs. Frankston *Windy Hill 2:00 PM*
Coburg Tigers vs. Northern Bullants *Mantello Holden Oval 2:00 PM*
Sandringham vs. Port Melbourne *Trevor Barker Beach Oval 2:00 PM*
BYE - Geelong

ROUND 4

Saturday 23rd April
Northern Bullants vs. Port Melbourne *Preston City Oval 1:10 PM*
Bendigo Bombers vs. Collingwood *Windy Hill 2:00 PM*
Werribee Tigers vs. North Ballarat *Avalon Airport Oval 7:00 PM*
Sunday 24th April
Box Hill Hawks vs. Coburg Tigers *Box Hill City Oval 2:00 PM*
Williamstown vs. Geelong *Torquay Football Ground 2:00 PM*
BYE - Casey Scorpions, Frankston, Sandringham

ROUND 5

Saturday 30th April
Casey Scorpions vs. Frankston *Casey Fields 1:10 PM*
Collingwood vs. North Ballarat *Victoria Park 2:00 PM*
Sunday 1st May
Coburg Tigers vs. Williamstown *Mantello Holden Oval 1:00 PM*
Werribee Tigers vs. Box Hill Hawks *Avalon Airport Oval 2:00 PM*
Sandringham vs. Geelong *Trevor Barker Beach Oval 2:00 PM*
BYE - Bendigo Bombers, Northern Bullants, Port Melbourne

ROUND 6

Saturday 7th May
Geelong vs. North Ballarat* *Skilled Stadium 10:40 AM*
Williamstown vs. Sandringham *Avalon Airport Oval 1:10 PM*
Port Melbourne vs. Frankston *TEAC Oval 2:00 PM*
Bendigo Bombers vs. Werribee Tigers *Windy Hill 2:00 PM*
Sunday 8th May
Northern Bullants vs. Casey Scorpions *Preston City Oval 2:00 PM*
BYE - Box Hill Hawks, Coburg Tigers, Collingwood

ROUND 7

Saturday 14th May
Collingwood vs. Geelong *Victoria Park 1:00 PM*
Frankston vs. Northern Bullants *Frankston Oval 1:10 PM*
Box Hill Hawks vs. Sandringham *Box Hill City Oval 2:00 PM*
Port Melbourne vs. Williamstown *TEAC Oval 2:00 PM*
Sunday 15th May
North Ballarat vs. Coburg Tigers *Eureka Stadium 2:00 PM*
Casey Scorpions vs. Bendigo Bombers *Casey Fields 2:00 PM*
BYE - Werribee Tigers

ROUND 8

Saturday 21st May
Werribee Tigers vs. Northern Bullants *Avalon Airport Oval 1:10 PM*
Collingwood vs. Williamstown *Victoria Park 2:00 PM*
North Ballarat vs. Box Hill Hawks *Eureka Stadium 2:00 PM*
Sunday 22nd May
Bendigo Bombers vs. Port Melbourne *Windy Hill 2:00 PM*
Coburg Tigers vs. Frankston *Higgate Recreation Res 2:00 PM*
BYE - Casey Scorpions, Geelong, Sandringham

ROUND 9

Saturday 28th May
Geelong vs. Bendigo Bombers *Skilled Stadium 11:15 AM*
Coburg Tigers vs. Collingwood *Mantello Holden Oval 1:10 PM*
Williamstown vws. Casey Scorpions *Avalon Airport Oval 2:00 PM*
Sunday 29th May
Northern Bullants vs. Box Hill Hawks *Visy Park 2:00 PM*
Werribee Tigers vs. Sandringham *Avalon Airport Oval 2:00 PM*
BYE - Frankston, North Ballarat, Port Melbourne

ROUND 10

Saturday 4th June
Port Melbourne vs. Werribee Tigers *TEAC Oval 1:10 PM*
Collingwood vs. Northern Bullants *Victoria Park 2:00 PM*
Box Hill Hawks vs. Geelong *Box Hill City Oval 2:00 PM*
Bendigo Bombers vs. Coburg Tigers *Queen Elizabeth Oval 2:00 PM*
Sunday 5th June
Frankston vs. North Ballarat *Frankston Oval 2:00 PM*
Sandringham vs. Casey Scorpions *Trevor Barker Beach Oval 2:00 PM*
BYE - Williamstown

ROUND 11

Saturday 11th June
Casey Scorpions vs. Collingwood *Casey Fields 1:10 PM*
Coburg Tigers vs. Port Melbourne *Mantello Holden Oval 2:00 PM*
Williamstown vs. North Ballarat *Kellor Football Ground 2:00 PM*
Sunday 12th June
Box Hill Hawks vs. Frankston *Box Hill City Oval 2:00 PM*
Werribee Tigers vs. Geelong *Avalon Airport Oval 2:00 PM*
Sandringham vs. Bendigo Bombers *Trevor Barker Beach Oval 2:00 PM*
BYE - Northern Bullants

ROUND 12

Saturday 18th June
Geelong vs. Northern Bullants *Skilled Stadium 1:10 PM*
North Ballarat vs. Port Melbourne *Eureka Stadium 2:00 PM*
Werribee Tigers vs. Frankston *Avalon Airport Oval 2:00 PM*
Sunday 19th June
Casey Scorpions vs. Coburg Tigers *Casey Fields 2:00 PM*
Bendigo Bombers vs. Box Hill Hawks *Queen Elizabeth Oval 2:00 PM*
BYE - Collingwood, Sandringham, Werribee Tigers

ROUND 13

Saturday 25th June
Port Melbourne vs. Geelong *TEAC Oval 1:10 PM*
Bendigo Bombers vs. Williamstown *Queen Elizabeth Oval 2:00 PM*
Northern Bullants vs. North Ballarat *Visy Park 2:00 PM*
Sunday 26th June
Werribee Tigers vs. Coburg Tigers *Avalon Airport Oval 2:00 PM*
Sandringham vs. Collingwood *Trevor Barker Beach Oval 2:00 PM*
BYE - Box Hill Hawks, Casey Scorpions, Frankston

ROUND 14

Saturday 2nd July
Geelong vs. Frankston *Skilled Stadium 1:00 PM*
Box Hill Hawks vs. Collingwood *Box Hill City Oval 1:10 PM*
North Ballarat vs. Sandringham *Eureka Stadium 2:00 PM*
Werribee Tigers vs. Casey Scorpions *Avalon Airport Oval 2:00 PM*
Sunday 3rd July
Northern Bullants vs. Williamstown *Preston City Oval 2:00 PM*
BYE - Bendigo Bombers, Coburg Tigers, Port Melbourne

