



# Vipers News

## Announcements:

Happy Birthday to our fellow Vipers:

### March

Stephen Young  
Emily Cross  
Clinton Burke  
Tim Grant

### April

James Hadfield  
Sarah Tennant  
Shaun Keating  
Chris Casey

### May

Suzu Barrett  
Felicity Gilbertson  
Matthew Bracegirdle  
Suzanne Bracegirdle  
Jared Campbell  
James Sherry  
Neil Kennedy  
Bernie McMullen  
Mark O'Donnell

### June

Shauna Hammond  
Carmen Deane  
Brett Gilbertson  
Kathy Luvara  
Amy Lewicki  
Stewart Dracup

Issue 5

November 08—March 09

## Awards Night 2008/09

The Annual Vipers Awards night was held on 20th February 2009 at the Powerhouse Rugby Clubrooms on beautiful Albert Park Lake. The night is one of celebration for the season gone and to recognize the efforts of all our players and to announce the MVP winners for each team.

This season was no exception with eleven teams donning the red, black and white with all teams involved in finals which in itself is a great achievement for the club.

The night was also in conjunction with Vipers junior affiliate school Haileybury Secondary College who presented their 1st touch team with their playing shirts for the upcoming APS School Competition. Haileybury have been a part of Vipers since the club begun and has a proud history of bringing many good young players into the Vipers senior teams.

The MVP winners from each of the teams were well deserved for their superb seasons. The MVP winners each received a signed team football and a embroidered BBQ chair with their respective achievement, so at their next BBQ everyone can admire their efforts.

The night also incorporated one of Vipers fundraising events in the form of an auction and with donations from some of sports biggest clubs the bidding was fierce. The Auction and night raised over \$2,500 for the club which will be utilised to reduce playing fees and to help our junior players attend tournaments interstate representing their State and Country.

Vipers would like to acknowledge and thank the following organisations for their wonderful donations for the night.

Collingwood Football Club, Hawthorn Football Club, Melbourne Victory Football Club, ACT Brumbies, Global Ballooning, Independent Distillers, Sandringham Sports Medicine, Powerhouse Rugby Club, Dianne Gilbertson, Carnegie Deli, and Essendon Football Club.

## Winter Comps Set To Commence

The winter season of touch is almost upon us and is set to commence from early April with Vipers looking for players. Competitions will run at Monash Uni, Clayton, and Albert Park with predominately mixed teams. Vipers has a long history of producing mixed teams and is calling all players and current teams to once again continue this tradition through 2009.

The Monash comp will be run on Friday nights with a prize money on offer for the winners of \$1000. Albert Park will run on Monday and Wednesday nights for Mixed. For more details log on to the vipers website at [www.viperssports.com.au](http://www.viperssports.com.au) or contact the club if you are looking for a team.



## Vipers International Tour 2010

Vipers Sports Club will endeavour to go where no other Victorian touch team has gone before and that is to the northern hemisphere to play and coach. Vipers are in the early stages of planning a trip to the European Touch Championships and the US Touch Nationals in 2010. This will be the first tour of its kind for Vipers Sports as we continue to expand our brand and strive to bring life experiences and development to all our members.

Vipers at this early stage are only planning on taking touch football teams but may incorporate its newly established Netball and Triathlete's provided similar competitions and games can be sourced during the period.

The tour will likely consist of a stop over in Singapore to play some games and conduct some coaching clinics for the locals and sightseeing before the journey to Europe and the European Champs, at this stage to be held in London during June/July. On completion of the European Champs the players and supporters will travel around taking in the sites of some of Europe's most famous cities - Paris, Berlin, Rome, Prague and Amsterdam before we once again venture to the next tournament in the US and the awaiting USA Nationals scheduled to be held in Miami Florida.

Following this tournament the team will have plenty of options as to which cities to visit - New York, LA, Las Vegas or Washington before a possible stop over in beautiful Hawaii for some much required R and R before the tour comes to an end and the eventual tour conclusion.

Vipers will be conducting coaching clinics where possible while on tour so if you are a coach and would like to tour then contact Vipers.

