



Girls Sport Victoria 2009

VOLUME 9



Camberwell Girls
Grammar School

Fintona Girls School

Firbank Grammar School

Genazzano FCJ College

Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School

Kilvington Girls' Grammar

Korowa Anglican Girls' School

Lauriston Girls' School

Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak

Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar School

Melbourne Girls Grammar

Mentone Girls' Grammar School

Methodist Ladies' College

Our Lady of Mercy College

Presbyterian Ladies' College

Ruyton Girls' School

Sacr e Coeur

St Catherine's School

St Margaret's School

Shelford Girls' Grammar

Star of the Sea College

Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School

Tintern Girls Grammar School

Toorak College





GIRLS SPORT VICTORIA

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From the GSV President

Healthy, active and energetic girls participating in a large range of sports and recreational activities, is a wonderful outcome for any sporting association. As Girls Sport Victoria reviews 2009, we are delighted to report record numbers of teams and individuals engaged in sport and physical pursuits.

This year GSV secured funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing for a Year 6 Sport Skills Transition Program, working with girls leaving primary school and introducing them to the broad scope of secondary school sport. Particularly in early adolescence, maintaining a positive focus on a wide range of sports is essential. The numbers of young women who participate in a variety of sports throughout their secondary schooling is increasing year on year, due to the commitment of GSV Schools in providing the best staffing and facilities, and in the administration of the programs.

In 2010 GSV will celebrate our 10 year anniversary. Over the last decade, much has been achieved, and much has changed and been refined. 2010 celebrations will mark this anniversary, and we will recognise with pride our achievements in girls' sport over this time. It is fitting however, to note appreciation to one of our member Schools at this time, as they leave the Association at the end of this year, after a decade of participation. We thank the Principal, staff and students of Tintern Girls Grammar for their support of GSV, and wish them well in their new endeavours.

At year's end I pay tribute to the work of the GSV staff: Ms Meredith Prime, Ms Leonie Mawkes, and Ms Kelly Featherston. They offer outstanding support to all GSV Schools, and we continue to appreciate their dedication.

The 2009 GSV publication recalls with pride the achievements of our students, both individually and as teams and groups. We present this wonderful record of the year with confidence.

Dr Susan Stevens - President, Girls Sport Victoria

2009 Sports Captains' Breakfast

Loreto Mandeville Hall was the host of the 2009 Breakfast, and their impressive Patricia Schaefer Centre had plenty of room for over 100 sports captains and student leaders as well as Heads of Sport and, for the first time, a table of parents - Loreto's 'Friends of Sport'.

This year our guest speaker was Olympic Bronze Medal Kayaker Chantal Meek. As a past student of St Margaret's, Chantal was nostalgic about her school sport experiences and inspired the girls to make the most of the wonderful opportunities school sport provides.

But inspiration didn't just come from Chantal. GSV's Leonie Mawkes interviewed two rising stars of Australian sport, both of whom are still completing their secondary school studies. Holly Aitken (Ruyton) and Anabelle Smith (Sacré Coeur) spoke about the challenges of combining their final years of school with an international sporting career. Holly (Triathlon) and Anabelle (Diving) both had the audience in awe as they so humbly described their demanding training regimes and study routines.

Their success is testament to both the talent and dedication they have for their respective sports, but is also a reminder to all of us of what can be achieved if we 'put in the hard yards'.



Chantal Meek



Girls Sport Victoria's Rising Stars



Each year we recognise the achievements of school sporting teams and squads that have shone in GSV's weekly sport competitions and Carnivals. Very rarely do we acknowledge the efforts of individuals, and it is easy to forget that among our collective student body we have some of our country's most talented young athletes. In this edition of the GSV annual publication we recognise some of these young women who are already competing at an International level in Girls Sport Victoria sports:

Jessica Bahn (Year 10, Kilvington) represented Australia in the U19 Softball team in the US.

Bridget Aughton (Year 12, Korowa) won Gold in the 100m and 400m hurdles at the Pacific School Games in 2008.

Julienne Soo (Year 7, Lauriston) has been selected to compete at the Jack Newton Junior International Golf Tournament.

