



Tiger Talk

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President's Report

It is difficult to believe that at this time last year, following round 8, we were languishing on the bottom of the premiership table with four points and a miserable percentage of 81.35 the lowest of the nine WAFL clubs. Twelve months on we find ourselves on top of the ladder with seven wins from eight games and a massive percentage of 174.4.

It is early days and another fifteen rounds of football need to be played. Senior Coach Simon McPhee is certainly keeping the lid on our success to date and is by no means getting carried away. There are some very good teams out there. Subiaco are back playing some solid football and Swan Districts upset us only ten days ago. Next game we face an in-form East Perth who went down to Swans last Saturday by only fifteen points. There is no doubt we are witnessing a very close competition in the WAFL this year.

As I have mentioned previously Simon has the utmost respect from the player group having coached a large number of the team when he coached the colts in 2007/08 and for a short while last year before being elevated to Senior Coach. He is a stern taskmaster, demands a strong work ethic from his players and has faith in youth.

Simon is being ably assisted this year by Peter Falconer, Brad Dodd, Adam Lange, Phil Matera, Chairman of Selectors Ryan Lasscock and Ruck Coach Adam Clark. Behind the scenes is former tigers star and dual West Coast Eagles Premiership player Tony Evans who heads our Football Affairs Committee. Tony's presence back at Tigerland has certainly been felt. Our Reserves, coached by Ross McQueen, are in third position and the Colts, Coached by Wayne Blackwell, are placed in second spot.

The 2009 WAFL Clubs and District benchmarking booklet has just been released. This seventy five page document publishes a year by year percentage history of WAFL Football and provides factual data for use by clubs in planning for the future and in preparing strategies based on fact.

The benchmarking booklet, apart from documenting critical success factors and key objectives on such issues as, on field performance and development, corporation management, finance and resource management, football promotion and player development, also provides a host of statistics and figures.

Some statistics recorded in the "on-field performance and development section" which we at Claremont are particularly proud of, is the exceptional number of locally produced league players who have originated from our district zones, both metropolitan and regional.

Over the past two years we have achieved an outstanding competition high 86%, for both years, of our player group originating from our junior ranks. The competition average of all WAFL clubs in 2008 was 62.2% and 67.2% in 2009. The competition average for year 2000 was 51.6% so it is pleasing to note other WAFL clubs have significantly increased the local district player percentage as the WAFL recommended figure is 70% local players.

Over the past few seasons the WAFL, in conjunction with the WA Football Commission has implemented rules and regulations to encourage the development of players within all clubs districts.

Congratulations to our players who have been selected in the WAFL State Squad to play Victoria at Medibank Stadium on Saturday May 22. Our Squad members are Luke Blackwell, Ryan Brabazon, Andrew Foster, Chad Jones, Ian Richardson, Lewis Stevenson and James Thomson. Thommo has since pulled out due to an ankle injury and Lewis Stevenson has since been elevated to play AFL football with the West Coast Eagles.

Ken Venables President

YU DEVELOPS

We've all heard the story about the tiny acorn growing into a giant oak tree. Well, at Claremont there's the heartwarming tale of the diminutive 14-year-old who has developed into a real tough nut in the league side.

He's Keifer Yu, one of seven young men to have made his debut in WAFL league ranks for Claremont in the first eight rounds of the 2010 season. The others are Ryan Brabazon, Nat Fyfe, Tom Derickx, Tom Lee, Blake Anderson and Gerrick Weedon.

As a member of Claremont's under-15 development squad five years ago Yu was about the smallest kid, recalled his coach of the time, Richard Smirk, who is currently an assistant to Claremont's colts coach Wayne Blackwell.

"But he certainly was the hardest at the ball," said Smirk. "He seemed to relish tackling and it's great to see the way he has developed."

League coach Simon McPhee describes Yu's rise to prominence as "just a great story."

"When he came down to pre-season training with the colts in the summer of 2008-09 he was struggling," said McPhee, who was in charge of the colts at that time. "He was struggling with his training and with his general attitude and he wasn't quite sure how much he wanted it and how hard he was prepared to put in."