Women Coaches don't forget that Vipers has received a grant from the Australian Sports Commission for Women in Sport which can assist females gain accreditation as a coach, so contact the club today to find out more.

There are plans in place for fundraising for this tour including Comedy Nights, Lawn Bowls parties, raffles and more. So before you dismiss the opportunity talk to Vipers Sports.

So if you are player, coach, referee or supporter interested in touring with Vipers Sports in 2010 to Europe and the USA no matter your level then contact us today. [Contact us](#)

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## Vipers Expand To The Netball Court

Vipers first steps onto the Netball court will commence on Thursday night at Melbourne High in a trial match before the season kicks off the following week. The Mixed team full of touch regulars will need to find their feet early in this fast paced sport.

The team will consist of Suzy, Brooke, Smash, Hellie, MC, Crano, Youngy and Stew and with a few fill ins as the long season progresses. All players having returned from the recent NTL's will need to call on all their fitness in this end to end sport and only time will tell if this will be a permanent move to a new sport and expansion for the club.

### FACT

Netball is the most popular Women's sport in Australia with an estimated one million players nation wide. Although traditionally identified as a sport for women, there is no reason why it cannot be played with mixed teams, and increasingly more boys and men are becoming involved.

So are you or your current team looking to be part of a professionally administered and organised Sports Club which can offer you discounted physio and injury prevention not to mention discounted performance apparel and friendly club atmosphere then contact Vipers Sports Club to register your interest today.

[Contact Us](#)



## 2009 NTL Series

The 2009 National Touch League Series was held for the first time in Port Macquarie on the North Coast of NSW. The week long event attracts over 5000 competitors from around Australia and also for the first time New Zealand, all competing to be crowned National Champions in their chosen division.

Victoria once again sent up a Men's 30's team to endeavour to go that little bit further than last year's semi finals. Last year's Victorious Victorian Women's 27's team did not return in 2009 to defend their title but instead many of the players opted to compete in the Women's Open division under the Crusaders banner leaving the Men's team as the lone ranger in 2009 for the big V but not the only Victorian contingent playing. Many Victorians were picked in the Crusaders Opens teams with many being Vipers players as well.

The Vic Men's team went into the tournament minus some key players from last year's team although still had a self belief of a good showing. Players were greeted with wet conditions with many fields under 2-3 inches of water, but the matches went ahead and resulted in some close but thrilling games as all teams contended with a slippery ball and water logged fields. The Vic's who have not seen water in a long time let alone grass did show glimpses of brilliance but these were to few and far between and resulted in them walking away with the wooden spoon after such high expectations in the lead up to the tournament. They can look back on what might have been as with one round game to play the team sat comfortably in 2nd place in their pool but lost and found themselves in the play off for last, that's sport.

The Crusaders Women's team which was littered with Vipers players and not to mention the entire coaching staff had prepared for this tournament for three months. The ladies would find themselves in a pool with last year's runners up the Barbarians and the highly skilled and Australian dominated Gold Coast Sharks team which would not show any mercy on their way to the final. The effort and passion displayed in the girls was extraordinary and with games in the balance and with victory in sight, simple errors would creep in which ultimately would cost them the win. They did however walk away from the tournament with 3 wins against their name and surprised many of their more fancied opponents on their way to a 9th spot finish.

### Vipers players involved in the 2009 NTL's

**Victorian Men's 30's** - Stephen Young, Russell Bari, Rob Mair, Jared Campbell, Johnny Moore, Dallan Kahui, Clinton Burke, Tim Grant and Stewart Dracup

**ACT Men's 30's** - Mick Carter

**Crusader's Women's Open Players** - Melissa Ashmore, Carmen Deane, Brooke James, Sally Hamilton, Pat Car, Andrea Frankpitt and Julia Barry

**Crusader's Women's Open Staff** - Suzy Barrett (Head Coach), Mick Carter and Stewart Dracup (Asst. Coaches), Doug Barrett (Team Manager) and Hellie Dracup (Assistant Team Manager).

### Player Awards

**Vic Men's 30's**

**Player's Player**—Stephen Young

**Crusaders Women's Open**

**Coaches Award**—Carmen Deane



## There Is Something In The Air

Once again Vipers is pleased to announce that some of the club's players have decided to tie the knot. Clinton Burke and Jacqui Harris will both tie the knot in 2009.

