



Ferntree Gully C.C.  
PO Box 1154, Mountain Gate Shopping Centre, Ferntree Gully 3156  
Club Room Ph No. (03) 9758 9880.

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## Blues E-News

Edition 1

Welcome everyone. A new initiative that we are getting up and running for this season is a fortnightly club newsletter sent to all our players, members, sponsors and supporters via email. Therefore, if we have your email address on our database we should be able to keep you posted on the club activities throughout the season.

Firstly, we have appointed a new coach for this season. Shane Richardson will take over from where Matt Black left off. Matt will continue to play for Ferntree Gully and his experiences from coaching the club for the last two seasons will play a pivotal role in the clubs drive for success this season.

Shane is 33 years old and has come to us from Upwey CC. He played the last 3 seasons there after having coached Footballers CC for 2 years. He played junior cricket at Upwey including stints in Hatch and Dowling Shield for Richmond. He then played at Richmond in the 3rds before returning to Upwey and playing in five Topline Shield premiership teams. Shane has already impressed with his hardline attitude toward training and should be a great influence on the youngsters that are coming into the senior club.

The club has also appointed former Ferntree Gully (and more recently The Basin CC) player, Adam Luckman as a specialist Techniques Coach. Adams sole role will be to improve our players batting and bowling techniques in the nets, including both senior and junior players. Adam will be undertaking this role on Tuesday nights on a fortnightly basis. He will also be available (for a small fee) for separate individual sessions. Please speak to him if you'd like to arrange a session.

The club is again looking to field six senior teams this season but with a few players having left for 'greener pastures' we may be struggling to get the six teams filled. We are therefore calling on all past, and any new, players to make themselves available for this season. More teams will mean more good people around the club and more opportunities for the junior players to express their talents in senior grades.

On the subject of players moving on, the club would like to wish the following players all the best in their endeavours, be it playing with new clubs or having decided to have a rest away from the game for the time being. Mark Butters, Randall Joseph, Brett McIntyre, Josh Henry, Mark Teofilo, Ryan Handley. This will obviously leave positions open for all those who desire to play cricket specifically in the first and seconds. And with an influx of young and enthusiastic junior players coming through the ranks we can again look forward to youth being at the forefront of our club.

As some players leave, we also have some new players who join the club. Obviously Shane Richardson is welcomed as the new coach but we also welcome back past player Luke Bowyer who is keen and raring to kick off the season where he left it when he departed for District side Ringwood and a stint at Mountain Gate. We also welcome back another of our past junior cricketers in Brad Martin. Brad has spent a significant amount of his cricket career with AuraVale where he played a pivotal role building the club. He established himself as a 1<sup>st</sup> XI player as well as leading the club in the capacity of President. In his final year last year he was honoured with Life Membership. Fortunately for both Brad and Ferntree Gully CC, he's finally realised his ways and has 'come home' to finish off his career with the Blues. Welcome back Brad. We'll let you know of the other new players in the next issue.

### **Around the Club** **(Upcoming Social Events)**

As the social calender is still to be finalised, the first gathering has been and gone. An informal

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meal and drink at the Ferntree Gully Football Club was held Thursday week ago for the players that had been coming to Pre-Season training. The footy club had their vote count night on and we added about 35 people to the night. A great start for the continued partnership between the cricket and football clubs.

Our next gathering will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> September and will comprise a 20/20 game, bbq lunch and registration day. The day will kick off at 9.30 am. All players are expected to be available for the match and registrations paid on the day.