Indeed, many club insiders were pessimistic about his prospects of playing senior football, let alone colts football. Yu consistently finished a long, lagging last in 1km and 2km runs and then he simply missed a week of pre-season training.

He went away to assess his priorities and returned with a steely determination to succeed. "It has been a remarkable turnaround," said McPhee. "His attitude in the course of last year improved dramatically and

INTO A FINE ROLE MODEL

it has stepped up to another level this year to the point that he is a great trainer.

"His body shape has changed; he's doing extras on the off nights ... he's just flipped it all around. He's got the mental toughness to get up and go to work at 5.30 in the morning. He works hard and then comes to training and works hard.

"This makes him a wonderful role model and a fine example for the kids coming down from the Kimberley. He is a flagship for us."

Yu is a self-sufficient young man. He is quiet, reserved and unassuming, with a charming smile. On the football field he is courageous and skilful.

He was a valued member of Claremont colts side last year and played in the grand final when the Tigers beat Peel Thunder by 67 points. And then he made a fine debut in reserves football in the round one clash against Peel at Rushton Park in March, committing his body fearlessly in the quest for the ball. He excelled in defence, on the ball and in attack, taking four marks, having 13 kicks and making ten effective handpasses as well as applying ten crunching tackles.

Yu quickly graduated to the senior side and made an encouraging league debut against Subiaco in round four, and then he excelled in the round-six match against West Perth at Claremont Oval when he was awarded the Ralph Honner Cup as the Claremont player who most epitomised the Anzac spirit.

A highlight of his 15-kick performance was his tremendous tackle on powerful West Perth key forward Brent LeCras, a seasoned veteran weighing 15kg more than the Tigers tyro.

Yu hyper-extended his left knee in the round-eight match against Perth at Lathlain Park and was forced to miss the following game against East Perth. Fortunately the injury was not serious, with the main problem being bone bruising.



Yu said that he found the transition from colts to senior football quite significant. "In the colts I was one of the bigger boys," he said. "But going into the reserves, I found I was one of the smallest and that the game style was much quicker. It was cleaner, as well. And then it was moving to a much higher level going from reserves to league."

Born in Broome in April 1991, Yu attended primary school there until he went to Hale School from years seven to 12 where football was his No. 1 sport. He graduated through the ranks of Claremont's various under-age development squads and also represented the Kimberley Spirit team in the colts competition in the Landmark championships. He was a member of Hale's first 18 in years 11 and 12.

An uncompromising and dashing back pocket player for most of his time in the 2009 Claremont colts side, Yu prefers playing in the midfield. He said that he had enjoyed the valuable support he has been receiving from his teammates, particularly from captain Clancy Rudeforth and James Thomson.

"They're teaching me to just go about my

own stuff and not to be scared to do my own thing," he said.

Yu, who is in the second year of a three-year carpentry apprenticeship, is the son of Peter Yu, one of the nation's leading indigenous figures involved in the issues of land rights and reconciliation.

Peter Yu was the Director of the Kimberley Land Council for ten years when he was at the forefront of campaigns to secure land rights and reconciliation. He has been chairman of the Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Council of WA and has worked hard at improving the development of housing in remote communities.

Yu, a Yawuru man from Broome, was at the forefront of negotiations with the State Government for 14 years for a native title settlement in Broome. An agreement was reached in February this year when, under the deal, the Yawuru traditional owners will receive \$200 million worth of lands and benefits in exchange for releasing 2000 hectares of land for development.

Ken Cacellas

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TIGERS WELL REPRESENTED IN STATE SQUADS

A reflection of Claremont's wonderful start to the 2010 season is that seven Tigers have been chosen in the WA squad to meet Victoria at Leederville Oval on Saturday, May 22.

Unfortunately, a hairline fracture in an ankle has ruled full-back James Thomson out of the match, leaving Claremont's squad members as Luke Blackwell, Ryan Brabazon, Andrew Foster, Chad Jones, Ian Richardson and Lewis Stevenson.

The selection of Stevenson, a West Coast Eagles rookie, in the side (being coached by South Fremantle's John Dimmer) will depend on his AFL availability.