ROUND 15

Saturday 9th July
Sandringham vs. Northern Bullants *Trevor Barker Beach Oval 1:10 PM*
Collingwood vs. Port Melbourne *Victoria Park 2:00 PM*
Sunday 10th July
Frankston vs. Werribee Tigers *Frankston Oval 2:00 PM*
Casey Scorpions vs. Box Hill Hawks *Casey Fields 2:00 PM*
Coburg Tigers vs. Bendigo Bombers *Higgate Rec Reserve 2:00 PM*
BYE - Geelong, North Ballarat, Williamstown

ROUND 16

Saturday 16th July
Geelong vs. Coburg Tigers *Skilled Stadium 1:10 PM*
Port Melbourne vs. Bendigo Bombers *TEAC Oval 2:00 PM*
Sunday 17th July
Williamstown vs. Collingwood *Norm Minns Oval 1:30 PM*
Frankston vs. Casey Scorpions *Frankston Oval 2:00 PM*
Box Hill Hawks vs. North Ballarat *Box Hill City Oval 2:00 PM*
BYE - Northern Bullants, Sandringham, Werribee Tigers

ROUND 17

Saturday 23rd July
Port Melbourne vs. Sandringham *TEAC Oval 1:10 PM*
Box Hill Hawks vs. Northern Bullants *Box Hill City Oval 2:00 PM*
Coburg Tigers vs. North Ballarat *Higgate Rec Reserve 2:00 PM*
Sunday 24th July
Williamstown vs. Werribee Tigers *Avalon Airport Oval 2:00 PM*
Bendigo Bombers vs. Geelong *Queen Elizabeth Oval 2:00 PM*
BYE - Casey Scorpions, Collingwood, Frankston

ROUND 18

Saturday 30th July
Geelong vs. Casey Scorpions* *Skilled Stadium 10:40 AM*
Northern Bullants vs. Coburg Tigers *Preston City Oval 1:10 PM*
Collingwood vs. Frankston *Victoria Park 2:00 PM*
North Ballarat vs. Williamstown *Eureka Stadium 2:00 PM*
Sunday 31st July
Sandringham vs. Werribee Tigers *Trevor Barker Beach Oval 2:00 PM*
BYE - Bendigo Bombers, Box Hill Hawks, Port Melbourne

ROUND 19

Saturday 6th August
Geelong vs. Collingwood* *Skilled Stadium 10:40 AM*
Werribee Tigers vs. Bendigo Bombers *Avalon Airport Oval 1:10 PM*
Coburg Tigers vs. Box Hill Hawks *Mantello Holden Oval 2:00 PM*
Sunday 7th August
Frankston vs. Port Melbourne *Frankston Oval 2:00 PM*
Casey Scorpions vs. Sandringham *Casey Fields 2:00 PM*
BYE - North Ballarat, Northern Bullants, Williamstown

ROUND 20

Saturday 13th August
Collingwood vs. Bendigo Bombers *Victoria Park 1:00 PM*
Williamstown vs. Port Melbourne *Avalon Airport Oval 1:10 PM*
North Ballarat vs. Frankston *Eureka Stadium 2:00 PM*
Northern Bullants vs. Geelong *Visy Park 2:00 PM*
Coburg Tigers vs. Casey Scorpions *Higgate Rec Reserve 7:00 PM*
Sunday 14th August
Sandringham vs. Box Hill Hawks *Trevor Barker Beach Oval 2:00 PM*
BYE - Werribee Tigers

ROUND 21

Saturday 20th August
Collingwood vs. Sandringham *Victoria Park 1:00 PM*
Box Hill Hawks vs. Williamstown *Box Hill City Oval 1:10 PM*
Bendigo Bombers vs. North Ballarat *Queen Elizabeth Oval 2:00 PM*
Casey Scorpions vs. Werribee Tigers *Casey Fields 2:00 PM*
Port Melbourne vs. Northern Bullants *TEAC Oval 2:00 PM*
Sunday 21st August
Frankston vs. Coburg Tigers *Frankston Oval 2:00 PM*
BYE - Geelong

ROUND 22

Saturday 27th August
Geelong vs. Sandringham* *Skilled Stadium 10:40 AM*
Port Melbourne vs. Box Hill Hawks *TEAC Oval 1:10 PM*
Bendigo Bombers vs. Coburg Tigers *Queen Elizabeth Oval 2:00 PM*
Casey Scorpions vs. Northern Bullants *Casey Fields 2:00 PM*
Sunday 28th August
Frankston vs. Williamstown *Frankston Oval 2:00 PM*
North Ballarat vs. Werribee Tigers *Eureka Stadium 2:00 PM*
BYE - Collingwood, Bendigo Bombers, Coburg Tigers

2011 VFL Finals Series

Qualifying and Elimination Finals
Saturday 3rd September / Sunday 4th September

Semi Finals
Saturday 10th September / Sunday 11th September
Preliminary Finals Venue Time
Saturday 17th September / Sunday 18th September

Grand Final Venue Time
Sunday 25th September Ethiad Stadium

TAC Cup **season 2011 preview**

2011 is building as a big year for all participants in the TAC Cup competition. We take a brief look at each of the competing clubs chances of success in 2011.

SEASONS perennially dawn with fresh hopes, dreams and aspirations. It's a time bursting with excitement, enthusiasm and energy. Certainly, it's no different as the TAC Cup enters season 2011, which marks the 20th anniversary of the competition.

It's a competition that began with humble origins – six clubs, basic facilities, but with a vision to create a competition of excellence.

As the competition has evolved, so, too, the facilities, infrastructure, support network and the personnel that has seen it become the nursery of the AFL.

Players in their hundreds all across the State, and some even spilling over Victoria's borders, have spent countless hours preparing for the season. Finally, the wait is over and the class of 2011 can showcase their talent.

Here is a look at each TAC Cup club, the thoughts and views of the coaches and in some cases the Regional Managers of season 2011

BENDIGO PIONEERS

Last Season: 1-15

Finish: 12th

Coach: Mark Ellis (7th season)

Drafted Players: Ariel Steinberg (Essendon)

What is going to characterise Bendigo Pioneers this season?

"We have a deeper list this season and we have some taller boys who will hopefully assist throughout the season." Mark Ellis

What do you hope to achieve in season 2011?

"We want to win some more games, but the basis of the competition is to develop the players and help them to play to their full potential." ME
What's the most important aspect

for players to take on board?

"Their ability to understand instruction and also the ability to understand that work rate is a two way street. We want to put in as much time as possible with these boys, but at the same time they have to prepare well so they can have that opportunity to improve."

ME

What is the one thing that's non negotiable?