Genevieve Venosta (Year 12, Loreto Mandeville Hall) is a member of the Australian Youth Women's Waterpolo team which competed at the FINA Junior World Championships in Russia.

Hannah Thek (Year 10, MLC) was named the most promising young talent at the Australian Open Diving Championships in March this year and competed at the FINA Grand Prix in Spain in May, finishing 7th in the 3m Springboard and 5th in the 3m synchronised event.

Lucy Goldby (Year 12, PLC) competed in the 17-19 age group Diving events at the Pacific School Games in Canberra and was 2nd in the Platform, 3rd in the 3m Springboard and 4th in the 1m Springboard.

Kai Xing Goh (Year 8, PLC) finished 9th in the 12 years 50m Butterfly at the 2008 Pacific School Games in Canberra.

Estelle Lopes (Year 11, PLC) was 4th in the 15 years Hurdles at the 2008 Pacific School Games in Canberra.

Cassandra Rasselli (Year 9, PLC) came 4th in the 14 years 3000m walk at the 2008 Pacific School Games in Canberra.

Georgie Meehan (Year 10, Ruyton) has been selected to compete in the World Schools Cross Country event in Slovakia in 2010.

Emma Jamieson (Year 9, Ruyton) won a Silver medal in the 3m Springboard event at the Malaysian Open Diving Championships in Kuala Lumpur in October 2009.

Libby Forbes (Year 11, Ruyton) not only won Gold in her 50m Breaststroke event at the 2008 Pacific School Games, she broke the record!

Holly Aitken (Year 12, Ruyton) was 7th in the 16-19 (Junior Females) World Triathlon Championships at the Gold Coast in September.

Sam Gondolfo (Year 10, Sacré Coeur) was fifth in the 400m Freestyle and 8th in the 100m Freestyle (SM10) at the 2008 Beijing Paralympics.

Anabelle Smith (Year 11, Sacré Coeur) was 7th in the 10m Platform Diving competition at the Canadian Gand Prix in April 2009 and came 4th in the 3m synchro Diving and 7th in the 10m Platform event at the Spanish Grand Prix in May.

Ellese Zalewski (Year 12, St Catherine's) competed in the 2009 Australian National Age Championships in Sydney 2009. She won a silver medal in the 50m Freestyle and 100m Butterfly along with a bronze medal in 100m Freestyle. Ellese was also selected in the Australian touring team to the West Coast of America (2009).

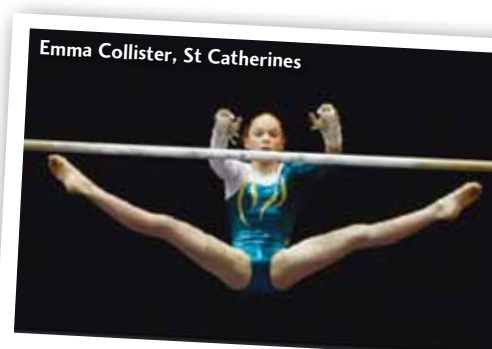
Ellia Green (Year 11, Star of the Sea) won Gold in the 4x100m and 4x200m relays at the 2008 Pacific School Games and will compete in 100m and 200m individual sprints at the 2009 World School Games in December, 2009.

Molly Polak (Year 9, Star of the Sea) plays Singles and Doubles Tennis on the Junior ITF circuit and in 2009 represented Australia in the Junior Federation Cup contesting the finals in Mexico. Molly is currently ranked in the top 3 for her age group in Australia.

Maddie Morrison (Year 9, Strathcona) has been selected in the Australian Junior Netball team which will be touring next year.

Olivia Carter (Year 10, Strathcona) competed at the FINA World Junior Diving Championships and at the FINA Grand Prix in Rome.

Girls Sport Victoria also wishes to acknowledge a number of talented young athletes who are competing in sports outside the domain of GSV's competitive sports programs: **Chantal D'Argaville** (Fencing), **Naomi Pinto** (Cycling), **Georgina Fish** (Surfing), **Brooke Dunleavy** and **Rebecca Morrison** (Snowsports), **Marlena Ahrens** and **Cat McArthur** (Kayaking), **Morgana Allen** (Rowing), **Emma Collister** (Gymnastics), **Catherine Phillips** (Ultimate Frisbee), **Georgia McMahon** (Trampolining), **Annabel Ellison** and **Bianca Bartolo** (Taekwondo), **Morgan Lewis** (Rhythmic Gymnastics).



