

## Letters to the Editor

Do you want to express a point of view? Tell us about your club? Advertise an event? Share a special [fencing] experience? Send us a picture you took at the last competition, or at your club... You can see your name in print! Write to the VAFA Post Office Box, or send an email to Amber: [ambereaap@hotmail.com](mailto:ambereaap@hotmail.com)

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**Anything you want to know?  
Check the VAFA Website!  
[www.vafa.org](http://www.vafa.org)**

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## President's Report

### 2006 ... off to a flying start!

The start of the 2006 fencing year has certainly been an odd one, not only for VAFA but also for my personal fencing endeavours (or lack thereof) ...

In the first instance, the entire tournament program was turned on its head by Melbourne hosting the 2006 Commonwealth Games. Normally, we would have been well into the fencing season, when instead we were cheering for our fellow Aussie athletes in a range of events other than fencing! Now that the excitement of CG2006 is behind us, we can get on with the serious business of the season.

Not surprisingly, though, the junior season started as normal, since the Junior and Cadet World Championships still take place around Easter. However, even the Australian National Junior Championships were slightly out of place, to allow for the scheduling of the inaugural Commonwealth Junior Fencing Championships in Chennai, India. The regular season starter, the under-20 training camp and the Under 20 National Championships were a great success. We should congratulate our locals, who achieved notable results in the National Championships: **Katie Boyles** was the top-ranked Australian in the junior women's foil; **Charles Hemery** took out silver in the men's foil and bronze in the men's epee, while **Dean Williams** won silver in the men's epee; **Victoria Vilagosh** won bronze in the women's sabre; in addition, we won both the men's epee and women's sabre teams.



From the Junior Nationals, our fencers went on directly to compete with some considerable success in the Commonwealth Junior Championships: In the foil, **Charles Hemery** won silver while **Dean Williams** brought home bronze; in the epee, **Martin Camilleri** also won silver. Our junior fencers have also achieved significant results in World Cups: **Dean Williams** made a top 64 (of 112) in foil in Como, and **Martin Camilleri** won gold in a junior world cup in Goteborg, and followed this with a bronze medal in Cairo. Well done to all our juniors! The seniors have also been busy: **Amber Parkinson** achieved a top 64 finish (in a field of 157 fencers) in Budapest in a designated A Grade; **Ross Austen** made the top 64 (in a field of 140) in Kuwait.

Two Victorian fencers were selected to represent Australia in the Cadet and Junior World Championships in Korea: **Martin Camilleri** in the individual junior epee and as a member of the epee team, and **Dean Williams** in the cadet and junior individual foil and the team foil and epee; our own **Vlad Sher** is there as coach – good luck to them all

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Kerrie Jarman, the sister of our own Helen Smith (former VAFA President and current national President). Our deepest sympathies go to you, Helen and all your family.

As always, there are happy events to report as well, and I am excited to be able to share with you all the news that Evelyn and I are contributing to the VAFA fencing team with the addition of our own new little female epeeist, arriving in the middle of August!

The year ahead promises to get more and more hectic, as fencers try to qualify not only for the World Championships in October, but also for the Commonwealth Fencing Championships in Belfast which immediately precede them. At least I don't have to worry about my performance, since I will be there in my capacity as Australian Team Manager! Good luck to all those trying to make the team – work hard ...

It's odd, the things that make one realise how important our sport is in one's life. I have been struggling with a back problem since January, and effectively have been unable to pick up an epee. It really reinforced for me just how central a part it plays in my life, and I miss the chance to actually get out on the strip and mix it with you all. So if I seem particularly grumpy when I make my regular complaints about the lack of support, you can put a small part of it down to my enforced idleness. You should never take for granted the opportunity to get out there and fence – you don't know what you are missing until you can't do it. It's precious.

Finally, 2006 is the 50th anniversary of the Melbourne Olympic Games, and although we don't yet know what form

it will take, there will be some fencing-related activity in the latter part of the year to celebrate this special occasion. For those of you who know anything about me, you know I cannot let such a milestone pass without linking it to the observation that the venue we currently use (our beloved 'Fencing Factory') is probably in worse shape than whatever venue was used fifty years ago. Does anyone happen to know, off-hand, where the Olympic Fencing Event was held in 1956? Perhaps we could 'trade up' by moving back there? Ah, well, one day, in a shiny new venue, in a far off dream ...

**Peter Osvath**

### Congratulations Alex Carroll!

Alex received a sponsorship cheque from the Darren Rogers, manager of the Bank of Queensland wishing her good luck for her competition tour to Europe. Alexandra trained in Romania and fenced in three World Cup Sabre competitions in Budapest (Hungary), London (England) and Lamezia (Italy) during February and March 2006.



### Annual Buy, Sell and Swap Meet, 18 June 1.30 pm, Fencing Factory

Don't miss out! Mark the date in your diary now! There are always many happy customers at the annual Buy, sell and swap meet. Clean out your cupboards for things to sell or make a list of new equipment you'd like at bargain prices, particularly all you beginners out there. This is a great opportunity to get you started.

Please note the closing date for submissions for the August edition of AtB is **10 August**. And please, contribute! This is your newsletter so forward me information you'd like to see published. I need material and you should all want to tell me things – a perfect relationship! Please note the revised VAFA schedule (as emailed to all VAFA members) appears on the final two pages of this AtB.

### Upcoming events

**26–28 May** Challenge Australia (Epee, NSW)  
**28 May** Vic. Schools Indiv. Champs (FF)  
**10–12 June** AFF Circuit # 2 D.H. McKenzie (SA)