Four Claremont colts players, Anton Hamp, Tom Ledger, Angus Litherland and Tom Mitchell, have been chosen in the State 18's squad to compete in the annual championships. Then, in early May, two more, Michael Evans and Tom Taylor, were invited to train with the squad.

Evans and Taylor, in-form midfielders in recent colts matches, are two of six players vying for the final two positions in the squad.

Hamp is a strong-marking centre-half-forward, Ledger is a spirited, hard-working centreman, Litherland is an uncompromising, old-fashioned defender, and Mitchell is a hard-



State 16's - MacKenzie Morgan, Brendan Lim, Shannon Taylor

running, clever forward-midfielder.

Claremont's four boys in the State 16's squad are Brendon Lim (Hale School and West Coast juniors), Mackenzie Morgan (Sacred Heart and North Beach juniors), Hamish Murray (Scotch College and Swanbourne juniors) and Shannon Taylor (Balga High School and North Beach juniors).

The WA 18's squad has been training at the WACA Ground for several weeks and the team will start its campaign with a match against South Australia at Adelaide's AAMI Stadium on Saturday May 29.

Then come matches against Queensland (Blacktown Oval, NSW, Sunday, June 6), the Victorian Country side (Subiaco Oval, Sunday, June 13), NSW/ACT (Visy Park, Melbourne, Saturday, June 26) and Vic Metro (Docklands, Wednesday, June 30).

The NAB AFL under-16 championship series will be held in Sydney from July 3-9 at the \$40 million complex in Blacktown. WA's squad

members will remain involved for the rest of the year when they will be exposed to a range of experiences and programs designed to develop them both as athletes and young men.

Developed in partnership with the WAFL clubs and the AFL, the WA State academy is modeled on the principles of the AFL/AIS academy. It provides an elite football environment which focuses on individual player development. Experienced coaches at the Academy include Jon Sharp, John Hancock, Daine Burnett, Ben Dyer, Mark Pashby and Craig Nelson.

After the carnival, members of the WA squad will become heavily involved in many activities, including player appraisal, individual skill remediation, speed and agility training, and core strength and conditioning.

Ken Casellas



Luke Blackwell



Andrew Foster



Chad Jones



Ian Richardson



James Thomson

Kimberley Talk

by Brett Claudius

The lightning quick, high jumping and free flowing style of Kimberley is now in full swing. All three senior leagues have started with a total 23 teams, including two new teams being introduced to the CKFL and EKFL in 2010. Junior football has again continued to grow in participation and the Kimberley wide Auskick program is in full swing. Most importantly 2010 will see two exciting talent carnivals being introduced in the 16's age group with the aim of identifying and exposing new unseen talent for the Claremont Football Club.

Senior Football

The Central Kimberley football league (CKFL) consists of 7 remote community teams that travel into Fitzroy Crossing from as far as 240km every Saturday. In 2010 a new Valley Colts development team has been introduced with the aim of better preparing young talent for the Kimberley Colts championship and Kimberley Spirit program. The CKFL is an exciting indigenous competition which draws big crowds, especially in the tourism season.

In the East Kimberley Football League (EKFL), the Kundat Djaru Cats and Kururrungka Roos have entered the league in 2009 and 2010 respectively. These communities are located in the desert region of the Kimberley (280km South East of Halls Creek) and travel up to 700km each week to play in the EKFL. The inclusion of the desert teams in the EKFL represents a new area of growth for football development in the region. A great deal of work is required to create sustainable teams to maintain the participation of these desert communities in the years to come.



The region's premier competition the WKFL enters round three this weekend. In particular it has been exciting to see the rate of growth of football in the town of Derby. The Derby Tigers are coming off a strong preseason and after being granted home games in 2010, the Tigers will be a force in the WKFL. WKFL attendance has been very good with over 1000 people at the Derby Tigers first home game and over 600 spectators paying to watch the first round of fixtures of the WKFL in Broome.

Junior Football

The WKJFL has again exceeded 260 participants which includes a 4 team U11's, 4 team U13's and 4 team U16's competition. It is very encouraging to see players from remote communities within 200km of Broome traveling in each Saturday morning to play in the junior competition.