"Work rate and effort on and off the ground. Strive to be the best they can be." ME

Players to watch: Sam Kerridge, Oliver Wines, Zac May, Jake Stringer

CALDER CANNONS

Last Season: 9-7

Finish: Premiers

Coach: Martin Allison (3rd season)

Drafted Players: Dion Prestia (Gold Coast), Matthew Watson (Carlton), Mitch Wallis (Western Bulldogs), Cameron Guthrie (Geelong), Tom Liberatore (Western Bulldogs), Luke Mitchell (Carlton), Jordan Schroder (Geelong),

What is going to characterise

Calder Cannons this season?

"We don't have the top end talent of last year, but we are a lot more even across the playing group.

In cricket parlance we bat a little deeper." Martin Allison

What do you hope to achieve in season 2011?

"I want to get as many games as possible into our bottom age players; get all the players to improve as individuals and from that improvement as individuals work together in a team context." MA

What's the most important aspect for players to take on board?

"All players to work towards continual improvement over the season, starting with their training sessions. Players must want to improve and that attitude starts out at training. Identify the areas they need to improve and work with their coaches in improving them. If they do that then there is the opportunity of them to become noticed by the recruiters." MA

What is the one thing that's non negotiable?

"Mediocrity and that extends to on and off field. TAC Cup clubs are Centres of Excellence and players who don't come to training with an attitude of wanting to improve won't be tolerated." MA

Players to watch: Michael Talia, Brandon Ellis, Jason Williams, Tom Sheridan

DANDENONG STINGRAYS

Last Season: 13-3

Finish: Third

Coach: Graeme Yeats (8th season)

Drafted Players: Tom Lynch (Gold Coast), Jake Batchelor (Richmond), Mitch Hallahan (Hawthorn), Luke Parker (Sydney), Andrew McInnes (Carlton), Arryn Siposs (St Kilda)

What is going to characterise

Dandenong Stingrays this season?

"We are definitely a very hard working, even team with a very potent midfield and definitely have numerous options going forward. We're not going to rely on one or two key position players, we can roll out different players in a few different positions. We will make sure we can attack from the back and move forward in half a dozen different ways." Regional Manager Mark Wheeler

What do you hope to achieve in season 2011?



"Continue on our pathway from the past couple of seasons and play Preliminary Finals. Our aim is to get into the Preliminary Final and to continue to develop the players, continue on our journey and get as many players drafted as possible." MW

What's the most important aspect for players to take on board?

"Balance would be one and knowing the roles they'll be asked to play. Develop as a team instead of as an individual." MW

What is the one thing that's non negotiable?

"Commitment to our values and culture."

Players to watch: Matt Buntine, Alex Benbow, Todd Elton, Piva Wright

EASTERN RANGES

Last Season: 5-11

Finish: 10th

Coach: Darren Bewick (2nd season with Ranges, 4th TAC)

Drafted Players: Kieran Harper (North Melbourne), Aaron Young (Port Adelaide), Cameron O'Shea (Port Adelaide), Paul Seedsman (Collingwood)

What is going to characterise Eastern Ranges this season?

"We're hoping to be competitive and we want to achieve 100 percent effort in everything we do and that starts with preparation,

training and goes through to recovery. If we get that then it will flow to our performance." Darren Bewick

What do you hope to achieve in season 2011?

"We want to see the continual development in the boys who have been in the system for a couple of years. We also want to get some boys into the forefront of AFL recruiter's minds. Look, we know it's a development competition, but we want to make it enjoyable for the players and win as many games as we can. We want the boys to leave the program and perform as well as they can at whatever level is applicable to them." DB

What's the most important aspect for players to take on board?

"We're big on the fact that the players are representing themselves all the time and that's whether they are winning by 10 goals or losing by 10 goals. They are always being watched so their effort throughout the whole of the week and the whole of the match is really important. People are always taking notice on how they react under different situations. The bottom line is represent yourself well in everything you do." DB

What is the one thing that's non negotiable?

"Compete. No compromise, no

doubts just compete in everything you do. If you don't you are selling yourself short and all the other players on the team." DB

Players to watch: Jonathon Patton, Hayden Crozier, Alex Greenwood, Michael Bussey

GEELONG FALCONS

Last Season: 13-3

Finish: 6th

Coach: Aaron Greaves (1st season)

Drafted Players: Billie Smedts (Geelong), Jayden Pitt (Fremantle), Jeremy Taylor (Gold Coast), Troy Davis (Melbourne), Cameron Delaney (North Melbourne)

What is going to characterise Geelong Flacons this season?

"We really want to be seen as a professional club, a club that is really united and in regard to our style we want to be a physical, hard working and well structured team."

Aaron Greaves

What do you hope to achieve in season 2011?

"We want to develop each and every one of our players. We have a focus on our top aged players and players who are eligible to be drafted. We want to get players drafted. We feel the more games we win and the deeper we go into the finals the more players are going to get exposed and have that opportunity. We're looking also at



developing our bottom age players for next year." AG

What's the most important aspect for players to take on board?

"Getting the balance right. We're working hard on educating them across all areas of their football. We have employed a high performance manager to assist with the education, hydration, nutrition and game preparation. And, we also want them to have balance so they are still committing strongly to their VCE, to their apprenticeship, to their feeder club." AG

What is the one thing that's non negotiable?

"Respect. We have really worked hard over the pre-season to get a unified group and we want the players to be respectful of each other and appreciate that we have 50 individual personalities within the group, all from different backgrounds. If they respect each other and the coaching group then we will have a successful year." AG

Players to watch: Taylor Adam, Meyrick Buchanan, Matthew Higgins, Jay Lever

GIPPSLAND POWER

Last Season: 9-7

Finish: 2nd

Coach: Adam Dowie (1st season)

Drafted Players: Dyson Heppell (Essendon), Jed Lamb (Sydney), Dean McDonald (Richmond), Michael Ross (Essendon)

What is going to characterise Gippsland Power this season?

"A team that is going to be pretty hard to play against, a value for money side. The boys love the contested football, a team that is going to make it tough for the opposition to get the ball off them, hard to break them and a team that will give a really good contest."

Adam Dowie

What do you hope to achieve in season 2011?

"For our squad of 45 to get the absolute best out of them

physically, develop their game, open their eyes as well as developing them as people. If we can develop them as a person then hopefully that will maximise their development and that will be reflected in the way they play and come together as a team." AD

What's the most important aspect for players to take on board?

"If we are really good as a team then people will take notice of individuals in the team. Obviously, all the boys have hopes and dreams, but they have make sure to place the team first and themselves second."

What is the one thing that's non negotiable?

"Contested football. When it's your turn to go hard at the football, you make sure you go hard."

Players to watch: Anthony Tipungwuti, Clay Smith, Shaun Wyatt, Tom Muir

MURRAY BUSHRANGERS**Last Season:** 8-8**Finish:** 9th**Coach:** Darren Ogier (2nd season)**Drafted Players:** Shaun Atley (North Melbourne), Josh Mellington (Fremantle), Jonathon Ceglar (Collingwood)**What is going to characterise Murray Bushrangers this season?**

"Competitiveness. It's as simple as that." Darren Ogier

What do you hope to achieve in season 2011?