**18 June** 1.30 pm Buy, sell & swap meet (FF)  
**30 June–4 July** U15 & U17 National Schools Champs

# VAFA results

<b>Under 20s Junior National Championships 17–20 Jan 06</b>			<b>Women’s sabre</b>			10	Jay Mackley	RMIT
<b>Individual</b>			1	ROSSETTI Chloe	WA	11	Yen-Sen Lee	FFC
<b>Men’s foil</b>			2	BARTLEY Nicola	QLD	12	Drew Mason	Blacklords
1	SLOWIACZEK Joe	NSW	3=	VILAGOSH Victoria	VIC	13	Richard Wilson	Melb. Uni
2	HEMERY Charles	VIC	3=	di BARTOLOMEO Anna	NSW	14	Loon Vongvixay	FFC
3=	CARIOTI Alex	NSW	5	PASSMORE Samantha	WA	15	Shannon Reid	MFC
3=	YUE Ashley	NSW	6	AUTY Samantha	VIC	16	Roger Alcock	VRI
5	MILLAR Jake	WA	7	BURSIAN Anna	VIC	17	Alex Kaufman	VRI (w/d after pools)
6	PENNY James	WA	8	O’GORMAN Kiara	VIC	<b>Men’s veterans</b>		
7	WILLIAMS Dean	VIC	<b>Teams</b>			1	Alex Kaufman	VRI
8	LEONE Jnr Paul	NSW	<b>Men’s foil</b>			2	Zoltan Vilagosh	Blacklords
10	NAGLE Christopher	VIC	1	NEW SOUTH WALES 'A'	NSW	3	Roger Alcock	VRI
13	JONES Tyson	VIC	2	VICTORIA 'A'	VIC	<b>Results Victorian Junior Individual #1 9 Apr 06</b>		
16	SHELLEY Jeremy	VIC	3	NEW SOUTH WALES 'B'	NSW	<b>U13 Girls' foil</b>		
23	GRANT Alex	VIC	3	WESTERN AUSTRALIA 'A'	WA	1	Amy Reynolds	VRI
27	MUELLER Damian	VIC	5	SOUTH AUSTRALIA 'A'	SA	<b>U13 Boys’ foil</b>		
30	GIPSON Jake	VIC	6	VICTORIA 'B'	VIC	1	Stephen Schultz	VRI
31	SHEEHAN William	VIC	7	QUEENSLAND	QLD	2	Kelvin Chang	Caulfield GS
37	GALLO William	VIC	7	SOUTH AUSTRALIA 'B'	SA	3	Connaill Auty	Fioretto
39	ODORISIO David	VIC	9	AUST. CAPITAL TERR.	ACT	4	TC Reynolds	VRI
45	McQUEENIE Raffaele	VIC	<b>Women’s foil</b>			5	Max Gilner	VRI
47	HANNAH Simon	VIC	1	SINGAPORE	SIN	6	Kim Christensen	Brunswick
<b>Women’s foil</b>			2	NEW SOUTH WALES 'A'	NSW	7	Raphael Diggins	Brunswick
1	TAY Yu Ling	SIN	3=	QUEENSLAND	QLD	8	Johnny Arhondis	Blacklords
2	WONG Cheryl Ye Han	SIN	3=	VICTORIA	VIC	<b>U15 Girls' foil</b>		
3=	BOYLES Katie	VIC	5	NEW SOUTH WALES 'B'	NSW	1	Ali Lancaster	VRI
3=	NG Ruth Yi Lin	SIN	6	SOUTH AUSTRALIA	SA	2	Hannah Payton	Blacklords
5	WANG Karin	NSW	7	WESTERN AUSTRALIA	WA	3	Laura Pierce	Brunswick
6	BUDNIAK Jackie	NSW	<b>Men’s epee</b>			<b>U15 Boys' foil</b>		
7	REID Liz	NSW	1	VICTORIA 'A'	VIC	1	Jake Gipson	VRI
8	SER Serene Xue Ling	SIN	2	NEW SOUTH WALES 'A'	NSW	2	Alex Grant	VRI
9	BERGER Sarah	VIC	3=	SOUTH AUSTRALIA 'A'	SA	3	Morgan Taylor	VRI
14	LANCASTER Alison	VIC	3=	SOUTH AUSTRALIA 'B'	SA	4	Damian Mueller	VRI
16	TIERNEY Catherine	VIC	5	NEW SOUTH WALES 'B'	NSW	5	Ned Daniher	Brunswick
19	VILAGOSH Victoria	VIC	6	QUEENSLAND	QLD	6	Kelvin Chang	Caulfield GS
<b>Men’s epee</b>			<b>Women’s epee</b>			7	Jack Martin	Geelong FC
1	SLOWIACZEK Joe	NSW	1	NEW SOUTH WALES 'A'	NSW	8	Carl Roffey	Peninsula
2	WILLIAMS Dean	VIC	2	VICTORIA 'A'	VIC	9	William Baulch	Brunswick
3=	HEMERY Charles	VIC	3	NEW SOUTH WALES 'B'	NSW	10	Callan Loewe	Brunswick
3=	LEONE Jnr Paul	NSW	3	SOUTH AUSTRALIA	SA	<b>U15 Girls' epee</b>		
5	CAMILLERI Martin	VIC	5	VICTORIA 'B'	VIC	1	Diana Sher	VRI
6	JIN David	NSW	6	QUEENSLAND	QLD	2	Ioana Mihailescu	Peninsula
7	RACIBORSKI Ted	NSW	<b>Mens’ sabre</b>			3	Yasmin Sutton	VRI
8	BLACKMAN Sam	SA	1	WESTERN AUSTRALIA 'A'	WA	4	Amy Reynolds	VRI
10	CHAMPLIN Matthew	VIC	2	QUEENSLAND	QLD	<b>U15 Boys' epee</b>		
14	SHELLEY Jeremy	VIC	3=	NEW SOUTH WALES	NSW	1	Alex Hunter	VRI
19	MIHAELESCU Cosmin	VIC	3=	VICTORIA	VIC	2	Tristan McCall	VRI
26	NAGLE Christopher	VIC	5	SOUTH AUSTRALIA	SA	<b>U20 Girls' foil</b>		
28	ODORISIO David	VIC	6	WESTERN AUSTRALIA 'B'	WA	1	Katie Boyles	VRI
29	HUNTER Alex	VIC	<b>Women’s sabre</b>			2	Becky Lissenburg	La Trobe
<b>Women’s epee</b>			1	VICTORIA	VIC	3	Kiara O’Gorman	Blacklords
1	BUDNIAK Jackie	NSW	2	WESTERN AUSTRALIA	WA	4	Hannah Payton	Blacklords
2	di BARTOLOMEO Anna	NSW	<b>VRI Open foil 26 Mar 06</b>			5	Mandy	Blacklords
3=	WILSON Seri	SA	<b>Women's foil</b>			<b>U20 Boys’ foil</b>		
3=	de JONGH Sarah	NSW	1	Jo Halls	MFC/VRI	1	Jake Gipson	VRI
5	DARBY Angela	VIC	2	Katie Boyles	VRI	2	Damian Mueller	VRI
6	BUDNIAK Elise	NSW	3	Elizabeth Warren	MFC	3	Mark Bianchin	Monash
7	RUSSELL Belinda	WA	4	Victoria Vilagosh	MFC	4	Simon Hannah	VRI
8	BUTTERWORTH Ashleigh	VIC	5	Nathalie Dunstan	FFC	5	James Rees	La Trobe
11	LANCASTER Alison	VIC	6	Huey Shin, Hong	LTU	6	Yen-Sen Lee	Fioretto
14	CURNOW Charlotte	VIC	7	Becky Lissenburg	LTU	7	Ned Daniher	Brunswick
15	BOYLES Katie	VIC	<b>Men's foil</b>			8	Jake Smorgon	MFC
18	BALL Melissa	VIC	1	Charles Hemery	VRI	9	William Huang	Caulfield GS
<b>Men’s sabre</b>			2	Dean Williams	VRI	10	Kutay Dal	Caulfield GS
1	WALSH James	QLD	3	Nick Payne	VRI	5		
2	HARCOURT Michael	QLD	4	Zoltan Vilagosh	Blacklords			
3=	JENZEN-JONES Nic	WA	5	Craig Gourlay	Melb. Uni			
3=	RACIBORSKI Joe	NSW	6	Robert Di Pasquale	Blacklords			
5	CROSS Adam	WA	7	Craig Bartlett	MFC			
6	NGUYEN Trong	WA	8	Cze Yang Goh	Melb. Uni			
7	LEONE Jnr Paul	NSW	9	Alex Grant	VRI			
8	FINKEL Alex	VIC						
13	NAGLE Christopher	VIC						