The EKJFL enters its second year in 2010. Last year saw the introduction of a 4 team U13's and three team U16's competition in Kununurra, thanks largely to the work of Aaron Dunster from the WAFC. In 2010, a team from the community of Warmun has entered the U16's competition.



The most significant development in the junior ranks is the introduction of a junior competition in Derby. A newly established Clontarf academy in the town has resulted in the formation of an after school youth competition which has already engaged 90 players from Derby, Mowanjum and Looma. The youth competition complements the strong Auskick program in the town for 5-12 year olds.

School Football

School football competition is fundamental to the participation programs in the region. Remote community participation in football competition is limited to school football carnivals only as school buses are in many cases the only avenue for getting players to and from towns. Remote communities do not have the ability to host carnivals due to a lack of facilities. Some examples of the importance of primary schools programs include the Fitzroy Valley Eagle Cup which is a 6 week competition whereby the remote community schools in the region travel into Fitzroy Crossing of Fridays to play football. Furthermore, the three remote community schools on the Dampier Peninsula north of Broome play in a 6-week competition on Saturday mornings. These competitions represent the only feasible competition for the remote communities to participate in and are fundamental to the development of footy in the region.

Auskick Gala Days

In 2010, the towns of Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing and Derby were identified as towns that required greater attention in terms of football promotion and development. As a result Auskick Gala Days were delivered in each town with the aim of promoting the WAFC schools and community programs and resources. The project was as a joint initiative delivered by Garnduwa and the WAFC with support from Claremont Football Club. The Gala Days were a big success with over 400 kids participating and over 20 schools and communities attending the workshops. Michael Farmer from the CFC attended the Gala Days and provided fantastic support on behalf of





the CFC and in turn received some personal development on indigenous culture.

Talent Pathways

At the end of 2009, there was a review of Kimberley talent pathway and it was identified that there was a need for more development programs for the 14-16 year old footballers. As a result of the review a Kimberley 16's talent carnival has been created and will be held in Fitzroy Crossing on the 15-17th July. The competition will involve 4 teams and through the carnival a Kimberley Tigers representative team will be selected to participate in a newly formed North West WAFL 16's carnival in Port Hedland in October.

The Kimberley Colts Championships (U20's) will again be held in Fitzroy Crossing on the 5th and 6th of June. Five teams will compete in the competition through which the Kimberley Spirit representative team will be selected for the Landmark country championships in July. In 2010, the Kimberley Spirit team will be travelling to Port Hedland to play against the Pilbara colts team in a curtain raiser to the Swan Districts v East Perth WAFL fixture.

Upcoming Program Dates

- Kimberley Colts Championships:
5th / 6th June in Fitzroy Crossing
- Curtain Raiser – Kimberley Spirit v Pilbara Colts: Sat 3rd July in Port Hedland
- Kimberley Spirit trip to Perth:
Monday 5th – Sunday 11th July
- Kimberley 16's Championships:
July 15-17th in Fitzroy Crossing
- Tiger Cubs Camps:
Central Kimberley 23rd / 24th July
East Kimberley 30th / 31st July
West Kimberley 7th / 8th August
- Garnduwa Festival:
September 29th – October 2nd
- North West WAFL Championships:
8th – 10th October in Port Hedland



CLAREMONT FOOTBALL CLUB

Tigers in Wagin



Saturday 3rd July 2010

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2010 HOLIDAY RAFFLE

1st PRIZE

Trip for 2 people to Broome - 7 nights' accommodation in a Garden View Studio at THE CABLE BEACH CLUB RESORT. Where the ocean meets the outback, lies a truly magical place; Cable Beach Club Resort. Like Broome itself, the award winning resort is a beautiful melting pot of cultural influences and architecture. You'll also find two swimming pools, one for families, and the other a tranquil haven reserved solely for adults. [valid until January 2011] – airfares NOT included **VALUED AT \$3,000**

2nd PRIZE

Trip for 2 people to Broome - 3 nights' accommodation in a Garden View Studio at THE CABLE BEACH CLUB RESORT. [valid until January 2011] – airfares NOT included **VALUED AT \$1,200**