"Continual improvement of our list over the course of the season."

What's the most important aspect for players to take on board?

"Getting the processes right. If you get the process right then the outcomes will take care of themselves. It covers everything – training, diet, skill execution. Play whatever role you are given."

What is the one thing that's non negotiable?

"Work ethic, discipline, commitment."

Players to watch: Sean Johns, Jamie Elliott, Luke Visser, Sam Milne**NORTH BALLARAT REBELS****Last Season:** 6-10**Finish:** 8th**Coach:** David Loader (1st season)**Drafted Players:** Lucas Cook (Melbourne), Troy McDonald (Melbourne), Ben Mabon (North Melbourne)**What is going to characterise North Ballarat Rebels this season?**

"Just a typical team unit, I'm very big on character, so, hopefully, good strong characters that can play football. We have a very holistic program so school and family is very important. We rate them even above football. If they can't get those things right then they are going to struggle anyway with their football. We are big on boys character and we want to get the best out of the boys on all fields and their football usually follows on from that." David Loader

What do you hope to achieve in season 2011?

"I hope every boy on our list will be better players at the end of the season and to develop our coaching panel as well." DL

What's the most important aspect for players to take on board?"For me it's about balance in life. I see kids who put too much time into football and everything else struggles and then it ends up with everything catching up with them. Balance is crucially important so they have a good balance between time with family and either their school or work commitment and their football commitment." DL
What is the one thing that's non negotiable?

"To adhere to the laws set down by the TAC Cup. If you can't follow those laws you should not be in the program. You can't get in a car and drive"

Players to watch: Nick O'Brien, Darcy Watchorn, Coleman Scache, Seb Ross**NORTHERN KNIGHTS****Last Season:** 13-3**Finish:** 5th**Coach:** Anthony Allen (2nd season)**Drafted Players:** Josh Caddy (Gold Coast)**What is going to characterise****Northern Knights this season?**

"We'll try to play quick, direct, attacking football." Anthony Allen

What do you hope to achieve in season 2011?

"We would like to get a few more players drafted than last year." AA

What's the most important aspect for players to take on board?

"Following on from the AFL feedback there is a real emphasis on pressure, the tackling in the forward 50 and applying pressure all over the ground. We have been throwing the Collingwood statistic at the boys of having an average 15 tackles in their forward 50, which was up from 10 the previous season. The other thing is given there is less time and space is ensuring that the players skills are right up there."

What is the one thing that's non negotiable?

"Intensity level. We're getting feedback on two things – managing the players effectively with all their commitments and the other is the AFL clubs have an expectation that the players come better prepared to AFL football and a lot of that is around their professionalism and intensity in the way they approach training and games."

Players to watch: Billy Longer, Jack Newnes, Matthew Haynes, Nick Vlastuin**OAKLEIGH CHARGERS****Last Season:** 12-4**Finish:** 4th**Coach:** Greg Doyle (1st season)**Drafted Players:** Andrew Gaff (West Coast), Patrick Karnezic (Brisbane), Ryan Lester (Brisbane), Sam Crocker (St Kilda), Viv Michie (Fremantle), Alex Browne (Essendon), Alex Johnson (Sydney)**What is going to characterise****Oakleigh Chargers this season?**

"We have an even group of players who will be very team orientated driven." Regional Manager Mark Smart

What do you hope to achieve in season 2011?

"It's just about creating an environment where kids get to test themselves out against other talented kids. We want to create an environment where they can develop to the best of their ability." MS

What's the most important aspect for players to take on board?

"They just need to be honest with themselves and listen to the coaches and approach the coaches about what they need to improve upon and be diligent in working on those things."

What is the one thing that's non negotiable?

"For the players to pay their role and be a team orientated player and work within the team environment."

Players to watch: Dom Tyson, Adam Tomlinson, Tom Curran, Jake Hammond

SANDRINGHAM DRAGONS

Last Season: 11-5

Finish: 7th

Coach: Dale Tapping (3rd season)

Drafted Players: Ben Jacobs (Port Adelaide), Daniel Farmer (Collingwood), Jarryd Lyons (Adelaide),

What is going to characterise Sandringham Dragons this season?

"Across our list we have good coverage with a lot of depth. There's also versatility in the list and therefore our effort will be consistently strong, week in, week out regardless of who we play. It's something we have spoken about and worked on." DT

What do you hope to achieve in season 2011?

"Last year's squad certainly earned a deal of respect and there's a number of boys coming back from last season and they will be keen for that respect to continue. We want to be difficult to play against. While we are going to have a floating list, regardless of who is playing the expectation is that we're going to be difficult to play against every week." DT

What's the most important aspect for players to take on board?

"To listen, to be honest and open to different ideas and thoughts.

Obviously, all the boys who come into the program are reasonably talented, but they must understand they have a lot of development ahead of them. They have to embrace new challenges – the position they play, the opposition – because that's only going to help with their development." DT

What is the one thing that's non negotiable?

"Effort. You can't coach effort. If we attempt to do that from a coaching staff then we are losing development time. Part of development is understanding team responsibility. Players have to learn how to be selfless." DT

Players to watch: Sam Frost, Alex Woodward, James Stewart, Liam Sumner

WESTERN JETS

Last Season: 3-13

Finish: 11th

Coach: Steve Kretiuk (4th season)

Drafted Players: Nil

What is going to characterise Western Jets this season?

"Our leg speed and ability to get over the ground. We're not going to have a tall team, but we have a team that's going to get over the ground as good as any." Steve Kretiuk

What do you hope to achieve in season 2011?

"Hopefully, our ability will draw recruiters to look at our players and have them drafted or rookie listed. We have identified our game plan and structure that is going to hopefully highlight what these guys can do. Unfortunately, we had no one picked up last year, but this year we're looking to have a couple of players drafted." SK

What's the most important aspect for players to take on board?

"We want the players to play with a sense of freedom, not to hold back in the way we want to play our brand of football. When things are going our way I think we will be quite competitive, but when opposition do kick a couple of goals we want the players to maintain their focus on what we are about so we can get the game swinging back our way." SK

What is the one thing that's non negotiable?