Clinton "Burky" Burke a long time touchie has recently proposed to his beautiful girlfriend now fiancé Monique Le Grove. Burky has been holding out for the right moment for the past 8 years and finally found it after a stellar day of cricket at this year's Boxing Day Test Match. Mon has been a touch widow for 6 years before Burky decided to try his hand at marathon running in which he achieved his goal of completing the full marathon in

2007/08.

Jacqui "Jaq" Harris will marry partner and Australian cycling champion Mark French in a ceremony during March. Jaq and Mark have been together the past 18 months.

Vipers would like to wish both couples all the best for their upcoming weddings and a long and happy future together.

## Affiliates Cup

Affiliates Cup is a competition in which players are selected to play for their local affiliate to become Affiliate champs. This year was no exception in the Men's division with Vipers players scattered throughout the teams. The Women's division was a little less Vipers with many of the club's elite players opting to miss this tournament in preparation for their upcoming NTL campaign, just one week later which left this division wide open.

Affiliates Cup 2009 was held in picturesque Shepparton in the heart of the Goulbourn Valley. Many players ventured up the highway on the Saturday morning to be greeted by lush green fields somewhat of a luxury to the Melbourne Metro teams, who have played on below standard fields for months due to the drought. The scene was set for some tight tussles and the powerhouse affiliate EPTA looking to once again dominate both the Men's and Women's.

As the day progressed the likely favourites would come through to the final stages and with some tense moments for the EPTA team and waiting on some key results to go their way they found themselves once again in the last four and a chance at back to back titles. The team had played poorly all day and would need to lift if they were to beat Westside which are the current VT League champs in the Men's. It took just 30 seconds for the boys from the West to score and the early signs did not look good for the EPTA team which consist of Vipers VT players Matt Dent, Ash Davine and Stephen Young. Although this initial touchdown was to be the last for Westside as EPTA lifted a gear to defend hard and scored 2 touchdowns of their own to claim a hard fought 2 -1 victory and advance to the final against Fawkner Park who defeated a very inform Monash team in their first Affiliates Cup semi final.

The final was always going to be a very slow style of play considering the two teams lining up and with fellow Vipers James Hadfield, Eric Marsh, Tommy and Chris Katal all on the opposite side. The game as predicted was one of quick rucking but slow line attack which really allowed both teams to gather their attacking moves and helped key players gather their breathe. EPTA though eventually wore down their opponents and won the game 4-1 and claimed back to back titles.

Other Vipers to play on the day included Jared Campbell and Sam Spiers (Monash), Izayah Ropata (Westside), and Gerhard Brown (Royal Park).

Finals Results Open Divisions Only:

Women's Open - Parville(3) def Ballarat (2)

Men's Open - Elwood (4) def Fawkner (1)

Mixed Open Albury (5) def Albert Park (1)

## NSW State Cup

Victorian Open touch teams headed to Port Macquarie for the first time to compete in the NSW State Cup in December 2008. The event hosts the best touch players and teams from throughout NSW with over 170 teams competing in over 13 divisions.

The Victorian teams first trip to the tournament was greeted with a spot in the highly contested Premier division which is possibly the toughest competition outside of NTL. This did not deter both teams who relished in the challenge of playing the best NSW had to offer.

The Men's team played some exciting touch and was never really far away from a win but the pace and skills of their opposition were too strong in the 30 minute turnaround format. And while the boys never gave in during any game they just could not finish off that last ten minutes of each game. They may not have recorded a win while away but gained the respect from their opposition and turned plenty of heads from some of the games powerhouse clubs. The Vic's were the only team to have put 5 touchdowns past eventual winners in Wests which contained many NSW and Australian players and one bloke called **Benji Marshall** who single handedly destroyed teams on his way to winning the title.

The Women's team had very much a similar tournament and with that never say die attitude the girls hung in every game but could not run the full 30 minutes. They did record a draw against Cronulla who in the past has been one of the premier Women's teams in NSW. The ladies really gave their all during the two days and will come back next year stronger and wiser on what to expect at such a quality tournament.