Emma Collister, St Catherines



Ellia Green, Star of the Sea



Anabelle Smith, Sacré Coeur

Weekly Sport

Term 4 2008 Weekly Sport

Basketball

OLMC emerged the success story in Term 4 Basketball, with teams playing in every Semi Final and five of the eight Grand Final matches. They went on to win three Premierships.

But it was Ruyton who were cheering the loudest as their Junior A grade team contested their school's first GSV Basketball Final. Having drawn a thrilling match against rivals OLMC in the home and away series, Ruyton led from the starting siren in the Grand Final and, despite a late comeback from OLMC, took out their very first Basketball Premiership. GSV loves nothing more than to see a school reap the rewards of their efforts to improve in a particular sport. Well done, Ruyton.

Cricket

After a four-year stranglehold on Senior Cricket, Star of the Sea College finally relinquished the title to the talented MLC Cricket team. Star, having lost most of their Senior team at the end of last year, are in a rebuilding phase and will no doubt be itching for a rematch with MLC in 2009.

MLC had also defeated Star of the Sea in the Semi Final of the Junior Cricket and were up against Strathcona in the Grand Final match. Unfortunately, hail and lightning stopped play 12 overs into the first innings and, for the first time in GSV history, a Grand Final was declared a draw under wash-out conditions.



Junior Waterpolo

While MLC are regulars in the Waterpolo pool at Finals time, they had, until 2008, never managed to take home an A grade title. And what a way to change the guard, defeating Lauriston in both the A and B grade matches! The Waterpolo competition just continues to strengthen and we look forward to following these talented juniors throughout their GSV years.

	SENIOR A	INTER A	INTER B	JUNIOR A	JUNIOR B
Basketball	OLMC	Camberwell	Star of the Sea	Ruyton	OLMC
Cricket	MLC			MLC & Strathcona (wash out)	
Waterpolo				MLC	MLC



Weekly Sport

Term 1 2009 Weekly Sport

Indoor Cricket

MLC continues to show its strength in Indoor Cricket: they have now won a pennant in at least one age group every year since 2003! They were victorious again this year, but, in a mirror image of last year's Grand Finals, they turned the tables on Shelford to win the Senior pennant, and relinquished their hold on both the Intermediate and Junior titles to Melbourne and Lauriston respectively. For Melbourne, it was their third Indoor Cricket pennant, but for Lauriston, it was just their second in GSV history, so the girls should be particularly proud of the achievement.



Softball

MLC were also imposing on the Softball Diamond, with an impressive win over PLC in the Senior Grand Final match, their second Senior title in a row.

Kilvington's Intermediate team, unable to contest finals last year due to a school calendar clash, finally had their day in the sun, finishing the season undefeated and with a GSV title to show for their efforts.

Shelford's Softball future looks bright with a new batch of Juniors very skilled in the sport. Shelford have won their share of Softball pennants in the past but, until their convincing victory over second placed team Kilvington this year, had not been in the winner's circle since 2005. We look forward to following their progress as they develop as a team.

Tennis

The 2009 Tennis season was all about St Catherine's. With teams making the Grand Finals in the Intermediate A as well as Junior A, B and C competitions, they were bound to end the season with a smile or two. And smile they did, winning three out of four of the Grand Final matches. OLMC were the spoilers, but were forgiven as the Junior A grade match was not only a thriller, but was played to an exceptionally high standard. Tintern, Firbank and Melbourne demonstrated their schools' long standing pedigree, winning the remaining pennants on offer.

	SENIOR A	SENIOR B	INTER A	INTER B	JUNIOR A	JUNIOR B	JUNIOR C
Softball	MLC		Kilvington	Star of the Sea	Shelford	Star of the Sea	
Tennis	Tintern	Firbank	St Catherine's	Melbourne	OLMC	St Catherine's	St Catherine's
Indoor Cricket	MLC		Melbourne		Lauriston		

Weekly Sport

Term 2 2009 Weekly Sport

Hockey

Melbourne and MLC were all over the GSV Hockey competition this year, between them winning all the Grand Final matches. MLC defeated Melbourne in the Senior match, Melbourne defeated Ruyton in the intermediate A Grand Final, while MLC defeated PLC in the B grade. In the Junior Finals, Melbourne was victorious over MLC in both grades.