# VAFA Results cont.

<b>U20 Girls' epee</b>				17	de JONGH Sarah	NSW	30	DIAZ Joanne	WA
1	Katie Boyles	VRI		18	MENZ Ursula	SA	<b>Men's sabre</b>		
2	Becky Lissenburg	La Trobe		19	BUDNIAK Elise	NSW	1	LEITCH Simon	QLD
<b>U20 Boys' epee</b>				20	DOBSON-BLOCK Angela	VIC	2	CHAN Wei Ren David	SIN
1	James Rees	La Trobe		21	CULLETON Simone	WA	3=	HARCOURT Tony	QLD
2	Cosmin Mihailescu	Peninsula		22	MacFARLANE Sarah	WA	3=	HOWARD Michael	NSW
3	Mark Bianchin	Monash		23	BUDNIAK Jackie	NSW	5	WALSH James	QLD
4	William Huang	Caulfield GS		24	SOGGEE Jennifer	SA	6	CHEN Chien Yuen David	SIN
5	Kutay Dal	Caulfield GS		25	DARBY Angela	VIC	7	HOFFMAN David	NSW
<b>AFF Results</b>				26	GU Dianna	VIC	8	HARCOURT Mike	QLD
<b>AFF Circuit #1</b>				27	HOWLETT Susan	NSW	9	NICHOLSON Brendan	NSW
<b>22-23 Apr 06</b>				28	MOYLAN Danielle	WA	10	CASAGRANDE Zac	QLD
<b>Men's epee</b>				<b>Men's foil</b>			11	STEHLE Greg	VIC
1	ROBINSON Seamus	VIC		1	BARTOLILLO Frank	NSW	12	CHAN Jonathon	NZL
2	AUSTEN Ross	VIC		2	BEST Marcus	VIC	13	WELLS Sam	SA
3=	HEFFERNAN Nick	VIC		3=	JONES Chris	VIC	14	ROBERTSON Luke	NZL
3=	HEMERY Charles	VIC		3=	WILLIAMS Dean	VIC	15	WATTS Anthony	NSW
5	CAMILLERI Martin	VIC		5	SLOWIACZEK Joe	NSW	16	LEONE Paul	NSW
6	LEWITH Victor	VIC		6	MOK David	VIC	17	BOUGHTON Justin	VIC
7	CAHAN Rock	NZL		7	HEMERY Charles	VIC	18	JENZEN-JONES Nic	WA
8	MOK David	VIC		8	JACKSON Ian	VIC	19	EVANS Jason	ACT
9	JAMROZY Marek	WA		9	MARKEY Chris	NSW	20	NAGLE Christopher	VIC
10	CASAGRANDE Zac	QLD		10	PAYNE Nick	VIC	21	SNELLING Anthony	VIC
11	MUSUMECI Paul	VIC		11	JAMROZY Marek	WA	22	MOIR Kim	VIC
12	MacDONALD Kyle	NZL		12	MOCELLIN Claude	VIC	23	CONNARD Adrian	VIC
13	HROVAT Volker	NSW		13	PURDIE Richard	NSW	24	DARRAGH Stephen	WA
14	MERIAUX Mathieu	WA		14	GOURLAY Craig	VIC	25	KINNON David	ACT
15	WILLIAMS Dean	VIC		15	MARKS-BLUTH Alex	NSW	26	TROUNSON Andrew	VIC
16	PRUSCINO Michael	NSW		16	SHATTKY Blair	NZL	27	CAYLEY James	VIC
17	MacQUEEN Jason	VIC		17	TREMELLEN Anthony	VIC	28	ZYLAN Richard	VIC
18	DOLLEY William	VIC		18	HOSKINS Michael	NZL	<b>Women's sabre</b>		
19	CHAMPLIN Matthew	VIC		19	COTMAN Hugh	NSW	1	DU Min Yi	NSW
20	SUTHERLAND Alistair	NSW		20	ETO Shaun	QLD	2	CARROLL Alex	VIC
21	SUMMERFIELD Simon	VIC		21	LEONE Paul	NSW	3=	BROOKS Jess	NSW
22	LEWITH Richard	VIC		22	BARTLETT Craig	VIC	3=	ROSSETTI Chloe	WA
23	McENIERY Peter	QLD		23	VILAGOSH Zoltan	VIC	5	SUTHERLAND Roxey	NSW
24	CAHAN Jared	NZL		24	DONATO David	NSW	6	TAYLOR Katherine	NZL
25	MADDERN Will	QLD		25	HROVAT Volker	NSW	7	YEUNG Melissa	NSW
26	JIN David	NSW		26	McINTOSH Roger	VIC	8	BARTLEY Nicola	QLD
27	SESUN Andreas	NZL		27	SMITH Nick	VIC	9	LOGAN-BELL Christina	VIC
28	LEWIS James	WA		28	HOELLER Mike	SA	10	ANDRE Alex	NSW
29	DUNCAN Andy	NZL		29	SUMMERFIELD Simon	VIC	11	VILAGOSH Victoria	VIC
30	BLACKMAN Sam	SA		30	NAGLE Christopher	VIC	12	MORRIS Amanda	QLD
31	EDWARDS Luke	SA		31	SIMONS Callum	VIC	13	JORDAN Harriet	NSW
32	GRANT Mark	NSW		32	YENG Feng	NSW	14	ANG Yang Yang	MAS
33	EMMANUEL Bobby	WA		33	TALBOT-WRIGHT Ben	NSW	15	COLEMAN Meredith	SA
34	WILLIAMS David	VIC		34	THIRKELL Douglas	VIC	16	AUTY Samantha	VIC
35=	FLECKNOE-BROWN Sandy	ACT		35	EDWARDS Luke	SA	17	SPONG Alison	VIC
35=	MARSHALL Stuart	SA		36	FAULKNER Ehren	NSW	<b>Veteran Men's epee</b>		
37	YETER Haluk	VIC		37	GIPSON Jake	VIC	1	YETER Haluk	VIC 50+
38	PURDIE Richard	NSW		38	MUELLER Damian	VIC	2	HROVAT Volker	NSW 60+
39	AYCOCK Chris	ACT		39	HANNAH Simon	VIC	3=	MILLS Graham	NSW 60+
40	WILMOTT Myles	NSW		40	LEE Yen-Sen	VIC	3=	PURDIE Richard	NSW 50+
41	PERKINS Christopher	WA		41	GRANT Alex	VIC	5	MacDONALD Kyle	NZL 40+
42	BAKER David	NSW		42	REID Shannon	VIC	6	FAIRWEATHER Duncan	NSW 60+
43	FAIRWEATHER Duncan	NSW		43	BUCKLEY Andrew	VIC	7	WILMOTT Myles	NSW 40+
44	HUNTER Alex	VIC		44	BENVENISTE Tim	SA	<b>Veteran Women's epee</b>		
45	DETERING Glen	NSW		<b>Women's foil</b>			1	DOBSON-BLOCK Angela	VIC 40+
46	BECKWORTH Rowan	SA		1	HALLS Jo	VIC	2	SLOWIACZEK Anna	NSW 50+
47	BUCKLEY Andrew	VIC		2	WELLINGS Elli	VIC	3=	COLEMAN Meredith	SA 40+
48	NAGLE Christopher	VIC		3=	KOVACS Eszter	NSW	3=	JORDAN Harriet	NSW 40+
49	BACON Nigel	VIC		3=	SMIALKOWSKI Ania	NSW	<b>Women's foil</b>		
50	CARGILL Steven	VIC		5	BONNEY-MILLETT Jenny	QLD	1	BONNEY-MILLETT Jenny	QLD 40+
51	MOFFAT Andrew	VIC		6	BERGER Sarah	VIC	2	BUDNIAK Fiona	NSW 40+
<b>Women's epee</b>				7	WENBORN Lydia	NZL	3=	JORDAN Harriet	NSW 40+
1	PARKINSON Amber	VIC		8	GREEN Tracey	NSW	3=	SLOWIACZEK Anna	NSW 50+
2	WELLINGS Elli	VIC		9	McDONALD Fiona	NZL	5	DOBSON-BLOCK Angela	VIC 40+
3=	HARTLEY Genevieve	VIC		10	SILK Amy	NZL			
3=	OSVATH Sarah	NSW		11	McGRATH Lindsay	QLD			
5	NEWCOMBE Rowena	SA		12	READ Georgia	NSW			
6	SULLIVAN Jess	VIC		12	WARREN Elizabeth	VIC			
7	WILKS Victoria	VIC		14	BOYLES Katie	VIC			
8	de JONGH Lisa	NSW		15	BUDNIAK Elise	NSW			
9	HOPE Jenny	NZL		16	CASALI Carolyn	NSW			
10	MACKAY Catherine	VIC		17	SARAH Jade	QLD			
11	SMITH Penny	VIC		18	DEAN Sarah	NSW			
12	YEUNG Melissa	NSW		19	JEPHCOTT Freya	NSW			
13	WILSON Seri	SA		20	HARVEY Laura	NZL			
14	BALLANTYNE-BRODIE Emily	VIC		21	LANCASTER Alison	VIC			
15	GRAVES Julie	WA		22	DOYLE Zelda	QLD			
16	LOBOZ Kasia	NSW		23	JORDAN Harriet	NSW			
				24	SLOWIACZEK Anna	NSW			
				25	BUDNIAK Jackie	NSW			
				26	CONSTANT Lara	WA			
				27	TAYLOR Katherine	NZL			
				28	VILAGOSH Victoria	VIC			
				29	COWDEROY Jemima	QLD			