Vipers Congratulates all players from both the Men's and Women's teams and acknowledges the following Vipers players involved in the 2008 NSW State Cup —

Men's Open—Stephen Young and Chris Casey

Women's Open—Melissa Ashmore, Sally Hamilton, Carmen Deane, Julia Barry, Pat Car, Andrea Frankpitt and Stewart Dracup, Mick Carter, Suzy Barrett and Hellie Dracup all on the coaching staff.

Special mention must also go to **Stephen Young** who being the oldest player in the Men's team by a long way and helping bring the average age of the team up over the legal drinking age, was recognised with the naming of the Men's Open Player's Player award in his honour.

## Tipping Comps Are Back In 2009!

Vipers will once again be conducting the **AFL** and **NRL** footy tipping comps in 2009. These competitions are a great fun way to raise funds for the club which helps to reduce fees and support junior players represent State and National teams in their chosen sport.

Cost is just **\$25** that's about \$1 per round and with cash prizes on offer it could be a nice little bonus come September. \$5 from every entrant comes back to the club as fundraising so join up today to help the club and potentially gain yourself some bragging rights at the end of the season.

Please feel free to pass onto family, friends or work colleagues as the more people involved the bigger the prize and your chance to collect some cash.

Also anyone who joins this week into the **NRL** tipping comp will receive the round average for Rounds 1 and 2 which has already been conducted over the last two weekends.

[Click Here](#) to join comps



## Sponsor's Offers To All Members

All members and their families are reminded that Vipers have wonderful sponsors which offer everyone a considerable discount on items such as Physio, Performance Apparel and Cycling servicing and equipment. We encourage everyone to continue to seek the services of these sponsors especially in these tough economical times in which the hard work of negotiating a discount has already been done for you.

[Sandringham Sports Medicine](#) for all your injury and physio require-

ments.

Andrew and Simone from [Cyclespeed](#) can help you with all your cycling servicing and equipment needs, they can also show you some handy tricks to maintain your bike in top condition.

[Under Armour](#) performance apparel can offer all our members Cold Gear which will keep those who play outdoor sports during the cooler months nice and warm not to mention their full range of compression garments.

So log onto the [Vipers website](#) and have a look at the complete range of sponsors who can help save you some money and provide top quality service.

[Vipers](#) will announce more businesses in the coming weeks which will also be offering our members discounts on their services.

If you would like Vipers to source a discount for a particular service then please let us know and we will do our best to arrange a permanent discount for all members.

## Bitemark—Welcome

Vipers have been operating its current free website since the club began in August 2007, and while this current site performs very well it is time for the club to move into a new era of professionalism. Vipers are pleased to announce that **Bitemark** will be providing the club with this service ensuring the new website is user friendly and has all

the features required to keep all our members up to date and well informed.

**Bitemark** are web design and search engine specialists and will build Vipers Sports new website which will be launched in the coming weeks with new and improved features for all Vipers members and visitors to the site. The new website



will enable Vipers Sports Club Inc. to continue to provide our members with up to date information, photo's and competition news plus providing our valued sponsors and potential sponsors with exposure to a greater number of potential members and customers through a professionally designed site. So keep an eye out in the coming weeks for the new site

## Dianne Gilbertson—Welcome

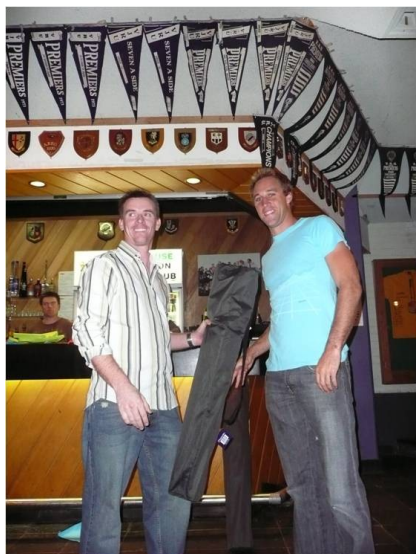
**Dianne Gilbertson** is an independent consultant for Arbonne Skin Care and she has kindly offered Vipers Sports Club financial support, with 20% of each sale from Vipers members, their families and friends back to the club, so make sure you let Dianne know you are from Vipers. So log onto [Dianne's](#) website and have her give you expert advice on the Arbonne skin care

range. Arbonne's skin care products, based on botanical principles, became a reality in the United States in 1980 and are now shared throughout the world through Arbonne's network of Independent Consultants. Building on these same founding principles, Arbonne's product line naturally enhances your beauty and well-being with products that are pure, safe and

beneficial.