While the two historically dominant Hockey schools were on top of their game, it is still good to see schools such as Ruyton, PLC, Genazzano and Lauriston still regularly featuring in Finals, along with Camberwell and Ivanhoe who are newer to the Hockey Finals scene.

Netball

As we have grown to expect, Star of the Sea had the greatest success on the Netball courts, winning almost half of the Grand Final pennants on offer. But OLMC and MLC were also well represented, winning three and two titles respectively. Genazzano and Firbank were also in the winners' circle this year.

OLMC were particularly proud of their Junior Netballers, with teams from all six grades playing at Finals. 2009 has been their most successful year and they will be looking forward to building on this success.

Korowa's Senior B team was excited to qualify for Semi Finals and neighbours Sacré Coeur were also pleased that four of their teams qualified for the Finals series.

Netball Results

	A GRADE	B GRADE	C GRADE	D GRADE	E GRADE	F GRADE
Senior	Star of the Sea	Firbank	Star of the Sea			
Intermediate	Genazzano	Star of the Sea	OLMC	MLC		
Junior	Star of the Sea	Star of the Sea	MLC	OLMC	Star of the Sea	OLMC

Waterpolo Results

	DIVISION 1	DIVISION 2
Open	Lauriston	Lauriston



Hockey Results

	A GRADE	B GRADE
Senior	MLC	
Intermediate	Melbourne	MLC
Junior	Melbourne	Melbourne



Open Waterpolo

Lauriston's long time Waterpolo mentor Jeanette Gunn has left the school but that hasn't lessened their enthusiasm for the sport. Their A team finished the season undefeated with an average winning margin of almost 14 goals!

And it was not until their Grand Final match that they were under any pressure. Lauriston came out blazing in the first quarter, scoring 6 quick goals before rivals Loreto could get their measure. The remainder of the match was a much tighter tussle, but Loreto could not recover from their slow start and went down 12-6. Lauriston's B team were also victorious over MLC in their Grand Final match.



Weekly Sport

Term 3 2009 Weekly Sport

The Term Three sports of Badminton, Soccer and Volleyball have been growing in popularity for the past few years, a trend that shows no signs of abating. In fact the biggest challenge in Term Three is finding venues for all the teams entered in the competition!

Despite the venue and fixture challenges brought on by such interest in the sport, GSV is delighted by the number of schools entering one or more teams in the Badminton competition. And while Toorak College, MLC, PLC and Firbank have regularly enjoyed Finals success, it is great to see schools such as Camberwell, Ivanhoe, St Catherine's and Shelford joining them at the top of the ladders.

Soccer also continues to grow both in popularity and skill development. All 24 schools fielded teams, and Star of the Sea and Genazzano fielded three Junior teams! And more schools are playing the game at a level good enough to qualify for Finals. In fact, 11 of our 24 schools played Finals Soccer in 2009, which is just fantastic for the sport.

There were plenty of reasons for the girls at Toorak College to celebrate, with their most fruitful season of GSV sport on record. The school from Mornington Peninsula spent plenty of time travelling up the highway during the Finals series, having qualified for nine out of 14 Finals on offer in Term 3. They were rewarded with wins in every Semi Final they contested and Premiership pennants in Intermediate and Junior Badminton, Senior A grade Soccer and Senior A grade Volleyball. They were runners up in the Senior Badminton, Intermediate A and B grade Soccer and the Junior A and B grade Volleyball. What a haul!

OLMC were also grinning at the end of the season, winning four premiership pennants in Soccer and Volleyball, equalling last year's Term 3 success.



