

Youngsters shine on national stage

Little Athletics | Ringwood

TWO members of the Ringwood Little Athletics Centre – Andrew Bialecki and Amy Benifer – recently represented Victoria at the Australian All-Schools Track and Field Championships.

Andrew claimed the gold in the javelin with a throw of 45.41m.

Though Andrew led early, he fell back to third place before the last round.

But, he saved his best until last and then watched-on as his nearest rivals, unsuccessfully, tried to take the national title from him.

In the discus, Andrew was always in the hunt for a minor medal but just couldn't nail the really big throw needed to grab the bronze medal and finished fourth with 45.46m, just 1.2m behind third.

Meanwhile, after a leap of 1.58m, Amy finished seventh in the high jump.

Amy jumped very well to clear close to her previous personal best, without a foul, and then set a new personal best on the second attempt.

Unfortunately, 1.61m proved just a little too much, though one attempt was very close.

Amy's pre-competition goals were to jump a PB and be the top Victorian – both she achieved.

And, at the National Primary School Track and Field Championships in Bendigo last week, Ringwood's Bianca Hansen won a gold medal in the multi-event, the tetrathlon.

Bianca competed across all three days of the national carnival.

With personal best performances in all events, except the long jump, she obtained the following results on the way to her overall gold medal:

100m : 14.44sec, long jump: 4.56m,

shot put (2kg): 13.47m, 800m: 3min 02.60sec, shot put: 12.57m.

The competition from other states, including New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania, ACT, South Australia and the Northern Territory, was exceptionally strong this year and left the Victorian team with less than 20 podium positions.

Bianca was the only girl in the Victorian team to win an individual event at the championships.

Overall, the Victorian team managed just seven winning performances – showing just how tough the competition was this year.



Bianca Hansen

Ex-Lion/Bomber is back where it all started Cupido true Blue

EFL | Conor Ryan

THE Croydon Football Club will enter 2011 with a familiar face on-board, with ex-AFL livewire Damian Cupido returning to the club where he got his start.

The Blues have been ringing the changes since the end of the 2010 season, with a new coach, Brett Chandler, on board to lead what will be a different-looking side next season.

Cupido has a long history with the club, playing games with the under-18s from age 14 up until he was drafted by the Brisbane Lions, with pick No.6, in the 1999 national draft.

The abundantly-talented but off-maligned 28-year-old joins the Blues having spent 2010 in the Ovens & Murray Football League helping North Albury to a finals appearance, where he bagged 10 goals in his first foray forward for the season.

Cupido said he felt like it was a good time to return home.

"With where the footy club's at, it's a perfect fit for me," he said.

"It's a great opportunity for me to start my coaching career as a senior playing-assistant under Brett Chandler.

"I think, with the experiences that I've had over the journey, I've got a lot to offer the Croydon Football Club. I've had a great run with injuries and I'm looking forward to getting stuck into the pre-season in the new year."

Cupido's career with Brisbane,

from 2000-02, produced 13 games before a trade to Essendon saw him play a further 40 matches.

After leaving the Bombers in 2005, Cupido spent time with SANFL clubs South Adelaide (2006) and West Adelaide (2007-09), briefly returning to Melbourne before heading to North Albury.

Croydon, beaten grand finalists in 2009, scraped into the top five this year only to suffer a nine-goal thrashing by a young Norwood side in the elimination final.

Croydon president David Green said the club was excited about Cupido's return.

"We're very pleased, as a club, to have one of our sons return after a very distinguished career in the elite competitions," he said.

"Damian has signed to return to the club for the coming season and both he and the club are excited about the reunion.

"The club has already had a lot of interest in the signing from supporters and sponsors and we're all looking forward to seeing Damian on Croydon Oval again."

Cupido said the reception he had received from the club had been "overwhelming".

"The club's really happy to have me back and it feels good to be back," he said.

"It almost feels like I haven't really left because they've been behind me the whole time.

"It's fantastic that I'm able to put something back into the footy club that's always supported me."



New Croydon signing Damian Cupido back in his Essendon AFL days.

Picture: COLLEEN PETCH

East's new whistleblowers

Conor Ryan

THE Eastern Football League has been busier than some of its clubs in the traditional off-season recruitment period, bringing in three experienced umpires to further-boost the league's umpiring standards.

The three appointments will cover a variety of roles, headed by new field umpires coach Shane Mason.

Mason, a VFL life member with 188 senior games in charge, will have a role in running training sessions for umpires and on match days as an observer.

Former-EFL umpire Dan Beard returns to the league after officiat-

ing in more than 200 VFL games and will serve in an on-field leadership role with the men-in-white.

As a further boost for the league's young umpiring ranks, recently-retired AFL umpire Scott McLaren will serve as a mentor to a rookie squad of young umpires through monthly sessions.

The EFL's head of umpiring, Cameron Nash, said the additions were about getting the right people with the right experience.

"We didn't actually have a dedicated field umpires coach this year. Having such a young field umpiring group, we thought it was important getting someone with such great experience to help out all of our umpires," he said.

