

Dear Members,

We hope you all had a wonderful Easter and that you are enjoying the school holidays, wherever you may be!

Footy is back and we are all super excited that Round 1 is less than three weeks away. Coaching staff are appointed, teams are being finalised and all grades from U8 to Colts have been enjoying pre-season training.

This year, we are planning for 31 teams to wear the Ashy colours this season with a record three teams of girls. We have welcomed many new members to our Club and we thank all of you for choosing to play for the Redbacks.

We will be officially launching our 2016 season on Friday 15 April at Burwood Reserve. This is a night that promises to be full of fun and entertainment. Don't forget to let us know you're coming – RSVP [www.trybooking.com/KTTI](http://www.trybooking.com/KTTI). We look forward to seeing all members there!

For footy news, please keep an eye on our website and Welcome Emails from Coaches and Team Managers that will advise further details about practice matches (U10 to Colts) and in-season training times. If you have any feedback about any on-field matters, please contact [footyops@ashyredbacks.org.au](mailto:footyops@ashyredbacks.org.au). Please remember, our Committee spend a huge number of volunteering hours behind the scenes to get ready for over 600 players to run on to the fields. We thank you for working with us as a team, and together, we will be able to give our members the best footy experience possible.

Now let's count down the days until Round 1!

**Ashy Committee**

#AshyRedbacks  
#beapartofit



**Ashy Redbacks** 2016 SEASON LAUNCH

Jumping Castle  
Dunking Machine  
Inflatable Obstacle Course

Live Music  
Super Boat Competition  
Face Painting & Body Art

Join us on Friday 15 April  
5pm – 10pm

- Entertainment for all ages
- Heaps of games and prizes
- Click 'n Collect merchandise
- Plenty of food for the whole family
- Bar open
- Live AFL Richmond v West Coast
- RSVP [www.trybooking.com/KTTI](http://www.trybooking.com/KTTI)
- [www.ashyredbacks.org.au](http://www.ashyredbacks.org.au)
- #AshyRedbacks



Which one should I eat first?



Welcome Isabella and Lucy – two new recruits to Girls Footy



Welcome Cahill and Sam – first time footy players

**DIARY DATES**

For more information on Club events, go to <http://www.ashyredbacks.org.au/new-events/>

**3 Apr**

**Mouth guard collection morning**  
9:30am – 10:30am  
Burwood Reserve

**5 Apr**

**Footy Ops Information Night**  
Essential for all Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Managers. RSVP Footy Ops  
7pm – 8pm  
Burwood Reserve

**9 Apr**

**First Aid Course**  
Mandatory for all Team Trainers. RSVP: Footy Ops  
12pm – 5pm  
Burwood Reserve

**15 Apr**

**2016 Season Launch**  
Everyone welcome, live music and fun galore!  
5pm – 10pm  
Burwood Reserve

**17 Apr**

**Round 1 Begins**  
Let the games begin, ding, ding, ding, ding!

**25 Apr**

**Anzac Day Dawn Service and Anzac Day Cup (U15 Boys and Girls)**  
6am Dawn Service  
8:30am Anzac Day Cup  
East Malvern RSL

**18 sleeps until Round 1 begins on Sunday 17 April**

# FOOTY OPERATIONS

## Pre-season Training

Pre-season training has been in full swing for the past month down at Dorothy Laver (Reserve East and West), Ashburton. Sessions are held each Monday and Wednesday until 30 March. All session times can be found on our website.

<http://www.ashyredbacks.org.au/pre-season/>

Parents, please note that pre-season training is not compulsory and completely up to you and your child/children if you would like to join in on the skill development and fun. Also note that only registered players are able to access player insurance coverage.



## Coach's Spotlight

This month we're placing **Brett Gatehouse (Coach) and Ben Andrews (Assistant Coach), Ashy Redbacks Coach for Colts (Red)**, two very well credentialed players and coaches under the spotlight.

### What do you love about coaching?

**Brett** – Having the responsibility of teaching people and helping people develop.  
**Ben** - Seeing players develop and improve throughout the year. Watching a player grow confidence in themselves is the most rewarding thing about coaching.

### Who has been the most inspiring coach you have had and why?

**Brett** – Erwin Leyden. He was able to get the absolute best out of every single player he coached. I don't think anyone ever under performed with him.  
**Ben** – It's a tie. My first coach at Waverley Blues who taught me how to kick, as well as the importance of being able to kick with both feet, and my current coach at St Mary's Salesian, Jess Sinclair. Jess sets a high standard of training and puts a strong focus on pushing us to train at our best each week. He also encourages a strong team first mentality.

### What have been the best words of advice a coach has ever given you?

**Brett** – One superstar playing for himself will never beat 18 mates playing for each other.  
**Ben** – Football is played between the ears. If you go out on the field with the right mentality to want to win the ball at every contest, to make every tackle and to make the most out of every opportunity you get on the field, then you will be successful.