	SENIOR A	SENIOR B	INTER A	INTER B	JUNIOR A	JUNIOR B
Badminton	PLC		Toorak		Toorak	
Soccer	Toorak		Firbank	OLMC	Firbank	OLMC
Volleyball	Toorak	Star of the Sea	Star of the Sea	OLMC	Lauriston	OLMC



Carnivals

Diving and Swimming

Diving

GSV Diving continues to set the standard in school Diving in Victoria with some of the country's best Junior Divers competing in GSV Carnivals. There are some spectacular Divers: Annabelle Smith (Sacré Coeur) and Kate McIntosh (Loreto Mandeville Hall) are our standout Seniors; Hannah Thek (MLC), Emma Jamieson (Ruyton) and Anna Gelai (Firbank) are our impressive Intermediates; and Tiffany Galloway (Lauriston) and Abigail Dawson (Firbank) the rising star Juniors. These girls all had a significant impact on how their respective schools fared.

In Division One, the age group trophies were spread between Lauriston, Loreto Mandeville Hall and MLC, but yet again, Firbank had the depth across the board and took out the overall title for the eighth time! Well done to Strathcona who were dominant in Division Two, and Shelford, who won Division Three.

Swimming

No-one can touch them! The MLC Swim Squad broke their own record of dominance, winning the Division One Swimming Carnival by a staggering 141 points! Whilst they have depth on their side (given their student numbers) they couldn't have won so convincingly without a team of champions. The GSV Finals Evening showcased these champions with nine MLC girls winning 13 medals and eight relay teams also making it onto the dais.

MLC's party was only dampened slightly with Korowa's Senior squad stealing the Senior age group trophy from MLC by just 5 points. Congratulations to the Korowa girls – it was a well deserved victory.

GSV predicts that Star of the Sea will be contenders over the next few years. Star solidified their place in Division One with their Juniors picking up second place and their Intermediates securing third - the school's best Swimming result so far.

Championship Diving Results

	DIVISION 1	DIVISION 2	DIVISION 3
1st Place	Firbank	Strathcona	Shelford
2nd Place	MLC	Melbourne	Tintern
3rd Place	Star of the Sea	Genazzano	Lowther Hall



Championship Swimming Results

	DIVISION 1	DIVISION 2	DIVISION 3
1st Place	MLC	Strathcona	Sacré Coeur
2nd Place	Korowa	Toorak	OLMC
3rd Place	Firbank	PLC	St Margaret's



Carnivals

Cross Country

With Autumn comes the Cross Country season, and in parks and trails throughout metropolitan Melbourne squads of girls are out building their speed and endurance for the most gruelling event on the GSV calendar.

With Melbourne experiencing yet another dry Autumn, the park trees were looking a little sad, but the girls were happy for the mild conditions in which to train and compete. Both the Preliminary and Championship Carnivals were blessed with delightful weather but it was still tough out on the course, with the girls competing against some of the best runners in the State for individual and team honours.

Ruyton were looking for their seventh Division One title, but with a few of their big guns sitting on the sidelines through injury, it certainly wasn't a fait accompli.

And when Genazzano's Year 7 and 8 girls performed exceptionally to win the Junior Title, Ruyton's previously firm grip on the overall trophy looked a bit tenuous.

But Ruyton's Intermediate and Senior girls were motivated more than ever. Ruyton took out the Intermediate title (narrowly over Genazzano) and Senior title (convincingly) and, in the end, ran away with the Overall Trophy for the seventh successive year.

Congratulations to Ruyton who continue to set the benchmark in Cross Country running; to MLC's girls who consistently perform well and were second overall for the fourth year in a row; and to the much improved Genazzano squad who, with such strong Junior and Intermediate runners, will be the ones to watch in 2010 and beyond.

Special mention should also be given to the St Margaret's team with by far their biggest improvement, leapfrogging seven schools to win the Division Two Championship Carnival. We hope to see them continue to climb the ladder of success.



Cross Country Aggregate Results

	DIVISION 1	DIVISION 2	DIVISION 3
1st Place	Ruyton	St Margaret's	OLMC
2nd Place	MLC	Toorak	PLC & Shelford
3rd Place	Genazzano	Korowa	



Genazzano on the Run

Genazzano celebrated its best age group result in GSV Cross Country with their very first Division One Junior trophy. And their Overall third place in Division One equalled their best overall performance.