# Coach education

The Victorian Amateur Fencing Association Inc. (VAFA) is committed to the development and education of coaches within the state. As part of this commitment VAFA would like to offer to all Victorian coaches the opportunity to participate in a coaching seminars.

The seminars are designed to:

- Provide Level 1, 2 & 3 coaches with updating opportunities (3pts / seminar)
- Educate coaches in coaching techniques (for groups and individuals) to correct errors and develop the skills of their athletes.
- Provide coaches with current information in other areas, e.g. stretching, warm-ups, etc.
- Educate coaches in the requirements for the next level (level 2 or 3) and allow some competencies to be assessed.

Each seminar costs \$15 per person and each runs for 3 hours from 10 a.m.–1.00 p.m. on the following dates:

DATE:	COACH	TOPIC
23 July	Julien Mouchet	Fencing Games
3 September	Mauricio Panzio	Coaching
5 November	TBA	TBA

Coaches attending the seminar(s) must be **affiliated** and **accredited**.

Athletes are welcome to attend the course to participate in the classes. Cost for athletes is \$10. Athlete numbers are limited to 12.

## Level 1 Coaching Course – What happened in 2006?

A Level 1 Coaching Course was advertised earlier this year. In the end, it did not run due to insufficient numbers. The course needed six participants to proceed, but only four applied. However, at least four other people have since advised me that they were interested. That’s eight people, so why didn’t the course go ahead? Quite simply, only four people were able to organise themselves sufficiently well to return the forms (and payment) before BOTH cut off dates. If someone who expressed an interested in participating in a course cannot organise themselves to submit a form and cheque, how likely is it that they will be able to manage to attend 5 x 6 hour sessions over a period of 6 months?

If you are interested in participating in a Level 1 course in 2006 it can be organised, interested fencers can email me at [teapea@internode.on.net](mailto:teapea@internode.on.net) by 01/06/06. If I get 6+ responses, dates and times will be organised and advertised directly to those interested and via club email addresses. A date will be advised for submissions of forms and money and hopefully the course can be run.

