

**DID YOU KNOW** | Between 1916 and 1919 the VAFA disbanded its competition because of World War I.

# Bulldogs Ty up loose end

**Football** | Paddy Higgs

TY Elliott has finally extended his tenure as coach of Gisborne, despite the delay in his re-signing alerting a handful of would-be applicants for the job.

Elliott was granted a new deal at the club's committee meeting late last month. He had been forced to cool his heels while a new board was elected at the Bulldogs, despite encouraging public assurances from the club that he would be reappointed.

While confirming Elliott would lead the club into 2010 to *Sunbury Leader* last week, Bulldogs president Philip Illman revealed the position had interested several other parties.

"I'm happy to say that Ty has won the position . . . certainly based on his efforts last year and going into

## Elliott back in the kennel for another three years

this year and hopefully the year after, in a three-year plan," Illman said.

"There were certainly a couple of interested parties, but they didn't put in a resume as such.

"Clearly those parties were aware that the incumbent had registered his interest, so I guess in the basis on that there might have been an assumption on their part that Ty would get the gig."

Describing an end to the impasse as great, Elliott is now looking forward to shoring up the playing list.

He met with the players late last

week to get indications of personnel for next season.

"Then we can sit down and really target the specifics of who we want and what we really need," Elliott said.

"We're speaking to a lot of guys now."

There is some doubt on the future of veterans Anthony Belcher and Matt McKenzie, who is stranded on 297 games.

Illman said filling the reserves coaching slot was "yet to be resolved", but Steve Simpson has been reappointed under-18s leader.

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PHILIP ILLMAN, Gisborne president

Ryan Webster will be his new assistant.

Several committee positions – with board member numbers having swelled to 20 – have been decided.

Vice-president/general operations manager is McKenzie, with Damien Slater vice-president/football operations manager.