3rd PRIZE

A weekend in Melbourne [2 nights] for 4 people staying at FRESHWATER PLACE, Queensbridge Square Southbank [opp Crown Towers]. Freshwater Place completes the river promenade linking Southgate, Crown Casino & Queensbridge Square – immediate access to the CBD and its entertainment, sporting & cultural delights. **VALUED AT \$1,200**

4TH PRIZE

1 x Carton [12 bottles] of SANDALFORD PREMIUM ESTATE RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON. Sandalford offering multi-award winning premium wines. **VALUED AT \$600**

5TH PRIZE

Dinner for 10 people at VILLA ROMA RISTORANTE PIZZERIA IN FREMANTLE – Villa Roma, one of WA's top hospitality icons for more than half a century, is run by acclaimed Fremantle restaurateur Nunzio Gumina. Come and enjoy some of the traditional dishes that the Roma is famous for. Find us in High Street, Fremantle (near the Old Round House). **VALUED AT \$500**

COLTS ON TARGET FOR SEPTEMBER ACTION

It's far too early, and far too audacious, to make any rash predictions about the prospects of the Claremont colts side of 2010. But it is safe to say that the Tigers are well and truly on target to appear in the finals in September.

After five wins from seven matches, Claremont are in second place on the premiership table behind the unbeaten East Fremantle Sharks.

All sides will be without quality players in mid-season, and it is in this period that the nine sides will be seriously tested regarding their strength in depth. All clubs, particularly the top sides, will be weakened when their State under-18 representatives become unavailable for several weeks because of specialised training commitments, including trial matches, and contesting five interstate matches.

The Tigers are developing in fine style, with the players adapting well to coach Wayne Blackwell's game plan. Blackwell has been bubbling with enthusiasm since taking the reins for this season and he enjoys the excellent support from his lieutenants, Richard Smirk, Rory Mitchell, Anthony Lambrinidis and Peter Ellis.

Blackwell and his assistants have had plenty of opportunities to gauge the potential of their players, with a total of 37 teenagers representing the club in the opening seven games.

Only nine --- captain Cam McKay, vice-captain Callum Murdoch, George Cunningham, Tom Foley, Anton Hamp, Tom Ledger, Angus Litherland, Tom Taylor and Jarrod Whittle --- played in all of the first seven matches.

The absence of the WA under-18 representatives will provide a wonderful opportunity for fringe players to seize their chance and prove their worth.

In the first couple of months of the season it has become obvious that Claremont will face serious challenges from East Fremantle, South



Fremantle, Perth and Swan Districts for the right to appear in the semi-finals. Therefore the players cannot afford to drop their guard or lose concentration at any time.

The Tigers have a proud tradition in colts football. The side, coached by Matt Angus and led by captain Matt Davies, enjoyed a wonderful season last year, winning 17 of 22 matches, culminating with a superb 67-point victory over Peel Thunder in the grand final.

This gave the Tigers their 11th colts premiership, and their first for 12 years.

Two of Claremont's standout players who will be absent with State under-18 commitments are centre-half-forward Anton Hamp and centreman Tom Ledger.

Hamp, a member of the powerful 2009 Hale School side, has been a tower of strength and was the side's leading goalkicker after seven matches with a tally of 17.10. Hamp's absence will provide plenty of opportunities for his former Hale School teammate Jordan Aitken to shine in attack.

Aitken, big and powerful, was troubled by an ankle injury and did not make his debut in colts ranks until Claremont's sixth match, against Swan Districts at Bassendean Oval. He had an immediate impact, scoring 4.5. Also making a good debut in that match was Ben Saunders, from Mt Barker, who was stationed in a forward pocket and kicked 3.3.

Aitken's impressive effort revived nostalgic memories of Claremont's 1981 league premiership. He is the son of Mike (Doc) Aitken, centre-half-back in the Claremont side which defeated South Fremantle by 15 points in the 1981 grand final.

Other sons in the current side whose fathers played league football for the Tigers are ruckman-forward Jeremy McGovern, wingman Matt Rawlinson and forward Jack Bradshaw. Andrew McGovern played 68 league games for the Tigers, David Rawlinson played 61 and Wayne Bradshaw four.