## Test your gear for electrical resistance

A ‘weapon-body wire’ combination is generally – and incorrectly – assumed to be an ideal system composed of an ideal switch and ideal conductors with no or very little electrical resistance. Electrical resistance of a weapon and/or body wire increases over time due to several factors, such as corrosion, accumulated grit, or a loosened nut/screw, etc.

In fact, resistance can increase to just below the threshold level of the signalling device such that it can record a hit for most but not all of the time. This may be one causes of the weapon not going off when a hit is in fact made. Obviously, no fencer would want this to happen when the score is 14–14!

Yet, when it comes to testing their boy wires, many fencers tend to test their gear only for electrical continuity, such as:

- testing the gear on the strip: a continuity test that does not necessarily indicate any resistance build-up.
- testing with a basic ‘electrical continuity’ test device which is not sufficient either.

Don’t just rely on testing your gear for electrical continuity. It should be regularly tested for electrical resistance build-up throughout its useful life. You can do this with a multimeter, the most commonly used device for measuring resistance. A multimeter set as a low range ohmmeter can indicate the resistance build-up in body wires and weapons. More specific testing can also be done with sophisticated test boxes which indicate resistance as well as continuity.

Haluk Yeter

## 'Women's Epee Tour 2006', or 'How we lost all reason and consoled ourselves with pastry in Budapest'



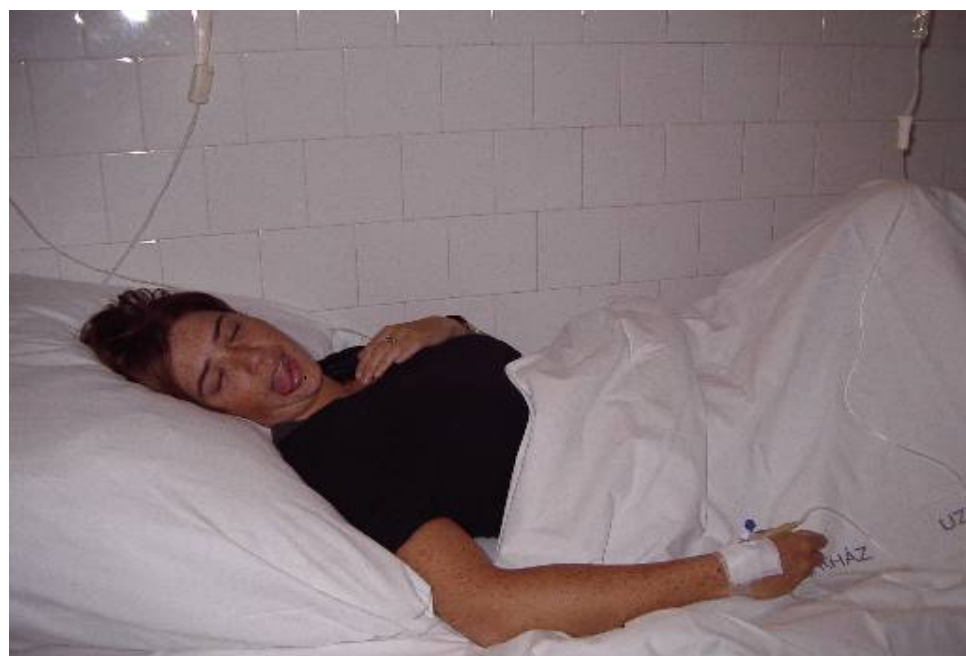
It looks good on paper. Gather a group of your best fencing girlfriends and journey to wintry Europe to enjoy the majesty and splendour of the old cities as you try your luck against the world's best in your chosen sport. A chance to train hard and play hard. To fill your days with art and culture, expose yourself to different fencing, and at the end of the day enjoy a drink with your mates in happy camaraderie, before falling into a deep sleep to dream of castles, snowmen and putting up your light.

I'm sure I had a dim recollection of this fantasy as Penny and I walked the freezing deserted streets of Budapest in the middle of the night, searching for the hospital Jess had been taken to. She had arrived in Budapest somewhat later than Amber, Penny and I, due to a slight problem with her documentation ('what do you mean, my passport has expired?!'). There was much jubilation when she finally did arrive and we all felt relieved, as though the worst possible hiccup in our plans must now be over.

Amber first noticed something amiss when, in the early hours of the day of competition, she observed Jess emerging from the bathroom to collapse on the spare bed. Upon sleepy reflection it was apparent that this could not be logical conclusion of a 'big night' in Budapest, as we had not experienced such a night (naturally due to our unwavering commitment to an athletic ideal). It was soon clear that Jess was in an extremely bad way, with a lower back injury so debilitating she required careful assistance to even roll over. Fencing was clearly impossible. Our anti-inflammatories seemed to have little effect and we had no idea how we would get her to the venue to avoid the 500 euro fine: standing, walking and sitting being impossible. Mercifully we discovered we weren't actually required to produce her to prove her inability to fence. With remarkably unhelpful advice from the competition physio (due largely to language barriers) there was little alternative but to leave Jess for the day and compete. When we all returned it was clear that she was no better and that serious action had to be taken. Ironically, Jess has a myotherapy qualification and admitted that if she had a client in the degree of pain she herself was experiencing she would have recommended that they go to hospital immediately.

We decided Amber should go eat and get to bed early as she was the only one to qualify for the second day of competition. The kind but obviously freaked out man at reception (who mercifully spoke English) agreed to ring for an ambulance. He advised us that it would take an hour, because 'we are part of the European Union but we are not Europe yet'. On this promising note we awaited assistance, and when it arrived attempted to prevent the ambulance officers from mauling Jess when they failed to understand why she couldn't get off the bed to lie down on their stretcher. They took her away and we promised to follow after we had quickly consumed a pizza.

Back to the freezing streets, in the city that has successfully ignored growing trends in street lights, public signage and canine hygiene. By midnight Penny and I had tired of seeking the next barely identifiable hospital to put on a pantomime for whichever ancient non-English speaking security guard was lurking in the shadows. We returned to the original hospital identified by the ambulance officer as Jess's destination, where we had been told in no uncertain terms that there was no Jessica, no Sullivan and no ambulance in that night. This time our sign language and blue faces were sufficiently stimulating to motivate a phone call, where we learnt, to our complete lack of surprise, that Jess was in a bed upstairs.



We were escorted to a crumbling 1940s-style wing, complete with peeling linoleum and mad people moaning sadly in the dark. We were overjoyed to see Jess but somewhat disconcerted to find her on a drip ('you did tell them you had a back injury?'). It transpired that the sum total of her conversation with the English speaking doctor had been 'do you have insurance?' (Yes), 'good, because this is very very expensive'.