According to Head of Sport Matthew Wesson, the team has been steadily improving. He attributes their success to his dynamic young coaches, most of whom are Genazzano 'old girls'. They start their training program at the beginning of the year, calling it 'Fun Running'. Mr Wesson believes that by keeping the emphasis on fun more girls stay involved, maintaining the team's depth.



Carnivals

Track and Field

Changing of the Guard

What a coup!!!! Ruyton Girls' School achieved the improbable (considering its boutique size) by dethroning Track and Field queens, Star of the Sea College. In celebrating Ruyton's win we don't take anything away from Star of the Sea's achievements: an eight year reign is a GSV record which may never be beaten.

But full accolades to Ruyton. Their athletes have collectively outrun, out-distanced and overthrown their GSV competitors. They won the Intermediate and Senior age groups as well as the Overall and School Population trophies at their Preliminary Carnival.

In the Championship Carnival, with the impressive MLC team breathing down their neck, Ruyton only broke ahead in the final events of the day. MLC's Junior athletes were clearly strongest but Ruyton's Intermediates and Seniors had the competition covered. And, in a final show of strength at the GSV Finals Evening, Ruyton's athletes topped the Gold medal tally.

For Ruyton, winning was a challenge, but holding on to the trophy will be very tough: Star of the Sea will be working hard to wrest back the title; MLC are as hungry as ever and have the strength of their Juniors behind them; and quiet achiever Genazzano also has an impressive Junior squad.

Track & Field Results

	DIVISION 1	DIVISION 2	DIVISION 3
1st Place	Ruyton	Loreto	Korowa
2nd Place	MLC	St Margaret's	Melbourne
3rd Place	Star of the Sea	Lauriston	Camberwell



Reaping the Rewards

While there was great excitement at the top end of the competition, there was plenty of celebrating by schools who have put considerable effort into their Track and Field training and reaped the rewards.

Genazzano competed in Division Three in 2007, were fourth in Division Two last year and leapfrogged even more schools this year to finish fifth in Division One!

St Margaret's have also moved from Division Three in 2007 to Division Two in 2008 and almost pipped Loreto Mandeville Hall for first place in Division Two this year.

But Sacré Coeur is by far the biggest improver, skyrocketing from Division Three into sixth place in Division One!

Tournaments

Badminton

PLC and Toorak represented GSV in the 2009 Badminton All Schools' competition. The Tournament is played as a series of singles and doubles matches and schools are ranked after those rounds before proceeding to the Finals series. PLC's Seniors were in one of the toughest pools and found playing singles matches challenging. But they enjoyed the experience and came away from the day proud to have represented PLC and GSV. Toorak's Intermediates came second in their pool after four rounds and were 5th overall after losing their Semi Final. Their Senior girls were third in their pool and finished fifth overall.



Soccer

Firbank's Intermediate and Junior Soccer teams represented GSV in the All Schools Soccer Tournament this year. Both teams played strongly in the round robin matches but were challenged by the might of St Monica's. The Intermediate team played them in the Semi Finals but were unable to convert at goal and lost 3-0. The Junior team however, having drawn to St Monica's in the round robin matches did not face them again until the Grand Final match and played valiantly, but conceded the match 1-0.



Basketball

A record 25 teams from 20 schools entered the Senior Basketball Tournament in 2009. The teams are divided into two groups and play a series of round robin matches in Term 2 with only the top two teams in each group progressing to the Finals held in Term 3. While MLC, Genazzano and Lowther Hall were all experienced Finals contenders, 2009 was the first year Ivanhoe had qualified for the big day. So it was to everyone's surprise that they dominated the competition to come away with the Title. In the 5-team B grade competition, MLC maintained their unblemished record of eight wins in a row.



Representative Netball

The GSV Rep Netball team offers girls the opportunity to make new friends, develop their Netball skills and represent Girls Sport Victoria.

This year, almost 50 girls from 16 GSV schools attended the trials with 10 girls from six schools selected for the squad. These talented Netballers had demonstrated their commitment, eagerness and enthusiasm to make the squad, but, come game time, it was teamwork that helped them defeat both the Penleigh and Essendon Grammar and EISM Rep Teams.

