

## Scarborough Year 9 Melbourne Tour

On the morning of Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2019 the Year 9 Scarborough Junior Football Club and I left the Perth airport and went to Melbourne on our first footy trip as a team. Although the flight was a long tiring experience, the team was excited for what lay ahead for the next week, especially the Hawthorn v. Geelong game we were attending that afternoon at the MCG. The ground was incredible with a great atmosphere and a tight game going into the fourth quarter before Geelong eventually ran away with it, winning by 23 points. The highlight of the game for most was Gary Ablett turning back the clock to kick two impressive goals and taking a spectacular mark to get the crowd on their feet. The game was a great experience for all, and a great way to start the trip.

On Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the team woke up and left for an MCG tour at 10am, which was a great opportunity where much was learned about the history of the 'G, before we headed to East Malvern to play Da La Salle College in a scratch match. The game was close from the start with injuries affecting us badly in the second half but through the Scarborough's persistence and 'never give up attitude', we played an incredible final quarter to defeat Da La Salle by 3 points. The great performance by the team was capped off with the best on ground effort going to Scarborough's Kai Humphry for his great second half.

On Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup>, the day started with an early wake up and the team catching a bus to the Hangar (Essendon Football Club Training Ground) for a tour and training session. After watching the Essendon Football club be put through their paces in their last training session before the ANZAC day game, we were given a tour of the Essendon facilities which let us know how much determination and hard work was needed to be an AFL player. Following the tour, we were taken to the Essendon one of their two training ground for a short training session which was a great experience as we were running on the ground the professionals were on just a few minutes before. Following the training we returned to the hotel, had a bit of free time before leaving for the Richmond vs Melbourne ANZAC evening game. The atmosphere was once again fantastic, and the pregame ceremony was breathtaking with the ninety thousand people there holding up their phone lights in respect for the people who served for our country. The game itself was brilliant, with skills and passion being shown by both teams but in the end the impressive Richmond outfit outclassed the struggling Melbourne by 43 points

On Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup>, the team rose at 4.30 am in order to attend the East Malvern RSL for the dawn ANZAC service. Although early, it was a privilege to be there and a morning most will never forget. Following the service, we played in the Anzac Day Cup. The cup consisted of 5 rounds (4 games for each team) with each game consisting of two 8 minute halves. Although we showed our fighting spirit and great attack on the footy, we were unable to win any of our 4 games against the much taller Victorian teams.

Following the tournament, we returned to the hotel for a quick turn around and a trip to the MCG for the much anticipated Essendon vs Collingwood ANZAC day game. The pregame

service was again a poignant experience, and the atmosphere of one-hundred thousand people was one we will never forget. At the start of the game it looked as though Collingwood would dominate Essendon, but the Bombers were able to fight back in the third to make it a very interesting fourth quarter. Although Essendon were able to finish extremely strong, Collingwood just held off the Bombers and won by 4 points. The controversial umpiring decisions dominated the talk post game. The game was one of the best experiences of the trip and an experience anyone will ever forget.

Friday and Saturday were filled with non-footballing activities including the movies, go karting and shopping which was great and a fantastic way to finish of the trip before we left on the Saturday night and returned to Perth.

We had a brilliant time in Melbourne and the Year 9 Scarborough Junior Football Team would like to thank the Scarborough Football Club and all our sponsors, particularly Scarboro Toyota for their generous donations in the helping of sponsoring our trip. The team would also like to say a big thank you to our coaches Glen Pires, Mark Horn and our manager Janine Kaye for taking us to some amazing activities and making a trip one we will never forget.

Archie Morrison