Utilising the magic of Penny's much abused mobile phone we rang our hotel to seek the translation services of the man at reception in communicating with the nurse on duty. He asked us to ring in five minutes and hung up before we could interject, and then enlisted Amber by telling her that a there would be a call from the hospital for her, which she misheard heard as car from the hospital. Fearing the worst she rugged up ready to be taken to the hospital to presumably collect Jess's broken body, and experienced much relief when she found that rather she was to participate in a

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)

five-way conversation of inexpressible tedium. After much passing of phones we discovered from the Hungarian nurse that the drip contained painkillers, and that we must visit the next day bringing a change of clothes and a glass for water, as they had none at the hospital.

We discovered later in conversation with local fencers that we probably had a relatively positive experience of the Hungarian medical system; a nearby hospital having accidentally committed two unnecessary and unrequested brain surgeries in the last year.

After this initiation nothing could phase us. It was a good trip and a good learning experience. It was invaluable having our coach Vlad join us in Prague and Paris, despite the occasional threat to give us lessons in the hotel corridor at midnight. The competitions were a bit hard on the ego but incredibly rewarding in other ways. Until I witnessed fencing at this level I didn't really understand what the sport could be about. The bravery, skill and passion of elite international fencers was amazing and inspirational. Despite the negativity implied in the anecdote above, if you have the chance, get out there and have a go.



## Lessons learnt:

1. Check your passport. Actually look at it. Preferably beyond the fact that you have one.
2. Take out travel insurance.
3. Not all, but many of the world's ills can be cured with mineral baths and pastry.
4. At least one, preferably two mobile phones within your group are extremely useful.
5. Take out travel insurance.
6. If you can let the wheels of your fencing bag hang off the end of the scales when you are checking into your flight it will generally weigh in a few kilos lighter (but don't blame me if you unbalance the plane and die a fiery death, or worse, evade the fiery death to end up stranded on a Pacific island with murderous mythical creatures and a bad cast).
7. Travel insurance. I don't care how young and fit and lucky you are.
8. If you go to the baths in winter and don't take a hair dryer, your hair will freeze and may snap off in shards. After the first three or four locks this ceases to become amusing.
9. Go to Europe and fence. It doesn't suck.

**Genevieve Hartley**



## New Victorian tracksuits!

After more than 12 years, there is finally a new Victorian tracksuit now available! Designed especially for fencers, with wide legs, zips up to the knee and on the wrists.

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XS - 59 cm (across chest)  
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 Kuala Lumpur, West Malaysia



## Trivia and Snippets From the Vault

This is the first of a series that will appear (ir)regularly in AtB with articles of interest, as the name suggests, from the 'vault' - the veritable archives of fencing, both here in Australian and worldwide. If you are one of our "older" fencers, or even a younger fencer with access to interesting and colourful snippets from the past, send them to the Editor for inclusion...

Anything deemed worthy of publication will earn one free entry to a VAFA Competition!

### *When and where did the Martingale originate?*

Perhaps we need to start with the question "what is a martingale"?

We are not talking about the "Martingale system of gambling", which involves doubling your bet after each loss. Nor are we talking in the context of probability theory, where a Martingale is a stochastic process in which the conditional expectation of the next value, given the current and preceding values, is the current value (although this at least has a link to fencing - ask Penny Smith about stochastic theory...). Closer to the mark is a "martingale collar" is a collar designed for dogs whose necks are larger than their heads (such as greyhounds and whippets).

No, in our sport of fencing, a martingale is (or was) strap attached to the handle that prevents a sword being dropped should one lose one's grip. Unless you are a veteran, you may not even remember this leather strap, that used to be compulsory on non-electric foils. Its absence was as serious as not having a plasteron, although in those days there were no yellow or red cards—fencing was above such things!

So where and when did this little strip of leather come from—who invented it? Surely nobody invented something so obvious—didn't it simply "happen"??? Well no, in fact, if you happen to have a copy of "L'Escrime Française", issue 221 (February 1968) handy, and your French isn't too rusty, you will discover that this humble little variant on a dog collar was invented in 1780 by M. de BONDY, a student at Maitre GOMARD's. This redoubtable left-hander had such force in his fingers that his parries frequently disarmed his adversaries, making the foil fly so far that the spectators were endangered. Although Risk Management Policies for sporting associations weren't invented till two hundred years later, people did worry about hurting spectators, hence this strap was not so much to help prevent the fencer dropping their weapon, but to ensure that it stays attached when the fencer was disarmed. In fact, the cables that hold the wheels onto Formula 1 racing cars are based on the same design!

## Monash University Novice Competition

Annual Monash University Fencing Club novice competition. Open to entrants who have fenced for less than two years. Team and individual events in all three weapons are held over the three days. Social events are also held in conjunction with the competition including a presentation dinner on the Sunday.

**14–16 July at Monash University Clayton Campus**

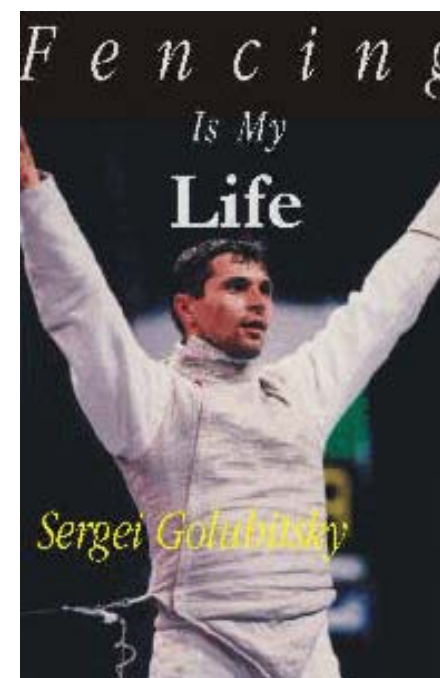
More details will be provided closer to the event.

## Book and DVD review

### *Fencing Is My Life* – by Sergei Golubitsky

The name Sergei Golubitsky will be familiar to many fencers, and with good reason. Three times World Foil Champion, four time winner of the overall World Cup and winner of nineteen individual World Cups, Golubitsky once expressed a desire to be listed in the Guinness Book of Records as 'the greatest fencer of all time'. While this goal remained unfulfilled following his retirement after the Sydney Olympics, Golubitsky was without doubt a rare fencing talent. His instinctive feeling for timing and his ability to create something out of nothing ensured that he was always a delight to watch.

