

SENIOR COACH'S REPORT



With season 2013/14 ending with a gut wrenching 1st XI grand final loss and no premierships in any grade, season 2014/15 was supposed to be the year that we bounced back and evened the ledger.

Unfortunately yet again the season followed what has become an all too familiar script for our 1st XI in recent seasons.

Our pre-season campaign commenced as usual in early August. The impact of the appointment of the highly credentialed Ryan Webster to our coaching panel was felt immediately. Our numbers were excellent, morale was up and the players' work ethic was exceptional, as evidenced by strong numbers at all Sunday 8.00am fitness and fielding sessions and competitive and intensive mid week net sessions indoors.

Player turnover was typically active at senior level, with the arrival of Ryan, his brother Luke Webster, Al Bodycoat and former International Brett Dorey, who was to play when interstate work commitments allowed and add to a formidable pace attack.

These inclusions covered the loss of Roshan Livera to Bentleigh, Laren Guthrie to Beaumaris, Steven Oates to St. Bernards and Adam Schwarz to Camberwell Magpies.

For much of the season, things went to plan and we had three senior teams qualify for the finals come March.

However our ultimate return of a 4th XI premiership, 3rd XI runners up and 1st XI semi final loss (only the team's second loss for the season) was another bitterly disappointing end to a season that had promised so much.

That being said, there were a number of positives that we can take out of the year.

Our 4th XI winning yet another premiership and stamping themselves as the pre-eminent team in VSDCA 4th XI cricket.

Runner up in the VSDCA Ken Fewster Club Championship, following 4th the season before and maintaining our proud record of finishing outside the top 5 only once in the 12 year history of this award.

Rick Damiano and Andrew King being selected in the VSDCA Team of the Year, with Leigh Baldry producing another 677 runs season (making it 1,360 runs in the 1st XI in the last two seasons) and must have been incredibly unlucky to have been overlooked for selection.

The continued progress and emergence of many talented junior players in our senior ranks, with players including Zach Grundmann Perera, Josh Murray, Tom Simmons, Jayden Banks, Jai Bartlem, Ryan Macdermid and Paul Wasiewicz all showing they have the potential to become regular senior cricketers for the club in the coming years and vindicating the junior development and talent identification path the club went down a few years ago.

Continued excellent progress in our Junior program in general, with the U/15's premiers, the U/17's grand finalists and strong numbers in the 8 junior teams we fielded, comprising over 100 local young cricketers.

I'd like to thank team captains Rick Damiano, Stuart Macdermid, Ben Jenkinson and Blair Richards for their support and dual roles they held as selectors, which is always a difficult and thankless task.

Many thanks must go to three time premierships champion Mark Thomas for his regular assistance at training, Tiger Bain, who produced high quality turf practice wickets week after week and Mick Boyes in his regular role as club net captain. Both roles are hard work, often go “under the radar” and are vital to facilitate high quality training sessions.

Sincere thanks must go to assistant coach Ryan Webster for his input to our training and match preparation. Ryan did an outstanding job in his first year at Caulfield, quickly embraced the club for the special place that it is and I'm thrilled he has been appointed to the role of Senior Coach for the coming season. The club is in very good hands going forward.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to thank Pat Lennon, Craig Ferguson and Geoff Reilley for their exceptional support and guidance. Craig in particular, whilst very much in the background at Caulfield, did an enormous amount of work in the important role in charge of cricket operations, whether it be watching games and reporting back to me on players, discussing recruiting and generally providing a sounding board for my ideas and occasional frustrations over the course of a long season.

Season 2014/15 marks my final season as senior coach. My 13 seasons at Caulfield saw only one where I was not in the role of 1st XI captain, senior coach or President and I'd like to thank every single person involved at Caulfield for the unwavering support and goodwill I experienced from start to end; it has always meant a great deal to me.

It was an absolute privilege to coach our great club. I look forward to helping Pat and his committee keep building the club from strength to strength and watching the mighty 'Fields get the job done in 2015/16.

Shaun Richardson
SENIOR COACH



The 4th XI made it four premierships from the last 8 seasons.



Adam Warren & Leigh Baldry once again had exceptional seasons in the 1st XI.

