

# Growth a winner for club

By Brad Bishop

MOONEE Valley Cricket Club last week had the honour of calling itself Victorian cricket's premier club.

The Moreland Moonee Valley Cricket Association affiliate was the recipient of Cricket Victoria's Club of the Week award, which has been distributed throughout the 2003/04 cricket season.

The MVCC received the award for its outstanding work in junior development over the past eight years.

From fielding just two junior teams in the 1996/97 season, the club now has 11 junior teams catering for 110 junior cricketers.

MVCC junior development co-ordinator, Charlie Walker, said the club recognised eight years ago junior sides were going to be crucial if the club was to remain a success at senior level.

"We'd always been a successful senior team but never had any junior teams," he said.

"We started in that first year with just one under-10 team and

## Cricket award

one under-12 team and as that core group of young players grew in age and moved up through the ranks we just filled the gaps in behind them."

Adding to Moonee Valley's claims on the award was the fact four players that have recently graduated from junior ranks have taken on the responsibility of coaching under-10 teams.

Murray Walker, Matt Thomas, Jeff Lewis and James Clarke completed their level one coaching accreditation. They take training on Friday nights and take the boys through their paces on Saturday mornings.

"It's very pleasing to see some of the kids we provided with a place are putting something back now that they've graduated from juniors," Mr Walker said.

For its win, the MVCC has the choice of \$200 worth of cricket goods plus state-wide exposure as Cricket Victoria's club of the week.



Moonee Valley cricketers Josh (with ball) and Luke (front), with coaching players (from left) Murray (keeper), Jeff, James and Matt.

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