The long-awaited game against the Queensland School Sports Team gave the GSV team the opportunity to try a few new things on court. Moments of brilliance, creativity, accurate shooting and tight defence across the court were displayed throughout the match. However, the talented, tall players from the Queensland School Sports Team overran our girls, defeating GSV 49 to 33.

Elle Bennetts (class of 2007, Star of the Sea College)



AFL Skills Program

Inaugural AFL Season Flies High

After eight years of running a purely skill development AFL program, GSV was keen to take it to a new level and invited schools to participate in a six-week, modified rules competition. GSV was overwhelmed by the response. Eight schools entered 13 teams and a GSV combined team included girls from another three GSV schools.

Teams played five home and away matches culminating in a 'Grand Final' match as well as consolation matches for the other 12 teams. With such a successful season in 2009 the AFL competition will become a regular fixture on the GSV winter calendar.



Ivanhoe Girls Love Tackling Footy

At Ivanhoe, we have always loved the AFL skills program. We learnt new skills, made friends with girls from other schools and played a sport that was not readily available for girls. But the highlight was always the final day when we could 'show off' our new-found skills competing against other teams.

So we were really excited when the Program moved to a Friday night and a competitive format. Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar fielded three teams and they all did our school proud. Our 'first' team was undefeated until the Final when they came up against Star of the Sea in a tough match.

The Friday night competition attracted more girls to AFL Football. The passion that everybody showed was evident and the team spirit was electric. It was great fun and everybody is already excited about next year.

Emily McColl Year 12, Ivanhoe Girls Grammar



Star Kicks a Goal!

Star of the Sea had so many girls sign up for the first GSV AFL season that we fielded two teams.

We played each other in our first match, which proved a good indicator of the skills required. It was more difficult than many of the girls expected but much more enjoyable than being a spectator!

Our 'A' team then played St Catherine's, Mentone and Strathcona. All the games were exciting, but we remained undefeated and earned a spot in the Grand Final against Ivanhoe. Not surprisingly, it was the closest, most skilful game we'd encountered all season. But we played well and won the inaugural Premiership.

The GSV AFL season was a fantastic opportunity for our girls to test their skills in a game they love so much, and we are already looking forward to next year's season.

Margaret Gleeson Year 11, Star of the Sea

Stephanie Represents Victoria

For the first time in AFL's 150 year history, a State Secondary Schools Girls' Representative Football team was selected to represent Victoria in the 2009 National Titles, and I was honoured to be selected.

We were disappointed to lose our first game by just a few points. But as the Tournament progressed we all improved and played some awesome team football. Playing with skill, passion and teamwork, we were rapt with our eventual second place in the competition.

The honour of being able to wear the Big V jumper and run out onto a Footy field is an unbelievable feeling. Many people still think Aussie Rules Football is a sport exclusively for boys, but that is changing as more girls get involved. Personally, I love it and hope to see many more girls playing Footy in the future.

Stephanie De Bortoli, Year 9, OLMC



GSV Skills Development Program



Coaches from Life Saving Victoria help hone the girls' skills in board paddling, surf swimming and beach sprinting in the lead-up to the Victoria Schools' Surf League competition.



With guidance from a Triathlon Victoria coach, GSV girls had the opportunity to compete in a Triathlon, most for the very first time.



The girls discovered that learning to ride a fixed wheel bike on a velodrome is challenging, but once you master it, Track Cycling is exhilarating.



Whether it be the GSV Golf Skills Program, Parent/Daughter Golf afternoons, the 'friendly' Ambrose Golf Day or the more competitive Past and Present Students' Golf event, GSV girls just love their Golf.



GSV's Fencing program continues to attract girls interested in the intrigue of this ancient sport, which requires both strategy and agility.



Year 7 and 8 Sports Expos

In Fourth Term every year, GSV's Year 7 and 8 Expos give students the opportunity to try a wide range of different sports, many of which they may never have played before. Some of the sports are historically male dominated including Rugby League, AFL and Cricket. Others Sport Development Officers that attend to promote their sport are more recreational pursuits such as Beach Tennis, Bocce and Ultimate Frisbee. But they all have one thing in common: they are keen to attract more girls to their respective sports. Wheelchair Sports was particularly popular with girls learning about the challenges and opportunities of living a physically active life with a disability.



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