"Two things that have always been non negotiable with me – competitiveness and intensity. They are two things that you don't require ability to do: how hard you go in a game of football and how hard you try doesn't correlate into how good a footballer you are." SK

Players to watch:

Will Hoskin-Elliott, Lachlan Hunter, Jaxon Cooke, Adam Kennedy



2011 TAC Cup statistics

2011 TAC CUP - METRO ROUND

Club	P	W	L	D	F	A	%	PTS
Oakleigh Chargers	1	1	0	0	157	54	290.74	4
Sandringham Dragons	1	1	0	0	103	63	163.49	4
Calder Cannons	1	1	0	0	150	92	163.04	4
Northern Knights	1	0	1	0	92	150	61.33	0
Western Jets	1	0	1	0	63	103	61.17	0
Eastern Ranges	1	0	1	0	54	157	34.39	0
Gippsland Power	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
Murray Bushrangers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
Queensland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
Bendigo Pioneers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
Tasmania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
Dandenong Stingrays	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
Geelong Falcons	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
North Ballarat Rebels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0

METRO ROUND (9)

NORTHERN KNIGHTS CALDER CANNONS

14.8-92
23.12-150

Northern Knights

Goal Kickers: N. Hrovat 3, N. Maric 2, D. Buckley 2, W. Gleeson, S. Bolger, A. Bonaddio, J. Newnes, R. Mullins, J. Kroussoratis, D. Morris
Best Players: N. Hrovat, D. Morris, T. Totevski, W. Gleeson, D. Buckley, J. Kroussoratis

Calder Cannons

Goal Kickers: J. Burgess 5, A. Gallucci 4, D. Markworth 3, O. Uysal 3, B. Ellis 2, L. Plowman, D. Bugeja, T. Sheridan, P. Sahlborg, O. Allouch, F. Dale
Best Players: T. Sheridan, B. Ellis, D. Markworth, O. Uysal, A. Gallucci, J. Burgess

EASTERN RANGES OAKLEIGH CHARGERS

8.6-54
24.13-157

Eastern Ranges

Goal Kickers: J. Patton 5, J. Williams, A. Greenwood, N. Sargent
Best Players: J. Patton, B. Slattery, P. Lawlor, A. Greenwood, L. Cope, L. Palmer

Oakleigh Chargers

Goal Kickers: S. Gotch 4, J. Hammond 3, S. Hudson 3, N. Murphy 2, D. Siakoulis 2, M. Wooffindin 2, T. Curran 2, T. Greene, D. Tyson, S. Harris, M. Arnot, A. Tomlinson, C. Prowse
Best Players: S. Gotch, C. Prowse, A. Tomlinson, D. Siakoulis, M. Arnot, D. Tyson

WESTERN JETS SANDRINGHAM DRAGONS

10.3-63
15.13-103

Western Jets

Goal Kickers: D. Castellano 5, L. Hunter 2, A. Brown, A. Elkasovic, A. Jawad
Best Players: L. Fairley, D. Castellano, W. Hoskin-Elliott, C. Nastasi, J. Charleston, M. Turnbull

Sandringham Dragons

Goal Kickers: M. Howes 2, F. Roberts 2, C. Mangoni 2, L. Boyd, K. Ong, A. Woodward, L. Sumner, N. Fallon, J. Paine, J. Williams, J. Beech, S. Glennen
Best Players: S. Frost, T. La Rocca, J. Beech, L. Sumner, C. Mangoni, C. Banfield

TAC CUP

METRO ROUND (9)

GOAL KICKERS

Josh Burgess	Calder Cannons	5
Jonathon Patton	Eastern Ranges	5
Daniel Castellano	Western Jets	5
Andrew Galucci	Calder Cannons	4
Sebastian Gotch	Oakleigh Chargers	4
Daniel Markworth	Calder Cannons	3
Ozgur Uysal	Calder Cannons	3
Nathan Hrovat	Northern Knights	3
Jake Hammond	Oakleigh Chargers	3
Sam Hudson	Oakleigh Chargers	3

KICKS

Douglas Morris	Northern Knights	20
Sebastian Gotch	Oakleigh Chargers	19
Ozgur Uysal	Calder Cannons	18
Liam Sumner	Sandringham Dragons	17
Brede Seccull	Sandringham Dragons	15
Hayden Crozier	Eastern Ranges	14
Max Warren	Eastern Ranges	14
Damian Mascitti	Oakleigh Chargers	14
Dom Tyson	Oakleigh Chargers	14
Ned Fallon	Sandringham Dragons	14
Alex Woodward	Sandringham Dragons	14
Adam Kennedy	Western Jets	14
Brandon Ellis	Calder Cannons	13
Nathan Hrovat	Northern Knights	13
Nick Maric	Northern Knights	13

MARKS

Douglas Morris	Northern Knights	12
Liam Sumner	Sandringham Dragons	11
Lachlan Fairley	Western Jets	9
Josh Burgess	Calder Cannons	7
Brandyn Grenfell	Calder Cannons	7
Daniel Markworth	Calder Cannons	7
Hayden Crozier	Eastern Ranges	7
Jonathon Patton	Eastern Ranges	7
Tom Curran	Oakleigh Chargers	7
Ned Fallon	Sandringham Dragons	7
Mitchell Howes	Sandringham Dragons	7
Christopher Mangoni	Sandringham Dragons	7
Jackson Paine	Sandringham Dragons	7
Fletcher Roberts	Sandringham Dragons	7
Ozgur Uysal	Calder Cannons	6

HANDBALLS

Toby Greene	Oakleigh Chargers	16
Alex Greenwood	Eastern Ranges	15
Brandon Ellis	Calder Cannons	12
Osman Allouch	Calder Cannons	11
Nathan Hrovat	Northern Knights	11
Douglas Morris	Northern Knights	11
Dom Tyson	Oakleigh Chargers	11
Ned Fallon	Sandringham	11
Alex Woodward	Sandringham	11
Courtney Hylton	Western Jets	11
Todd Coran	Calder Cannons	10
Daniel Markworth	Calder Cannons	10
Jonathon O'Rourke	Calder Cannons	10
Paul Sahlborg	Calder Cannons	10
Tom Sheridan	Calder Cannons	10

COACHES VOTES

T. Sheridan (Calder Cannons)

S. Gotch (Oakleigh Chargers)

S. Frost (Sandringham Dragons)

TAC Cup club notes

All the latest news, events and match information from inside each TAC Cup club.



BENDIGO: The Pioneers would like to congratulate the under 15, 16 and 18's players who have made their respective lists for 2011. Also a big thank you to all parents players and staff who attended last week's jumper presentation evening, we had 170+ people for the dinner and presentation, which gave all families a chance to meet and greet. This week we also have our TAC Learner Driver Program with all boys driving to the game at Ballarat. This shows that our players are committed to the L120 program which the TAC uses to explain the importance of young people receiving, and parents providing, a minimum of 120 hours driving experience in a range of conditions while learning.