Ledger, from Scotch College, has been a driving force in the midfield where he has revealed a healthy appetite for hard work, in and under. He has shown a rare ability to win the ball at stoppages. Illustrations of Ledger's value to the side are revealed in the fact that he got the ball into the 50m attacking zone eight times in the match against Subiaco at Leederville Oval and six times in the match against South Fremantle at Claremont Oval.

**Claremont Tigers
Golf Day**

Monday 31st May, 2010
Cottesloe Golf Club

Registration due: 19th May
Competition: Ambrose in 4's Shot Gun
Format: Players will be assigned to mixed teams of four
Cost: \$180 per player or \$720 for a team of four

Event Day Schedule
11:00am Sign in
11:30 Lunch
12:30pm Shotgun
5:30 Predinner Drinks and BBQ

For more information please contact the Club at 9384 9200 or tigers@claremonttigers.com.au



Other quality midfielders include Tom Mitchell, Tom Taylor, Tom Foley, Michael Evans, Ben O'Regan, Coleman Cristinelli and Brendon Thompson.

Sixteen-year-old Mitchell made a sensational debut with a classic display of high quality roving against South Fremantle. The dynamic left-footer's gut running, clever positioning, sure kicking with either foot and deft handpassing showed that he will develop into a star.

Evans, Foley and Taylor also produced some wonderful individual efforts, while O'Regan, strong and determined, and Cristinelli, energetic, elusive and skilful on a wing, have been extremely valuable and dependable players. An ankle injury kept O'Regan on the sidelines for the match against Perth at Lathlain Park, while Cristinelli will be out of action for at least six weeks after damaging his left leg, just above the ankle.

The cornerstone of the side in the first third of the season has undoubtedly been an efficient, well-knit and hard-working defence, led by full-back Murdoch, the tough and uncompromising Litherland and the determined McKay.

George Cunningham, at centre-half-back, has shown steady improvement and Warrick Proudlove is developing into a quality performer. Brady York, Tyler Stone, Brent Luckman and Luca Berardini, also have all shown promise in defence.

By Ken Casellas

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Tiger Youth Membership \$35

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District News



2010 SEASON FINALLY UNDERWAY

Season 2010 is finally underway with 99 teams across the district competing in the junior competition with 68 modified teams and 31 youth teams, early indications is that AFL Auskick participation numbers have increased from 2009 with a number of clubs reporting increases. New initiatives which have been implemented by the Claremont District with great support from the junior community clubs has been the Parent Mentor Umpire Program for the year 4 and 5 modified age groups and the year 3 Informal competition. So far the feedback received on this program has been very positive.

ONFIELD UMPIRE – COACH HANDSHAKE

The Claremont District DFDC in accordance with the West Australian Football Commissions Umpiring Department will be implementing the 'Onfield Umpire – Coach Handshake'. Each weekend prior to each match when the players are lined up and being addressed by the umpire we ask that coaches from each side acknowledge our umpires with an on field handshake. This is a step to improving the relationship between coaches and umpires.

CLUB COACHING VISITS

Claremont District Development Staff have started the process of attending junior club training sessions throughout the thirteen junior clubs. The coaching visits will occur throughout the entire season and are open for all age groups. The idea of the visits to view and provide feedback to the coaches on their session and for development staff to demonstrate particular drills which can be implemented as part of their training session. To get on the front foot please contact one of the district staff at the Claremont Football Club.

AFCA COACHING SEMINAR

The 3rd of the AFCA Coaches Seminar will be held on Monday 24th May at Subiaco Oval, Barry Cable Room, Gate 17, Level 3. Topic will be "Coaching for the Future" which will be presented by West Coast Eagles Assistant Coach, Michael Broadbridge. Please RSVP your attendance to tkailis@wafc.com.au or 9381 5599.

QUALITY CLUB PROGRAM

Junior and Senior Community Clubs are required to take part in the Quality Club Assessment as part of reaching Bronze level in the Quality Club Program. The aim of the Quality Club Program is to assist clubs in enhancing the quality game environment your club provides. So far eleven out of twenty two junior and senior community clubs in the Claremont District have taken part in the assessment. To fulfil the assessment visit www.wafootball.com.au click on 'clubs' then 'Quality Club Program' and scroll down to fulfil the assessment.