SCOREBOARD

LAWN BOWLS

RINGWOOD

TUESDAY: No. 1 defeated Heathmont 67-64 (D. Corrigan 21-19, H. Hunter 27-18, B. Meadows 19-27); No. 2 defeated Ferntree Gully 275-70 (J. Corrigan 17-26, M. Bartling 40-8, M. Basile 18-36); No. 3 89-44 (P. Bertie 30-14, F. Walker 29-13, R. Oughtbridge 30-17)

SATURDAY: No. 1 defeated Heatherdale 113-77 (R. Davey31-18, D. Maguire 27-21, A. Witkowski 24-20, T. Witkowski 31-18); No. 2 defeated Auburn 103-92 (D. Gallop 24-22, J. Dardel 19-38, B. Kellett 33-12, D. Corrigan 27-20); No. 3 lost to Blackburn North 76-111 (K. Witney 20-25, L. Heal 16-34, P. Brooks 24-25, A. Kautz 18-27); No. 4 defeated Bennettswood 142-78 (C. Davey 34-13, R. Snell 26-30, A. De Zilwa 49-13, D. Bonning 33-22); No. 5 defeated Bundoora RSL 7 101-76 (K. Aird 23-24, D. Marquis 23-20, Pa. Gunther 24-15, M. Bartling 31-17); No. 6 defeated Heathmont 7 104-83 (S. Bannan 20-21, M. Tresise 34-19, M. Gundry 21-22, R. Oultbridge 29-21); No. 7 vs Burwood Districts 5 (T. Rhynsberger, J. Aquarolo, S. Hobson, G. Boler) (Burwood Districts 5 unable to field a side and forfeited the match and points)

TABLE TENNIS

CROYDON DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS

Wednesday Pennant.

A1: Gembrook 21 def Wandin 14 Healesville 24 def Warburton 11 Seville 35 def Bye 0 Leading Player - Nick Brooke

A2: Vermont 25 def Blackburn 10 Woori Yallock 24 def Scoresby 11 Toorong Zoo 27 def Croydon 8 Leading Player - Liviston Paul

B1: Mulgrave 26 def Montrose 9 Rowville 33 def Bayswater 2 South Croydon 25 def Lilydale 10 Leading Player - Ben Meggs

B2: Warrandyte 19 def Upper Ferntree Gully 16 North Ringwood 18 def Donvale 17 Doncaster 35 def Bye 0 Leading Player - Paul Ede

C1: Chirnside Park 35 def Bye 0 Boronia 23 def Coldstream 12 Kilsyth 23 def Mitcham 12 Leading Player - Lyn Gilson

C2: Monbulk 26 def Olinda 9 Mt.Evelyn 26 def Upwey 9 Leading Player - Geoff Manolitsa

Thursday Pennant

Section 1: Bayswater 14 def Kalista 3 Montrose 10 def Blackburn 7 Leading Player - Kelvin Cosgriff & Ben Gormann

Section 2: Belgrave 13 def Wandin 4 Gembrook 17 def Ringwood 0 Leading Player - Adam Newfield

Section 3: Boronia 13 def Vermont 4 Wantirna 14 def Knox 3 Mitcham 17 def Bye 0 Leading Player - Garth Probyn Smith

Section 4: Emerald 11 def Coldstream 6 Box Hill 10 def Kilsyth 7 Leading Player - Michael Harrison

Friday Pennant

Section 1: Eastwood 28 def Tecoma 7 Swans 19 def Aliens 16 Leading Player - Andrew De Zwart

Section 2: Bombers 22 def Youngbloods 13 Invaders 23 def Heathmont 12 Templestowe 23 def Olinda 12 Leading Player - John Budinski

Monday Morning

Section 1: Seville 15 def Mooroolbark 0 Bayswater 8 def Croydon 7 Olinda 11 def Ringwood 4 Kilsyth 8 def Lilydale 7 Leading Player - Dianne Pierson

Section 2: Croydon 10 def Kilsyth 5 Seville 12 def Bayswater 3 Mooroolbark 14 def Olinda 1 Leading Player - John Hughan

Section 3: Croydon 12 def Ringwood 3 Mooroolbark 13 def Olinda 2 Leading Player - Carolyn Bialecki

Thursday Morning

Section 1: Mooroolbark 10 def Kilsyth 5 Croydon 10 def Seville 5 Lilydale 10 def Bayswater 5 Leading Player - Andrew Fairhead

Section 2: Croydon 14 def Kilsyth 1 Lilydale 10 def Mooroolbark 5 Seville 9 def Bayswater 6 Leading Player - David Huddart

Section 3: Kilsyth 10 def Mooroolbark 5 Ringwood 12 def Olinda 3 Seville 12 def Croydon 3 Leading Player - Dorathey Markley

The Russell Lavale Senior Player of the Year: NICK BROOKE

The Karl McKernan Junior Player of the Year: DOMINIC HUANG

The Presidents Award: HELGA SPITZER