ARBONNE.  
pure. safe. beneficial.





### Vipers MVP Winners

VT Men's—Mick Carter

VT Women's—Brooke James

EPTA Men's A—Stewart Dracup

EPTA Women's A—Hellie Dracup

EPTA Men's B—Jordon Donnelley

EPTA Men's D—Richard Etti

EPTA Mxd A Men's—Jon Whitehead —( Bayside)

EPTA Mxd A Women's—Suzy Barrett — (Bayside)

EPTA Mxd A Men's—Brent Davidson — (Bitemark)

EPTA Mxd A Women's—Kathy Luvara — (Bitemark)

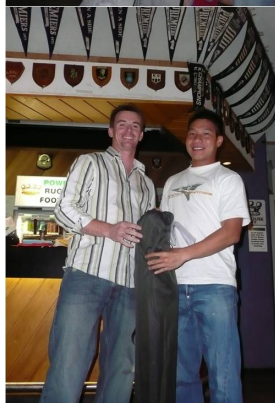
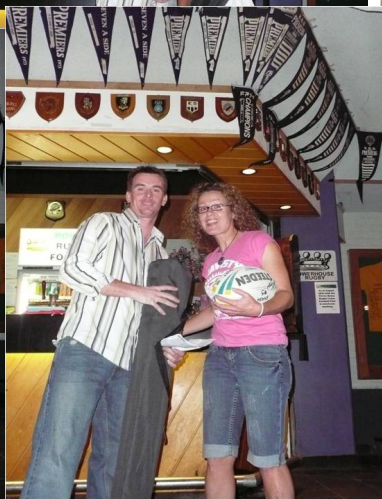
Fawkner Mxd A Men's—Tim Blackwood

Fawkner Mxd A Women's—Amy Lewicki

Rookie of the Year—Josh Chan

Extra Mile Award—Melissa Ashmore

Congratulations to all winners.



## MAILING ADDRESS

**Vipers Sports Club  
69 Orange Street  
Bentleigh East  
Victoria 3165**

If you have an article, information, event or would like to recognise someone for their efforts then please forward all requests for publication to [Vipers](#) no matter the sport we are more than happy to publicise your individual's efforts or team efforts.

Do not forget to utilise your **Ritchie's Community Benefits Card** when shopping as 1% of your total shop comes back to the club. The more we all support this initiative the less we all pay in fees. So please support Ritchie's Supermarkets where possible. More community cards will be available from Youngy or the club.

## Pub Trivia—The 1500's

### THE 1500'S

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water..

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying . It's raining cats and dogs. There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house.. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, Dirt poor. The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying a thresh hold. (Getting quite an education, aren't you?) More pub trivia next time.

## Mission Statement

“Vipers Sports Club Inc. will promote and encourage the development and participation of all athletes through a professional club environment and atmosphere”.

## Coming events In 2009

March 28th and 29th—Sale Knockout

April 2nd—Albert Park Netball Competition Starts

ANZAC Weekend—Touch Trans Tasman—Wollongong (NSW)

April 17th—Monash Winter Competition Starts

May—Albert Park Touch Competition Starts

## **Congratulations to Haileybury 1st Touch Team**

Well done to the Haileybury boys on a superb win in the recent APS school champs held at Casey Fields. Spud and the boys displayed the quality which has seen them become one of the powerhouse schools in touch football in Victoria in recent years. Vipers looks forward to many of these young athletes wearing the tri colours of Vipers in the not to distant future. The team will again be in action this week at the Victorian School Champs in Fairfield looking to go back to back as Boy's Champions.