In this autobiography, Golubitsky recounts his rise to the top. Fencing enthusiasts will be fascinated by stories about Golubitsky's early coaches, his successes and failures and his approach to training and competition. Golubitsky also offers a rare insight into how one of the world's top fencers understands and experiences the sport itself. Readers with a broader perspective will be interested in the political and sporting backdrop to his story – the operation of the Soviet 'sports machine,' the break-up of the USSR, and the emergence of newly independent nations such as Golubitsky's birthplace of Ukraine.



'Fencing Is My Life' is written in a fairly plain, unimaginative style which can become wearing on the reader. Golubitsky has always been renowned for his healthy sense of 'self-confidence' and his limited capacity for self-analysis may disappoint readers looking for a deeper understanding of the man. Despite this, the book is a goldmine for both aspiring and experienced fencers – as a source of both inspiration and practical advice.

***Fencing Is My Life is available online through [www.fencingfootage.com](http://www.fencingfootage.com) for \$US27.95 (plus postage and handling).***

### *Golubitsky's Golden Bouts*

This DVD contains footage of classic Golubitsky bouts from the finals of the 1997, 1998 and 1999 World Championships, interspersed with special comments from the man himself, who explains what he was thinking and feeling at critical moments.

Golubitsky is an exceptionally talented, mercurial foilist with an exceptional feeling for timing and distance which allows him to execute some incredible actions against the world's top fencers. His strong emphasis on timing and distance means that his fencing can be appreciated by all, whatever their weapon of choice.

The first bout on the DVD is the final of the 1997 World Championships from Cape Town, South Africa which is surely one of the most dramatic championship bouts of all time. In the early stages of the bout, Golubitsky builds an 11–3 lead against the South Korean Young-Ho Kim who is apparently suffering from an injury. Kim then responds, gradually clawing back the lead until the two fencers are tied at 14–14, with one hit to decide the gold medal ... I won't give away the ending, but I can guarantee that the bout will have you on the edge of your seat.

The second bout is the final of the 1998 World Championships held in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, featuring the top two ranked fencers in the world at the time, Golubitsky and the flamboyant, Cuban showman, Elvis Gregory. The combination of the speed, strength and panache of the Cuban against the guile, exquisite timing and sheer unpredictability of the Ukrainian champion make this one of the classic foil bouts of all time. The firm yet humorous manner in which the Hungarian referee maintains control of the bout is an added bonus!

The final bout in the series is from the 1999 World Championships in Seoul, Korea, which pitted Golubitsky against the 23-year-old Italian, Matteo Zennaro. This bout perhaps does not showcase Golubitsky's fencing as well as the previous two – possibly because he had already used up his best fencing in the semi-final against the German Wolfgang Wienand (unfortunately, this bout does not appear on the DVD). However, it is still a masterful performance by Golubitsky against his younger, stronger opponent.

While this DVD would be a worthwhile investment for the quality of the fencing alone, Golubitsky's commentaries provide an entertaining feature. He gives clear insights into his tactical choices when faced with a range of challenging situations. Characteristically, his commentaries are amusingly one-sided – in Golubitsky's world, it seems that all the bad calls made by the referees are against him!!

***Golubitsky's Golden Bouts is available online through [www.fencingfootage.com](http://www.fencingfootage.com) for \$US45 (plus postage and handling).***

## 2006 VAFA Program of Events (revised)

Comp. Date	Entries Close	Event(s)	D.T.	Venue	Fee	Eligibility
Jan 12-15 Jan 17-20 Jan 24-29	Jan 2	U20 National Training Camp AFF U20 National Championships Commonwealth Junior Champs	AFF	FF FF Chennai	\$40	U20 U20 By selection
Feb 22	7:30 pm	VAFA Council Meeting		FF		All Welcome
Mar 12	tba	Level 1 Coaching Course		FF		
*Mar 25	10:00 am	VRI Open Epee (M & F)	Squad	FF	\$16	Open
	1.00 pm	Bela Valyan Open Sabre (M & F)	VRI	FF	\$16	Open
*Mar 26	9.30am	Veteran's Foil #1 (M & F)	VRI	FF	\$16	Veterans [40+]
	11:00 am	VRI Open Foil (M & F)		FF	\$16	Open
*Apr 1-2 Apr 9		AFF Epee Training Camp Victorian Junior Individual #1	AFF	FF	\$40	By invitation
	9:30 am	U13 Foil (M & F)		FF	\$10	U13
	9:30 am	U20 Foil (M & F)	VSFC	FF	\$10	U20
	11:30 am	U15 Epee (M & F)		FF	\$10	U15
	11:30 am	U20 Epee (M & F)	B'wick	FF	\$10	U20
	1:00 pm	U15 Foil (M & F)		FF	\$10	U15
	1:00 pm	U20 Sabre (M & F)		FF	\$10	U20
	tba	Level 1 Coaching Course		FF		
Apr 9-17 Apr 22-24 Apr 30	Mar 31	Junior World Championships AFF Circuit #1	FIE AFF	Korea FF	By selection \$40	Open
	10:00 am	Novice Foil #1	La Trobe	FF	\$16	Novice
	1:00 pm	Novice Epee #1		FF	\$16	Novice
*Apr 30	12:30 pm	Victorian Club Team Foil #1 Victorian Schools Team Champs		FF	\$30	Open
May 7	10:00 am	Foil Teams (M & F)	VSFC	FF	\$25	Primary or
	1:00 pm	Epee Teams (M & F)* Pre-entry Only*	B'wick	FF	\$25	High school
May 13	10:00 am	Open Epee #2 (M & F)	Squad	FF	\$16	Open
	1.00 pm	Open Sabre #2 (M & F)	MFC	FF	\$16	Open
May 14	10.00 am	Open Men's Foil #2	B'lords	FF	\$16	Open
	10.00 am	Victoria Cup Women's Foil (Open #2)		FF	\$16	Open
May 20-21 May 22 May 25 May 26-28	May 8	Pre-Challenge Camp		FF		By invitation
	Around the Bouts	Issue 2/06				
	7:30 pm	VAFA Council Meeting (Star Program Briefing)		FF		All Welcome
	Apr 21	Challenge Australia World Cup Victorian Schools Individual Champs	FIE	Sydney		By selection
May 28	9:30 am	U13 Foil (M & F)		FF	\$10	U13
	9:30 am	U20 Foil (M & F)	VSFC	FF	\$10	U20
	11:30 am	U15 Epee (M & F)		FF	\$10	U15
	11:30 am	U20 Epee (M & F)	Pen'sula	FF	\$10	U20
	1:00 pm	U15 Foil (M & F)		FF	\$10	U15
	1:00 pm	U20 Sabre (M & F)		FF	\$10	U20
Jun 3-4 Jun 10-12 *June 17-26 Jun 18	May 30 May 23	AFF Epee Training Camp AFF Circuit #2 DH McKenzie Olympic Solidarity Course Under 15 & Under 17 State Champs		Melb Adel.	By invitation TBA	Open
			AFF			By selection
	9:30 am	U15 Foil (M & F)		FF	\$16	U15
	9:30 am	U17 Sabre (M & F)	VSFC	FF	\$16	U17
	11:00 am	U17 Epee (M & F)		FF	\$16	U17
	12:00 pm	U15 Epee (M & F)	MFC	FF	\$16	U15
	12:00 pm	U17 Foil (M & F)		FF	\$16	U17
	1:30 pm	BUY,SELL & SWAP MEET		FF		All Welcome
*Jun 27-28 Jun 30-Jul 4	TBA TBA	U15 & U17 Camp U15 & U17 National Champs Australian School Team Champs		FF Sydney	TBA \$40	U15&U17 U15/17, State School Teams
Jul 16 Jul 23	tba 10:00 am 1:00 pm	Level 1 Coaching Course Novice Foil #2 (M & F) Novice Epee #2 (M & F)		FF VRI FF		Novice