**20/20 Game / BBQ/ Registration Day**  
**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September @ 9.30am**

There is also a Community event being held at the clubrooms on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October. 'Secret Mens Stuff '08' is organised by our own Steve Barrington and is a great night packed with fun, activities, talks and information on 'what it is to be a healthy male today'. For further information contact Steve on 8711 8677 or [foothills@optusnet.com.au](mailto:foothills@optusnet.com.au)

**Secret Men's Stuff '08**  
**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October @ 7.30pm FTGCC Clubrooms**  
**Drinks at bar prices**  
**Special Guest: Merv Hughes/ Comedian**  
**Tickets: \$10 at the door**

### **Go Topp!**

Young Ferntree Gully player, Michael Topp, is currently training at the MCG for a position in the squad for the Victorian Under 17 team. Michael has very bright future and the local District clubs are in hot pursuit for his services. Michael has committed to the Ferntree Gully CC this season but it won't be long until the door opens and he's off. To get a glimpse of Michael's talents, get down to first game of the season and you'll be able to see him bowling, batting and fielding and leaving the older guys in the team in his wake!!

### **Step up to the plate kids!**

We have long known the junior talent that the club has produced and we now call upon the new generation to take a significant step up. The likes of Jayden Bradbury, Michael Topp, Josh Chamberlain, Nick Calvert and others need to make their mark this season. We old guys would love to see these young men performing at the highest level. It's now time to make it happen.

### **Air Hockey anyone?**

The Brewster family (Lyn and Alan) provide the senior club with an annual donation for the club to use to better the facilities for the players. We have previously purchased a table tennis table and from last years donation we've purchased a ¾ size Air Hockey table for the rooms. This will give all members the chance to enjoy the clubs great facilities and especially the young kids who stay around after the games while mum and dad have a quiet relaxing drink. Once again, thanks to Lyn and Alan for the kind donation.

### **Gus Bull**

As most club members would be aware, our club stalwart Graham 'Gus' Bull has been fighting off illness since mid last season. I'm pleased to be able to say that Gus is well and truly on the improve and he's now back walking hard in the aim to strengthen himself. Also, beware. He's got his wheels back on the road!! We're all looking forward to see both Gus and Carol back down at the club enjoying watching the boys play instead of toiling in the kitchen and canteen all day!

### **Chef Le'Blue!**

Due to Gus' recent illness last year, the kitchen was taken over by a bunch of part timers (!!)

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and although their efforts were half decent, it lacked that 'punch' that Gus and Carol gave to it. But through blood, sweat and tears we've been able to land the recruiting coup of the decade. Recently retired, Vern Syzmanski (Kylie Salan's dad!) was a top notch Chef and has put his hand up to do Thursday night meals and look after the canteen on Saturday afternoons. Looking forward to a new a'la carte menu with plenty of fine wine to knock it down!

### Junior News

Junior President, Peter Chamberlain and his committee have got the juniors up and firing and early numbers suggest that we'll have the following sides:

x2 Under 17's

x1 Under 15's

x3 Under 13's

x3 Under 11's

Milo Cricket

This is a great effort from the junior committee. From four years ago when our junior numbers dwindled to the point of extinction, they've been able to put the Ferntree Gully Junior CC back on the map. As much as the numbers are fantastic, the depth of talent that is now emerging is incredible as shown by those that have attended the Junior Development Squad for pre-season indoor training. Keep it going guys (and girls). The senior club is more than happy to do its bit and provide all the encouragement for these boys to progress through the ranks.

### Sponsors Update

We're always on the lookout for new club sponsors and this year is no exception. Already jumping on board to join our long list of businesses and individuals that help support us throughout these difficult times is 'Subways' in Ferntree Gully and SuperSafe Scaffolds. The next edition will provide a list of all club sponsors. Please ensure that we use our sponsors and let them know you from Ferntree Gully CC when you make a purchase.

### Committee

The committee for the season 2008/09 is:

**President:** Graham Salan  
**Vice President:** Greg Mastertoun  
**Secretary:** Graham Toogood  
**Treasurer:** Wayne Pretty  
**Committee:** D.Glare  
J.Franchi  
B.Wells  
M.McLean  
R.Faragher  
R.Sevior  
M.Black

### Blues News!!

If you have some news or items of interest that you would like to place in the Blues News, please send it to me via email on [grahamdione@bigpond.com](mailto:grahamdione@bigpond.com)

Regards

*Graham Salan  
Ferntree Gully CC  
Senior President*