

COACH'S REPORT

Season 2008/09 has come and gone, and it won't be long before we start pre-season for the next. But before that, let's just take a look back at the season that was.

It's fair to say that going into my second year at the club, the expectations were that we had the talent to succeed. Having 10 senior men's teams, as well as the club priding itself on the juniors, the structure was in place to suggest that everything was primed to play finals.

We certainly had a good mix of experienced senior and junior cricketers to enable the club to succeed. MVCC has that and more. The overall processes the club has implemented, and the way the club is managed, are a true reflection of the work done both on and off the field.

Out of the 10 senior men's teams, six made finals, already an improvement from last year where we had only two sides. Also, having had the First & Third XI sides play Grand Finals was an awesome effort in itself. Well done to both Mark Gauci and Dino Sapuppo on their efforts throughout the season. And not forgetting the Under 14 side winning the premiership – great effort by all players and coaching staff.

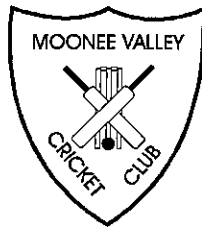
To all the guys (and girls) who played cricket this season, well done and keep up the hard work. Always listen to advice, and always try to improve the skills you have and work on your weaknesses ... playing cricket is all about fun, so enjoy it.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank the following people for their efforts throughout the year:

- Mark Gauci, the First XI captain, who, as always, does an awesome job
- Mark 'Junior' Cini, as our chairman of selectors. Never an easy task, but you did the best you could've done ... keep your head up mate.
- Kim Johnston, our sponsorship guru. Great job done in one of the hardest positions in any club committee.
- Arosha Perera and Nick Puccio, both assistant coaches, thanks for your help and efforts at organising training routines.
- To All the grade captains (you know who you all are), great job and many thanks for your efforts and support.
- To all the committee members, from Charlie Walker down. It's never easy running a club, and to be now No. 1 in Victoria just shows the hard work you all do put in.

I would like to give a big thank you to all the guys who assisted me at training throughout the year, mainly when we, the coaches were not around. It's great to have so many people want to help.

The future looks bright for the talent we have available. The main focus is to develop the juniors through the senior ranks – to gain experience and to work on the skills they already



possess and to work harder on the weaknesses they have to make them better players. As for the senior players, work hard towards making your personal goals achievable, and always listen to advice.

Season 2009/10 is fast approaching. It's exciting to know that the First & Second XIs are going up a grade to play a higher level of cricket, and it's just rewards for a tremendous year of cricket – which even though it didn't bring any silverware to the Club, gained valuable finals experience for players to carry with them in their future years.

Also, knowing that we at MVCC are the biggest cricket club in Victoria, means that we have a bunch of people who obviously enjoy each other's company.

The focus now is on pre-season, which isn't far away, and having been re-appointed for my third year at the Club as coach, I'm also looking forward to bigger and greater success both on and off the field.

Lou Raffaele
Senior Coach, Moonee Valley Cricket Club.