Comp. Date	Entries Close	Event(s)	D.T.	Venue	Fee	Eligibility
Jul 26	7:30 pm	VAFA Council Meeting		FF		All Welcome
Jul 30	10:00 am	Victorian Club Team Foil #2	B'lords	FF	\$30	Open
Aug 5	10:00 am	Open Epee #3 (M & F)	Squad	FF	\$16	Open
	1:00 pm	Open Sabre #3 (M & F)	Fioretto	FF	\$16	Open
Aug 6	9:30 am	Veteran's Foil #2	RMIT	FF	\$16	Veterans [40+]
	11:00 am	Open Foil #3 (M & F)		FF	\$16	Open
Aug 12-13	Aug 4	AFF Epee Training Camp		FF	TBA	By Invitation
Aug 18-20	Jul 28	AFF Circuit #3 AFFPerth \$40 Open				
Aug 21	Around the Bouts Issue 3/06					
		<u>Victorian Junior Individual #3</u>				
Aug 27	9:30 am	U13 Foil (M & F)		FF	\$10	U13
	9:30 am	U20 Foil (M & F)	VSFC	FF	\$10	U20
	11:30 am	U15 Epee (M & F)		FF	\$10	U15
	11:30 am	U20 Epee (M & F)	B'wick	FF	\$10	U20
	1:00 pm	U15 Foil (M & F)		FF	\$10	U15
	1:00 pm	U20 Sabre (M & F)		FF	\$10	U20
Sep 1-3	Jul 7	World Veteran Championships		England		By selection
Sep 9	10:00 am	Open Epee #5 (M & F)	Squad	FF	\$16	Open
	1:00 pm	Open Sabre #5 (M & F)	MFC	FF	\$16	Open
Sep 10	10:00 am	Tom Mills Men's Foil (Open #5)	Melb Uni	FF	\$16	Open
	10:00 am	SBV Women's Foil (Open #5)		FF	\$16	Open
Sep 17	10:00 am	Novice Foil #3 (M & F)	Monash	FF	\$16	Novice
	1:00 pm	Novice Epee #3 (M & F)		FF	\$16	Novice
	tba	Level 1 Coaching Course FF				
		<u>John Fethers Golden Foils (VJI#4)</u>				
Sep 24	9:30 am	U15 (Graded & Ungraded)	VSFC &	FF	\$10	U15
	11:00 am	U13 (Graded & Ungraded)	VRI	FF	\$10	U13
	12:30 pm	U20 (Graded & Ungraded)		FF	\$10	U20
Sep 20-25	Jul 7	Commonwealth Fencing Champs	Ireland			By selection
Sep 29-Oct 7	Jul 7	World Championships	Italy			By selection
*Oct 5-8	tba	Oceania Junior Fencing Champs	NZ			By selection
Oct 8	10:00 am	Open Epee #4 (M & F)	Squad	FF	\$16	Open
	1:00 pm	Open Sabre #4 (M & F)	Melb Uni	FF	\$16	Open
	tba	Level 1 Coaching Course		FF		
Oct 9	9:30 am	Veteran Foil #3	P'sula	FF	\$16	Open
	11:00 am	Open Foil #4 (M & F)		FF	\$16	Open
		<u>State Novice Championships</u>				
Oct 15	10:00 am	Foil (M & F)	MFC	FF	\$16	Novice
	1:00 pm	Epee (M & F)		FF	\$16	Novice
		<u>State Club Team Championships</u>				
Oct 21	10:00 am	Epee (M & F)	Squad	FF	\$30	Open
	1:00 pm	Sabre (M & F)	Fioretto	FF	\$30	Open
Oct 22	10:00 am	Foil (M & F)	La Trobe	FF	\$30	Open
		<u>State U13 &amp; U20 Championships</u>				
Oct 29	9:30 am	U13 Foil (M & F)	VSFC &	FF	\$10	U13
	9:30 am	U20 Epee (M & F)	VRI	FF	\$10	U20
	11:00 am	U20 Sabre (M & F)		FF	\$10	U20
	12:30 pm	U20 Foil (M & F)		FF	\$10	U20
Nov 11	TBA	VAFA Dinner & Presentation Night	TBA	TBA		All Welcome
		<u>State Open Championships</u>				
Nov 18	10:00 am	Epee (M & F)	Squad	FF	\$16	Open
	1:00 pm	Sabre (M & F)	Fioretto	FF	\$16	Open
	1:30 pm	Veteran Epee (M & F)	Fioretto	FF	\$16	Veterans [40+]
Nov 19	9:30 am	Veteran Foil (M & F)	Monash	FF	\$16	Veterans [40+]
	11:00 am	Foil (M & F)	Monash	FF	\$16	Open
Nov 20		Around the Bouts Issue 4/06				
Nov 23	7:30 pm	VAFA Annual General Meeting		FF		All Welcome
Nov 25-26		AFF Epee Training Camp		FF		By invitation
Dec 2-6	TBA	Australian National Champs & AFF Oceania Veteran's Championships		QLD	\$40	Open Veterans [40+]