### Which AFL coach do you most admire?

**Brett** – Al Clarkson. He was perceived as just an angry little man when he first got the job at Hawthorn, but he moulded a side together that will probably go down as the greatest team ever, and evolved the game in no way any coach has before. He is a genius!  
**Ben** – Alastair Clarkson. His ability to adapt his game plan each year to continually break down the defences of teams like Sydney, Fremantle and West Coast is extremely admirable.

### What qualities do you think a successful coach needs to have?

**Brett** – A good communicator, an ability to teach, be firm with what they believe and someone that enjoys what they do.  
**Ben** - Communication skills. If you can clearly convey a strong message and remain consistent with it, then players will listen and respond accordingly.

### What are you most looking forward to about coaching the Ashy Colts (Red) team this season?

**Brett** - Watching a group of young blokes learn and develop in front me, and hopefully helping them to a finals series.  
**Ben** - I'm really excited to see young players continue to learn and develop as young footballers. There are a lot of talented young kids at Ashy and I'm looking forward to having a successful year with the group.

### Nickname

Brett – Gater, Gatey  
Ben - Benny

### Playing Experience?

Brett – U9 – 17s GIJFC 175 Games, Old Trinity, St Mary's AFC (5 years in a leadership position, including Club Captain)  
Ben – U9-16s Waverley Blues, Colts at Ashy, St Mary's AFC (3<sup>rd</sup> year in a leadership position)

### Your AFL club

Brett – Carlton  
Ben - Carlton



**Brett and Ben**



# FOOTY OPERATIONS

## Team Manager Talk

**This month we talk to Michael Witt, U12, about his role as Team Manager.**

Michael has two sons that have played for the Redbacks, Justin (aged 14) who played Tackers and then went to the dark side (aka soccer) and Cameron (aged 11) who is playing his fourth season this year in U12. This will be Michael's second season as Team Manager, with last year being Michael's first year (and a Premiership year too, we must add)!

**What do you most enjoy about the role of Team Manager?**

Being actively involved with the team and getting to see all the work that goes into making it a success for the kids. It is also a great way to meet the other parents on team which has been great as our team is made up of kids from three different schools so there were quite a few parents and families I didn't know before meeting them through footy.

**Tell us about your funniest moments as Team Manager?**

Jumper fitting last year was pretty funny. Unfortunately there were some kids who couldn't fit in to the largest jumpers and others who found the smallest jumpers too big. We swapped feverishly between teams and made it with 2 days to spare before the season started!

Another funny time was when our family was on duty to bring the oranges to the game. We were playing in Greensborough but I accidentally left the house that day with the oranges on the kitchen bench at home. We made a hurried trip to Greensborough Plaza during the first quarter to buy oranges, a knife, a chopping board and a plastic container. Thankfully they were all cut up and ready to serve by half time.

**Our Club is looking for Team Managers across many of our teams. For those parents that may be unsure about whether they should put their hand up for the role, what advice would you give them?**

Go for it. It takes a bit of work and you need to be organised (especially on game day) but it is really rewarding seeing everything come together for the kids so they can have fun playing footy each week. It also helps to have a supportive parent group who are willing to help in the weekly tasks which I have been lucky to have - you could not do it without the parents chipping in each week.



*Michael – all dressed up for pre-season last week ;)*

**A summary of the Team Manager duties on Home & Away Games can be found on our website <http://www.ashyredbacks.org.au/teammanager> Keen to put your hand up? Contact Richard, Team Manager Liaison of the Footy Ops team via email [footyops@ashyredbacks.org.au](mailto:footyops@ashyredbacks.org.au)**

## GIRLS FOOTY



*We couldn't have done without these girls at the Ashy Festival*



*Face painting masterpiece on Bella. Back by popular demand at the Season Launch!*



*A specky on High Street – who says you can't?*

**Kim Ledger, Girls Footy Manager tells us how the Ashy girls are shaping up for the season.**

"The Ashy girls are getting very excited for the footy season to start. We have several new girls joining Ashy in the last few weeks, and we are looking for a few more girls, especially those girls who are 12-13 years olds. If you are interested, or know anyone who is, come to training on a Wednesday afternoon, and see what it's all about.

Ashys first Youth Girls team (u18's) is ready to take on the season. We started pre-season training with our 4 girls from u15's 2015 who had to go up and we now have 17 and still taking in more calls about girls wanting to join.

The girls will be back on Season Launch for face painting and hair spraying, in case you missed out on their artistry at the High Street Festival!"



*#preseason #girlsjustwannahavefun*

## Player Profile: James Woods, U13

**Nick Name?**

Woodsy

**Player stats – Height?** 5'10 **Weight?** 75 kg

**Why did you choose to transfer your footy career over to the mighty Ashy Redbacks?**

I moved to the area and wanted to play with my mates from school.

**What's a footy skill you're proud of developing in your own game?**

Taking strong marks.

**What other sports do you play?**

Basketball and cricket.

**Which AFL side do you support?**

Hawthorn

**Who is your favourite AFL player?**

Luke Hodge

**What are your parents always reminding you to do?**

To find my Myki - I've lost so many Mum's lost count!