CALDER: The Calder Cannons FC would like to welcome back and thank for their long time support of the club LiqueX Logistics, Hydralyte, Blue Gum Clothing, Airport Toyota, Embroidery World, Subway – Moonee Ponds, Windy Hill Fitness Centre, Essendon Keilor College and Universal Finance, as well as the TAC for their continued support of the competition. In season 2011 we welcome on board new sponsors Bendigo Bank and Bunnings Broadmeadows and look forward to building strong partnerships with them. Congratulations to those players who were successful in making it into our final 2011 TAC Cup squad, and good luck to all players and families for the year ahead!



DANDENONG: The Stingrays are indebted to all our long term major Sponsors. We would personally like to thank Brett Kellerman from Blue Gum for his company's generous and continued support. The long term relationship the Stingrays have had with Blue Gum has made a substantial difference to the club. The Stingrays would also like to thank Scott Slater from UD Trucks and Anthony Russell from CMV Truck and Bus for once again sponsoring our Under 16 program for the year. And, finally Denis Smith and Tony Barcellona from Coffey Ford for their unremitting sponsorship of the Under 18 program. In closing the Stingrays would also like to acknowledge and thank the Stingrays parents who have been fantastic in their support of their sons this pre-season. Good luck to all the TAC Cup regions for season 2011.



EASTERN: Congratulations to all TAC Cup players for making the list for 2011. Congratulations to former players Cameron O'Shea and Lukas Markovic who made their AFL debuts in Round 1. Parents dinner to be held on Friday 8th April. The clubs Major Partner for 2011 is once again Bayswater Jayco into its 10th year as a Major Partner. If you or someone you know is looking to buy a caravan visit the friendly people at Bayswater Jayco, 140 Canterbury Rd, Bayswater. The club welcome new partners in 2011, Musashi and

Subway. We thank the continued support of Bendigo Community Banks, Phil Munday's Panel Works, Lilydale International and Bounce Health. The club continues to encourage players to reach 120 hours of learner driving.



GEELONG: Geelong Falcons would like to congratulate the 49 players who have made our list in 2011. After an extensive preseason the staff, players, parents and coaches need to be congratulated on their dedicated work to finalize our 2011 list. We would also like to welcome our new coach Aaron Greaves to the club and wish him all the best in his TAC Cup coaching career. We also wish 2010 coach Paul Hood all the best in his new role as Academy coach at Geelong Football Club.



GIPPSLAND: Gippsland Power would like to congratulate the players selected in its 2011 squad, and welcomes new and returning parents. Thanks to the Mums and Dads who transported the boys to training venues and practice matches throughout the pre-season. We also welcome new staff members Adam Dowie (Head Coach) and Rishi Gupta (Physio). We would like to acknowledge the continued support of our existing sponsors and welcome our new sponsors to Gippsland Power. The Club would like to pass on its sincere thanks to all the staff for their sensational efforts throughout the pre-season program.



MURRAY: The Murray Bushrangers welcome all players, parents and staff to season 2011. Several new staff have joined us this year and we welcome Mark Lambourn, Laurie Hammond, Jason Kerr and Robbie Jackson to Assistant Coaching roles, Peter McIntyre (kicking), Chris Hill (running) and Adrian Grace (tackling) to specialist coaching roles, Colin McClounan as Leadership and Development Coach and James Backway as our new AFL SportsReady Trainee. The Bushrangers would also like to thank Hume Building Society for their ongoing support as the Club's Premier Sponsor; AFL SportsReady as the Clubs Apparel Sponsor and welcome Dunstan's Construction Group and Wangaratta Coachlines as corporate sponsors. Go Bushies!



NORTH BALLARAT: Welcome to the 2011 TAC Cup season. The Rebels Playing Group and Coaching staff have been outstanding in their commitment during the pres season phase are now looking forward to continuing their development both on and off the field throughout the season. We are confident that all involved with the Rebels in 2011 will do "Whatever It Takes" to get the best out of themselves and this will lead the Rebels to be very competitive as a team under the mentoring of our new Head Coach, David Loader. A big thank you to our major sponsor, McDonalds.. McDonalds are a great supporter not only to the Rebels Talented Player Pathway Programs but to the wider community which is greatly appreciated. Reminder that our Parents and Player Sponsors Luncheon will be on next Saturday

(1pm) prior to our R2 game against the Dandenong Stingrays. Players and families are reminded to ensure that your Player Sponsors are notified.



NORTHERN: Congratulations to all players selected on the Knights' list for 2011. A warm welcome to support staff & volunteers, particularly to new members of the Knights' staff. We look forward to your contribution during the upcoming season. We also extend our best wishes to Region Manager, Peter Kennedy, on his recovery from knee surgery, as well as congratulating Doug Morris on his appointment as Knights' Captain for 2011 and his deputies, Billy Longer, Jack Newnes, and Tim Totevski. Congratulations also to last year's captain, Josh Caddy, and 2009 captain, Tom Hill, on being drafted at the 2010 National Draft to the Gold Coast and Western Bulldogs respectively. The Knights are pleased to announce Technika as our Major Sponsor in 2011. Technika produces high quality, stylish, and modern European kitchen appliances at affordable prices. We thank Technika for its very generous support of football in the Northern Metropolitan Region.



OAKLEIGH: Welcome to the 2011 season all players, parents and staff. Mark Smart is our new Regional Manager taking over from Steve Conole and Greg Doyle is our new Head Coach. Our Jumper Presentation night was well attended with over 200 at our first official club function. It was a great opportunity for coaches, staff, players and parents to mix socially and start our season off

on a great note. We would like to acknowledge and thank our Major Sponsors for the 2011 season: IS MY CY, Universal Finance, Mulgrave Country Club, Acacia, Active Lifestyle, Telstra, Diadora, Holmesglen TAFE and Musashi.



SANDRINGHAM: The Sandringham Dragons would like to welcome all parents, players and supporters to the 2011 TAC Cup Season. We are looking forward to having a successful and enjoyable season both on and off the field. A warm welcome to our major partners this season in Altitude Volvo Brighton, Embroid Me, Yallambie Stud and Australian Supplies and Printing. A reminder to all parents and players that a 'Parents Information Evening' will be held at South Caulfield on Monday April 4. It is a compulsory and important event so we hope you can all attend. Go Dragons!



WESTERN: The Western Jets would like to welcome all new and returning families to 2011. Congratulations to all boys that have been selected in the Jets program for this season. We would like to thank our ongoing sponsors: Victoria University, Burbank homes, Divella, Buffalo Sports, KFC, Subway Altona, Red Onion, Empire Trade Exchange, Logical Copying Systems, Westpac and Ace's Place. We welcome our new sponsors AFL SportsReady and Acacia aboard for this season. We thank all our sponsors for their support of talented AFL players in the Western Region. We wish all our players a successful season and wish our competitors the best of luck.



