Media Release

By Bryan Mitchell

The TAC Cup season officially concluded for Gippsland Power when the club held its best and fairest presentation at the Morwell RSL. Traditionally this is a day of celebration when the achievements of players and officials are recognised and celebrated but it is also tinged with a feeling of loss as automatically half the playing group “graduate” and move on to a wide range of senior football opportunities. It’s possible for boys to be part of the “Power family” for five seasons starting with the under-15’s and obviously the players, parents, wider family and friends become attached to the club.

The official part of the day began with East Gippsland Development Manager Rob Reid thanking all the Staff for their contribution to what has been a very successful season seeing Power make their third Grand Final appearance. He also thanked Head Coach Damain Carroll who has made a huge impact in his two years with the club. He has assisted Peter Francis in the process of fine-tuning and operating a highly effective structured development program. His impact is not confined to the football field as he has empowered the boys to set and achieve goals and in doing so has given them ongoing life skills.

The formal component part of the day saw Morrish Medal winner Dyson Heppell win the hotly contested best and fairest award after a stellar season where he was an integral part of the club midfield. Dyson is a very professional player whose strength, hardness, discipline and commitment allowed him to play state football make All Australian as well as being one of the best midfielders in the whole competition.

Maffra youngster Clay Smith was runner-up in the best and fairest to cap of what was a great season. His pace, hardness, determination, skill and self-belief made him to become a key member of the midfield.

The most improved player award was won by Patrick Jones who made significant progress throughout the pre-season and quickly became a pivotal player in the back line. His discipline, speed, work ethic and team focus was outstanding and he was a true leader on and off the field.

The Most Disciplined Player award was won by the hard working Aiden Lindsay. His hardness at the contests and leadership on and off the field is something the other boys aspire to.

The prestigious Coaches Award was won by Shaun Marusic who also combined discipline, strength and hardness to become a key element of the Power forward line.

Dean Macdonald won the leading goal kicker award for the club with 42 goals. Dean had a great season playing mainly at half forward.

The best first year player award was won by Jordan Staley. Jordan’s willingness to listen and learn and work on his game has made him one of the best ruckman in the competition. The trainers award was won by Dale Hoghton who took full advantage of the opportunity to come back as an under 19 player.

The Most Professional Player Award was won by the very classy Tim Northe. Tim had a great season winning state selection along the way.

Robbie Ross contribution off the field was recognised by his peers receiving the Best Clubman award for 2010. Rob Reid thanked the top-age boys who were moving on and recognised the outstanding contributions that they had made to the program. The boys moving on are Kele Asa Leausa, Thomas Carey, Tom Corry, Blake Carew, Ben Eddy, Kane Grinstead-Jones, Will Hamilton, Ben Handcock, Troy Harley, Dyson Heppell, Dale Hoghton, Patrick Jones, Jed Lamb, Aiden Lindsay, Dean Macdonald, Shaun Marusic, Kane McCarthy, Wayne Morris, Tim Northe, Ryan Pendlebury, Michael Ross, Brayden Salton, Darcy Thorpe, Lachlan Todd and James Young.

The focus now for the club is 2011 and beyond and lots of work has already been done to prepare the new-comers to step up and join the 12 or so boys are to play on again next year.