**If you could invite any three people to a dinner party, who would you ask?**

Kate Upton, Luke Hodge and Mitchell Johnson

**If you had won a million dollars, what would you spend it on?**

A trip to USA with all my mates for two months.

*James, welcome to the Redbacks. We hope you have a terrific first season with us. Who knows, you might be lucky enough to bump into Hodgey around the Pavilion ;)*



# James in his Hawthorn glory (left) and now Ashy Redbacks attire

## MERCHANDISE

Ashy Redback fans... get excited, our brand new range of merchandise for 2016 has started to arrive, and jeeppers, they look good! We have a number of exciting new items that have never been offered before - beanies, trucker caps, baseball caps, scarves, umbrellas and of course stubby holders in our **Ashy club colours**.

All online orders will be ready for collection at the **Ashy Season Launch on Friday 15 April from 5pm**.

Make sure you check out our new range at [ashyredbacks.com.au/merchandise](http://ashyredbacks.com.au/merchandise)

We also have available our beloved hoodies, club footy shorts, socks, polo shirts and sports bags.

As we head into winter make sure you grab your Ashy scarf and beanies to wear to the games and show your **Ashy club colours!**



#redandgreenistheneblack

## COMMUNICATIONS



### Free Bootswap

Keen to bring us your old boots and try on a new pair for size?

Look out for a tub at pre-season training sessions and the first weeks of the season.

#bringusyourboots

Well done to the silent auction winner at Ashburton Primary School fair held on 20 March. An Ashy Redbacks bag was donated to raise much needed funds at the School.

Congrats to Jessica Mounas, winner of \$50.00 Ashy Redbacks merchandise and Zachary Hay, winner of an Auskick Registration at Watson's Park. Both Jess and Zachary entered our Lucky Draw Competition at the Ashburton Festival on 28 February.



CareMonkey is an innovative parent controlled electronic medical form that helps us to proactively fulfil our duty of care and risk management responsibilities for all players. After registration, all members will be prompted via email to upload medical information about your child/ren. For more information, go to:

<http://www.ashyredbacks.org.au/registration/>

### Out with the old, in with the new

We have said goodbye to our AshyApp and encourage all members to refer to our new website for all the latest news on and off the field. Our new site is mobile responsive and fully integrated across all of our social channels making it a great experience for all users.

[www.ashyredbacks.org.au](http://www.ashyredbacks.org.au)

Receive our newsletter by emailing [communications@ashyredbacks.org.au](mailto:communications@ashyredbacks.org.au)

Players, parents and friends are all welcome!

We like to be liked, followed and retweeted – it's a great to be socially connected to Ashy Redbacks



# SPONSORSHIP



**Bendigo Community Bank**

241 High Street | Ashburton, VIC 3147

[www.supportingourcommunity.com.au](http://www.supportingourcommunity.com.au)  
[www.bendigobank.com.au](http://www.bendigobank.com.au)

*On behalf of the Ashy Redbacks community, we thank you for supporting us and look forward to seeing your team at our Season Launch.*



## Bendigo Bank, thank you for being a Silver Sponsor of our Club

Bendigo Community Bank story is about local community working together for better outcomes. Better outcomes for customers and community.

Ashburton Community branch opened in 2008 and is part of the Canterbury, Surrey Hills and Balwyn Branch network. With over \$2.8M handed back to the local community to sporting clubs and not for profit organisations, the staff at Ashburton branch want to help the Ashy Redbacks community to further benefit the club.

This year, the Ashburton, Canterbury, Surrey Hills and Balywn branches will be offering our Club the following contribution across the banking products:

- \$1,000 for every new or refinanced home loan over the value of \$250,000**
- \$250 for every new or refinanced home loan up to the value of \$250,000**
- \$50 for every Bendigo Bank personal loan**
- \$25 for every new credit card or insurance policy**
- \$10 for every new business or term deposit account** (*opened and held for 3 months*)
- \$5 for every new Piggy or Ultimate account opened**

Member brochures will be printed soon!

**Bendigo Community Bank, 241 High Street | Ashburton, VIC 3147**  
[www.supportingourcommunity.com.au](http://www.supportingourcommunity.com.au)  
[www.bendigobank.com.au](http://www.bendigobank.com.au)

To find out more about the value-packed sponsorship packages we can offer your business this year, please contact **Peter Wells** (*pictured right*) [sponsorship@ashyredbacks.org.au](mailto:sponsorship@ashyredbacks.org.au)



Noel Jones – Our platinum sponsor

# SOCIAL

## 2016 Social Calendar COMING SOON

Free to help out at Season Launch on Friday 15 April? Our social team needs you! Contact [social@ashyredbacks.org.au](mailto:social@ashyredbacks.org.au)



24 members battle it out and the top three tippers after Round 1 are:

- Dale Rowley
- Cooper McNamara
- Iwm

All three tippers scored 8/9 in the first week. It's not too late to join, go to <http://bit.ly/1UcvLUF>