Ultimately, the benefit of being involved in this program is to create a better club!!

CLAREMONT FOOTBALL CLUB UNDER 16'S DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

Claremont Football Club Under 16's Development Squad Program has just finished with Claremont winning one out of the five games during the carnival, defeating East Fremantle in their final game. Congratulations to Jake Luckman (West Coast JFC) and Brendon Lim (West Coast JFC/Hale) who were presented with 'Coaches Awards' for their efforts during the carnival. Additionally, congratulations to Brendon along with McKenzie Morgan and Shannon Taylor (both North Beach JFC) for their selection in the State U16's Academy program.

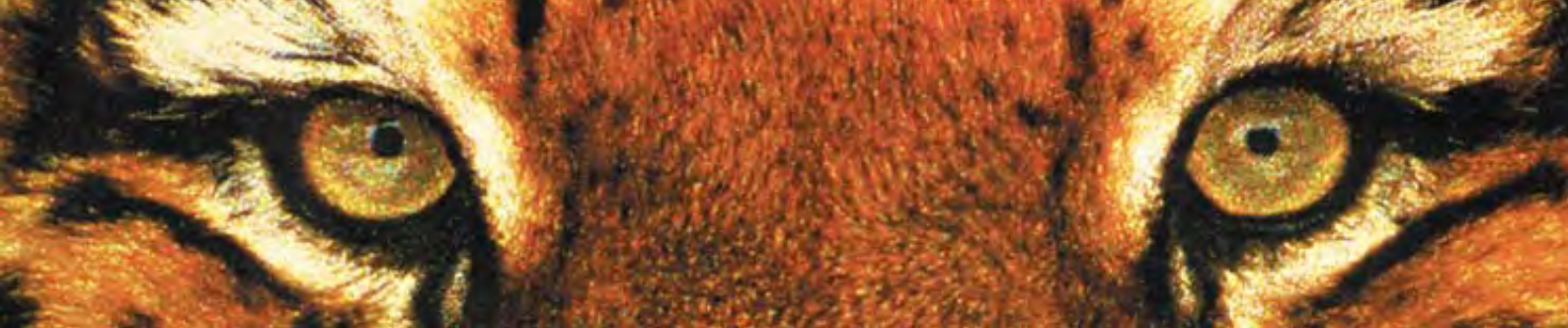
TELSTRA ASSISTANCE FUND

Telstra Assistance Fund is now open for applications. The Telstra Fund supplies equipment for sporting community clubs across Australia up to the value of \$1000. Applications close on the 3rd June, 2010. Clubs who have previously received funding are eligible to apply again for 2010. Visit www.beinvolved.com.au.

RAC VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Nominations are now open for the 2010 RAC Volunteer of the Year. All community clubs are encouraged to nominate volunteers with in your club for the hard work they contribute to the operation of your club. Nominating a volunteer on your club is part of the criteria for achieving 'Silver' accreditation in the Quality Club Program. Visit www.volunteerinfooty.com.au





Attention all Tiger Fans!

The Claremont Football Club has two home games in a row coming up. The Tigers will face Peel Thunder on Saturday 29 May, and Subiaco on Monday 7 June at the Claremont Oval. Come out to support the Tigers and stay for the player presentations following the league game at 6:00 in the members lounge.

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TIGER CUBS GRADUATE TO AFL RANKS

by Ken Cacellas

The Claremont Football Club continues to have a significant impact on the AFL competition and four more young Tigers have joined the ranks of AFL footballers this year and performed with distinction.

They are Carl Peterson (Hawthorn), Lewis Stevenson (West Coast Eagles), Travis Colyer (Essendon) and Nat Fyfe (Fremantle Dockers).

The 22-year-old Peterson, who came to Claremont via Kununurra, the St Mary's club in Darwin and the Clontarf academy, booted five goals in his WAFL debut in 2006. He was drafted by Richmond in 2006 and then picked up last year by Hawthorn before making his AFL debut in the round one match against Melbourne this year.