TAC Cup season 2011 fixture

METRO ROUND

Sunday 27th March

Northern Knights 14.8.92 def. by **Calder Cannons 23.12.150**
 Eastern Ranges 8.6.54 def. by **Oakleigh Chargers 24.13.157**
 Western Jets 10.3.63 def. by **Sandringham Dragons 15.13.103**

ROUND 1

Saturday 2nd April

Murray Bushrangers vs. Geelong Falcons *Eureka Stadium 11:30 AM*
 North Ballarat Rebels vs. Bendigo Pioneers *Eureka Stadium 2:00 PM*
 Gippsland Power vs. Dandenong Stingrays *Morwell Football Ground 1:00 PM*

Sunday 3rd April

Eastern Ranges vs. Western Jets *Visy Park 10:00 AM*
 Oakleigh Chargers vs. Calder Cannons *Visy Park 12:30 PM*
 Sandringham Dragons vs. Northern Knights *Visy Park 3:00 PM*

ROUND 2

Saturday 9th April

Calder Cannons vs. Bendigo Pioneers *Highgate Rec. Reserve 11:00 AM*
 Eastern Ranges vs. Murray Bushrangers *Highgate Rec. Reserve 1:30 PM*
 Western Jets vs. Geelong Falcons *Highgate Rec. Reserve 4:00 PM*

Sunday 10th April

North Ballarat Rebels vs. Dandenong Stingrays *Eureka Stadium 1:00 PM*
 Northern Knights vs. Oakleigh Chargers *Preston City Oval 11:00 AM*
 Sandringham Dragons vs. Gippsland Power *Tevor Barker Beach Oval 2:00 PM*

ROUND 3

Saturday 16th April

Bendigo Pioneers vs. Gippsland Power *Highgate Rec. Reserve 11:00 AM*
 North Ballarat Rebels vs. Murray Bushrangers *Highgate Rec. Reserve 1:30 PM*
 Geelong Falcons vs. Dandenong Stingrays *Highgate Rec. Reserve 4:00 PM*

Sunday 17th April

Oakleigh Chargers vs. Sandringham Dragons *Visy Park 10:00 AM*
 Western Jets vs. Northern Knights *Visy Park 12:30 PM*
 Calder Cannons vs. Eastern Ranges *Visy Park 3:00 PM*

Development Weekend (Easter) 23rd & 24th April

ROUND 4

Saturday 30th April

Dandenong Stingrays vs. Oakleigh Chargers *Shepley Oval 11:00 AM*
 Northern Knights vs. NSW/ACT Rams *Visy Park 11:30 AM*
 Bendigo Pioneers vs. Eastern Ranges *Epsom Huntly Reserve 1:00 PM*
 Murray Bushrangers vs. Calder Cannons *Norm Mims Oval 1:00 PM*
 Sandringham Dragons vs. Queensland *Shepley Oval 2:00 PM*

Sunday 1st May

Gippsland Power vs. Western Jets *Morwell Football Ground 12 NOON*
 North Ballarat Rebels vs. Geelong Falcons *Red Oval, Warrnambool 1:00 PM*

ROUND 5

Saturday 7th May

Oakleigh Chargers vs. Western Jets *Warravee Park 11:00 AM*
 Eastern Ranges vs. Geelong Falcons *Box Hill City Oval 11:30 AM*
 Murray Bushrangers vs. NSW/ACT Rams *Livingston 12 NOON*
 Dandenong Stingrays vs. Queensland *Shepley Oval 2:00 PM*
 Sandringham Dragons vs. Bendigo Pioneers *Box Hill City Oval 2:00 PM*

Sunday 8th May

Calder Cannons vs. North Ballarat Rebels *Mantello Holden Oval 11:30 AM*
 Northern Knights vs. Gippsland Power *Mantello Holden Oval 2:00 PM*

ROUND 6

Saturday 14th May

Northern Knights vs. Dandenong Stingrays *Preston City Oval 11:00 AM*
 Tasmania vs. Sandringham Dragons *Bellevue Oval 12 NOON*
 North Ballarat Rebels vs. Eastern Ranges *Eureka Stadium 1:00 PM*
 Queensland vs. Calder Cannons *Yeronga Football Ground 1:00 PM*

Sunday 15th May

Gippsland Power vs. Oakleigh Chargers *Morwell Football Ground 12 NOON*
 Geelong Falcons vs. Bendigo Pioneers *Skilled Stadium 1:00 PM*
 Western Jets vs. Murray Bushrangers *Deakin Reserve 1:00 PM*

Development Weekend 21st & 22nd May

ROUND 7

Saturday 28th May

Bendigo Pioneers vs. North Ballarat Rebels *Sera Oval, Mildura 10:00 AM*
 Oakleigh Chargers vs. Tasmania *Warravee Park 11:00 AM*
 Calder Cannons vs. Sandringham Dragons *Highgate Rec. Reserve 11:30 AM*
 Western Jets vs. NSW/ACT RAMS *Box Hill City Oval 11:30 AM*
 Eastern Ranges vs. Northern Knights *Box Hill City Oval 2:00 PM*
 Geelong Falcons vs. Murray Bushrangers *Highgate Rec. Reserve 2:00 PM*
 Dandenong Stingrays vs. Gippsland Power *Shepley Oval 2:00 PM*

ROUND 8

Saturday 4th June

Calder Cannons vs. Western Jets *Highgate Rec. Reserve 11:00 AM*
 Dandenong Stingrays vs. Eastern Ranges *Shepley Oval 11:00 AM*
 Bendigo Pioneers vs. Oakleigh Chargers *Queen Elizabeth Oval 11:00 AM*
 Gippsland Power vs. North Ballarat Rebels *Morwell Football Ground 1:00 PM*
 Sandringham Dragons vs. Geelong Falcons *Highgate Rec. Reserve 2:00 PM*

Sunday 5th June

Murray Bushrangers vs. Northern Knights *Norm Mims Oval 1:00 PM*

Development Weekend 11th & 12th June

ROUND 9 - Country Round

Saturday 18th June

Bendigo Pioneers vs. Murray Bushrangers *Epsom Huntly Reserve 1:00 PM*

Sunday 19th June

Geelong Falcons vs. Gippsland Power *Visy Park 11:30 AM*

Dandenong Stingrays vs. North Ballarat Rebels *Visy Park 2:00 PM*

ROUND 10

Saturday 25th June

Bendigo Pioneers vs. Calder Cannons *Queen Elizabeth Oval 11:00 AM*
 Dandenong Stingrays vs. Western Jets *Shepley Oval 10:30 AM*
 Oakleigh Chargers vs. Geelong Falcons *Warravee Park 1:00 PM*
 Murray Bushrangers vs. Sandringham Dragons *Norm Mims Oval 1:00 PM*
 North Ballarat Rebels vs. Northern Knights *Eureka Stadium 1:00 PM*