A gifted and exciting player with a prodigious vertical leap, Peterson has performed in grand style for Hawthorn, with his first six matches for the Hawks producing 29 marks, 48 kicks and 40 handpasses.

The trio of Stevenson, Colyer and Fyfe came through the ranks of Claremont schoolboy development squads and colts sides before being drafted into the AFL system. Stevenson (20) was taken as a rookie in the 2007 draft by the Eagles, Colyer (18) was drafted by Essendon as pick No. 26 in the 2009 AFL draft and Fyfe (18) was snapped up last year by the Dockers.

Stevenson and Fyfe started the 2010 season by performing in splendid fashion for the Claremont league side before getting their chance to showcase their wonderful talent on the AFL stage.

Stevenson, whose form for Claremont as a dashing rebounding half-back flanker was outstanding, made his AFL debut in round five against the Sydney Swans at the Sydney Cricket Ground. He made a sound start with four marks, eight kicks and four handpasses.

Stevenson's second appearance for the Eagles was in the round seven clash against Hawthorn at Subiaco Oval when he excelled with eight marks, 12 kicks and five effective handpasses. Typifying his efficiency, his first two kicks were unerring passes marked by teammates Beau Waters and Mark Nicoski.

He has developed his game wonderfully well in each of the past three years and his ability to break the lines with his surging runs out of defence and his long and accurate kicking make him a project player for the Eagles.

Fyfe and Colyer were stars in Claremont's resounding grand final victory over Peel Thunder in last September's WAFL colts competition and after round seven this year each had played in three AFL matches. A couple of months earlier they had been outstanding for WA in the national under-18 championships.

Fyfe, who hails from Lake Grace and went to school at Aquinas College, sparkled in his WAFL league debut, taking 12 marks and kicking four goals from 11 kicks against Peel. A few weeks later he became the 150th player to represent the Dockers when he made his AFL debut in the round-five Len Hall Anzac Day match against Richmond at Subiaco Oval.

His first kick, after taking the first of six marks for the match, was a splendid pass which was marked by Aaron Sandilands. His second kick was marked by Chris Mayne before his third, fourth and fifth kicks all registered behinds. His eighth kick, in the third quarter, gave him his first



Lewis Stevenson



Nat Fyfe



Travis Colyer

goal in AFL ranks.

Before a crowd of 40,886 at Subiaco Oval on Sunday May 2, Fyfe kicked two goals straight before booting another goal in his 15-disposal performance against Brisbane at the Gabba in round seven. Fyfe had made a dream AFL start, with Fremantle winning at each of his first three appearances with the side.

Other Claremont players who have appeared for the two local clubs this year have been Brett Jones, Eric Mackenzie, Pat McGinnity and Tom Swift (Eagles) and Matt de Boer (Dockers). Beau Wilkes, Ryan Neates, Gerrick Weedon and Lewis Broome are also on the West Coast Eagles list.

Neates, a speedy and creative rover who shone for WA in last year's under-18 national carnival and was a member of Claremont's colts premiership side, has been injured and out of action for the first part of the season. Currently he is recovering from a serious finger injury. Wilkes has been a tower of strength in the Claremont league side and Weedon and Broome have been in good form in the Tigers reserves side.

Colyer, another star in Claremont's grand final colts victory, gained all-Australian selection after his devastating play for WA in the under-18 championships. He was drafted by Essendon, and after showing good form with the Bendigo Bombers, he was promoted to make his AFL debut in the round-three match against Carlton at the MCG when his sparkling speed and creativity played a solid part in Essendon's surprise 21-point victory before a crowd of 71,006.

Colyer's next appearance came a week later against the Eagles at Subiaco Oval when he took three marks, had ten kicks and made ten effective handpasses. His third game was in the Anzac Day blockbuster against Collingwood before 90,070 screaming fans at the MCG. His effort in having 25 kicks and making 27 handpasses in his first three matches was highly commendable.

The deeds of young men like Stevenson, Fyfe, Colyer and Peterson help to enhance the fine reputation Claremont has in nurturing youth and developing talent.

Once again there is a fine group of youngsters in the 2010 Claremont colts side, and there is little doubt that some of them will take the giant step forward to graduate to AFL ranks.