Sunday 26th June

Gippsland Power vs. Eastern Ranges *Morwell Football Ground 12 NOON*

ROUND 11

Saturday 2nd July

Eastern Ranges vs. Bendigo Pioneers *Box Hill City Oval 10:10 AM*
 Calder Cannons vs. Dandenong Stingrays *Highgate Rec. Reserve 11:00 AM*
 Northern Knights vs. Geelong Falcons *Preston City Oval 1:00 PM*
 Oakleigh Chargers vs. Murray Bushrangers *Warravee Park 2:00 PM*
 Western Jets vs. Gippsland Power *Shepley Oval 2:00 PM*

Sunday 3rd July

Sandringham Dragons vs. North Ballarat Rebels *Tevor Barker Beach 11:00 AM*

ROUND 12

Saturday 9th July

Western Jets vs. Eastern Ranges *Box Hill City Oval 11:00 AM*
 Bendigo Pioneers vs. Sandringham Dragons *Epsom Huntly Reserve 1:00 PM*
 Geelong Falcons vs. Calder Cannons *Skilled Stadium 1:00 PM*
 Gippsland Power vs. Northern Knights *Morwell Football Ground 1:00 PM*
 North Ballarat Rebels vs. Oakleigh Chargers *Eureka Stadium 1:00 PM*
 Dandenong Stingrays vs. Murray Bushrangers *Shepley Oval 2:30 PM*

ROUND 13

Saturday 16th July

Oakleigh Chargers vs. Dandenong Stingrays *Warravee Park 11:00 AM*
 Eastern Ranges vs. Calder Cannons *Box Hill City Oval 11:30 AM*
 Gippsland Power vs. Bendigo Pioneers *Box Hill City Oval 2:00 PM*
 Northern Knights vs. Sandringham Dragons *Preston City Oval 2:00 PM*

Sunday 17th July

Murray Bushrangers vs. Western Jets *Norm Mims Oval 11:00 AM*
 Geelong Falcons vs. North Ballarat Rebels *Skilled Stadium 1:00 PM*

Development Weekend 23rd & 24th July

ROUND 14

Saturday 30th July

Calder Cannons vs. Oakleigh Chargers *Highgate Rec. Reserve 11:00 AM*
 Bendigo Pioneers vs. Northern Knights *Epsom Huntly Reserve 1:00 PM*
 Murray Bushrangers vs. Gippsland Power *Highgate Rec. Reserve 1:30 PM*

Sunday 31st July

Sandringham Dragons vs. Eastern Ranges *Box Hill City Oval 11:00 AM*
 North Ballarat Rebels vs. Western Jets *Eureka Stadium 1:00 PM*
 Dandenong Stingrays vs. Geelong Falcons *Box Hill City Oval 2:00 PM*

Development Weekend 6th & 7th August

ROUND 15

Saturday 13th August

Dandenong Stingrays vs. Sandringham Dragons *Shepley Oval 11:00 AM*
 Northern Knights vs. Murray Bushrangers *Highgate Rec. Reserve 1:00 PM*
 Geelong Falcons vs. Eastern Ranges *Skilled Stadium 1:00 PM*
 Western Jets vs. Bendigo Pioneers *Queen Elizabeth Oval 1:00 PM*
 Oakleigh Chargers vs. Gippsland Power *Warravee Park 2:00 PM*

Sunday 14th August

North Ballarat Rebels vs. Calder Cannons *Horsham City Oval 1:00 PM*

ROUND 16

Saturday 20th August

Calder Cannons vs. Northern Knights *Highgate Rec. Reserve 11:00 AM*
 Gippsland Power vs. Sandringham Dragons *Morwell Football Ground 12 NOON*
 Geelong Falcons vs. Western Jets *Skilled Stadium 1:00 PM*
 Murray Bushrangers vs. North Ballarat Rebels *Norm Mims Oval 1:00 PM*
 Oakleigh Chargers vs. Bendigo Pioneers *Warravee Park 2:00 PM*

Sunday 21st August

Eastern Ranges vs. Dandenong Stingrays *Box Hill City Oval 11:00 AM*

ROUND 17

Saturday 27th August

Sandringham Dragons vs. Western Jets *Highgate Rec. Reserve 9:45 AM*
 Bendigo Pioneers vs. Dandenong Stingrays *Highgate Rec. Reserve 12:15 PM*
 Gippsland Power vs. Calder Cannons *Highgate Rec. Reserve 2:45 PM*

Sunday 28th August

Geelong Falcons vs. Oakleigh Chargers *Visy Park 9:45 AM*
 Murray Bushrangers vs. Eastern Ranges *Visy Park 12:15 PM*
 Northern Knights vs. North Ballarat Rebels *Visy Park 2:45 PM*

2011 TAC Cup Finals Series

Qualifying and Elimination Finals

Saturday 3rd September / Sunday 4th September

Semi Finals

Saturday 10th September / Sunday 11th September

Preliminary Finals

Saturday 17th September / Sunday 18th September

Grand Final

Sunday 25th September Ethand Stadium

A man with short dark hair, smiling, wearing a dark navy blue suit, light blue shirt, and dark tie. He is standing on a green grassy field at night, with his hands in his pockets. The background is dark.

PETER JACKSON

Melbourne

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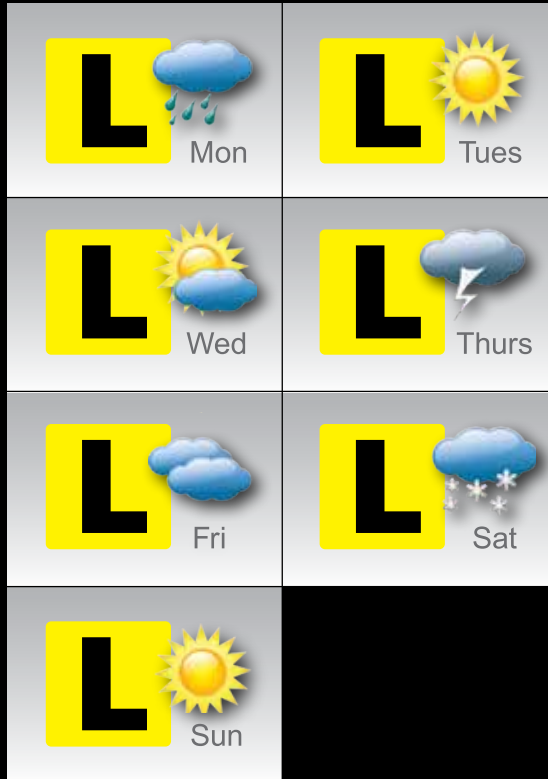


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