

JAMES HIRD

ACADEMY

WELCOME MESSAGE

Hello and welcome to the first James Hird Academy newsletter for Season 2012! What a great start to the season it has been, with the Bombers currently sitting in fourth place on the ladder.

Following on from a successful re-launch in 2011, the James Hird Academy returns in 2012 aiming to build on the many successes it achieved in 2011. Not only did the boys achieve a number of significant personal milestones throughout the year, they all gained significant insight into the inner workings of an AFL club, and the work required by players to make it to the elite level.

Our 2 day camps were the foundation of the program, offering the boys access to a whole range of experts within the club, including the senior coaching staff, development coaches, medical staff and physical conditioning coaches.

This year, to complement the 2-day camp format, the boys will begin to receive more tailored programs that will endeavour to enhance their strengths, and improve on their weaknesses throughout the season.

Keep an eye out for further news from the James Hird Academy for what promises to be another exciting year!

Go Bombers

Ryan Legudi

James Hird Academy Co-Ordinator

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

JAMES HIRD
ACADEMY

Major sponsor or individual player sponsorship opportunities exist for the James Hird Academy.

If you are interested in any sponsorship opportunities, please contact:
Ben Slack on 0402 483 576 or at bslack@essendonfc.com.au

A WORD FROM HIRD

Hello to all members of the James Hird Academy. It is very pleasing to see our squad of Academy Members and Baby Bombers has grown to almost 40 members. We will continue to support this family tradition.

I hope the season is progressing well and you are enjoying your footy as much as I did as a young boy growing up in Canberra.

At Bomberland in 2012, we have chosen a specific pathway of improving the standards of the club and the performance of all players. We have set a clear direction and progress is being made. Keep practicing your basic skills, watch the great players of today and have a footy in your hands as often as possible. We hope to see you again at the club in July.

Best Wishes for now and Go Bombers!!!

James Hird, Senior Coach
Essendon Football Club

James Hird Academy Members - Scholarship Holders

PLAYER	AGE	SCHOLARSHIP
Kieran Brennan	18	NSW Scholarship
Jedd Clothier	16	NSW Scholarship

James Hird Academy Members - Father/Sons

PLAYER	AGE	FATHER
Joe Daniher	18	Anthony Daniher
Jordan Williams	18	Darren Williams
Daniel Thompson	17	Mark Thompson
Chris Carey	17	Steve Carey
Jydon Neagle	17	Merv Neagle
Callum Daniher	16	Chris Daniher
Todd Vander Haar	16	Paul Vander Haar
Jake Long	16	Michael Long
Tom Wallis	15	Dean Wallis
Jett Bewick	14	Darren Bewick
Harvey Daniher	14	Chris Daniher
Matthew Neagle	14	Merv Neagle

James Hird Academy Members - Baby Bombers

PLAYER	AGE	FATHER
Jaxon Neagle	12	Merv Neagle
Mason Fletcher	12	Dustin Fletcher
Ricky O'Donnell	11	Gary O'Donnell
Darcy Denham	11	Sean Denham
Kurtis Barnard	11	Paul Barnard
Tom Hird	11	James Hird
Max Fletcher	9	Dustin Fletcher
Joshua Misiti	9	Joe Misiti
Nyawi Lovett-Murray	8	Nathan Lovett-Murray
Alexander Hird	8	James Hird
Tex Wanganeen	8	Gavin Wanganeen
Luca Alessio	7	Steve Alessio
Will Hamilton	7	Paul Hamilton
Luke Barnard	7	Paul Barnard
Noah Caracella	5	Blake Caracella
Alex Alessio	5	Steve Alessio
Logan Daniher	3	Chris Daniher
Mara Lovett-Murray	3	Nathan Lovett-Murray
Aidan Ramanauskas	3	Adam Ramanauskas
William Hird	3	James Hird
Thomas Caracella	2	Blake Caracella
Koby Bewick	3	Darren Bewick
Max Alessio	2	Steve Alessio
Lucas Ramanauskas	1	Adam Ramanauskas
Rylan Johnson	1	Mark Johnson
Noah Peverill	1	Damien Peverill

RECENT NEWS

JETT BEWICK

Son of Darren - 238 games

A skilful midfielder, Jett has had a strong start to the season playing as a bottom age player in the Under 16's with the Airport West Football Club in the Essendon District Football League.

KIERAN BRENNAN (NSW)

NSW Scholarship holder

Kieran recently competed in QLD Under 18 State team trials and has since been selected in the squad to compete at the National Championships. He spent a month of the pre-season in Melbourne, training with the club and playing in two practice matches for the Bendigo Gold team.

CHRIS CAREY

Son of Steve (105 games)

A tall forward, Chris is playing in the Under 18's at the Warragul Football Club in the Gippsland Football League. Also an avid cricketer, over the off-season Chris captained the Warragul Under 18's to their 20/20 win, finishing with a top score of 44 not out.

JEDD CLOTHIER (NSW)

NSW Scholarship holder

Jedd was recently named the NEAFL Round 2 NAB Rising Star winner playing in just his 3rd NEAFL Senior game for the Belconnen Magpies vs Sydney University. Playing as a medium forward, Jedd collected 17 disposals, had 6 inside 50's and kicked a goal. After representing NSW-ACT in the U16 National Championships last year he is pressing for selection this year for the U18 squad.

CALLUM DANIHER

Son of Chris (124 games)

A tall utility who is relatively new to the game, Callum is playing club football with the Ungarie seniors in the Northern Riverina Football League as well as playing Under 17's with Mangoplah in the Riverina Football League.

HARVEY DANIHER

Son of Chris (124 games)

A mid-sized utility, Harvey is playing club football with the Ungarie seniors in the Northern Riverina Football League as well as playing Under 15 and Under 17's with Mangoplah in the Riverina Football League.

JOE DANIHER

Son of Anthony (118 games)

Joe recently captained Australia playing for the AIS AFL Academy Squad vs Box Hill Hawks at the MCG in a curtain raiser to the Carlton vs Richmond clash. Playing at full-forward he kicked 4 goals including a spectacular mid-air soccer volley. Upon returning from a tour of Europe with the AIS-AFL Academy, Joe made his debut for the Calder Cannons in the TAC Cup and has kicked 12 Goals in his first three games. Joe has been selected to represent Vic Metro in the U18 National Championships.

JAKE LONG

Son of Michael (190 games)

Jake will represent the Northern Territory in the NAB AFL U16 National Championships to be held in Sydney later this year, and will play school football for Scotch College in the APS.



JYDON NEAGLE

Son of Merve (147 games)

Jydon made his Murray Bushrangers debut in the TAC Cup in round 2 and has maintained his spot in the team playing as a medium forward, kicking four goals last week.

MATTHEW NEAGLE

Son of Merve (147 games)

A small forward, Matthew is playing for the Walla Walla Football Club in the Hume Football League in southern New South Wales.

DANIEL THOMPSON

Son of Mark (202 games)

Daniel made his debut for the Calder Cannons in the TAC Cup and played in the opening two rounds mainly across half back as well as playing for Aberfeldie in the Essendon District Football League.

TODD VANDER HAAR

Son of Paul (201 games)

An athletic centre half forward, Todd trained with the Oakleigh Chargers in 2011 and will play school football for Xavier College in the APS this year.

TOM WALLIS

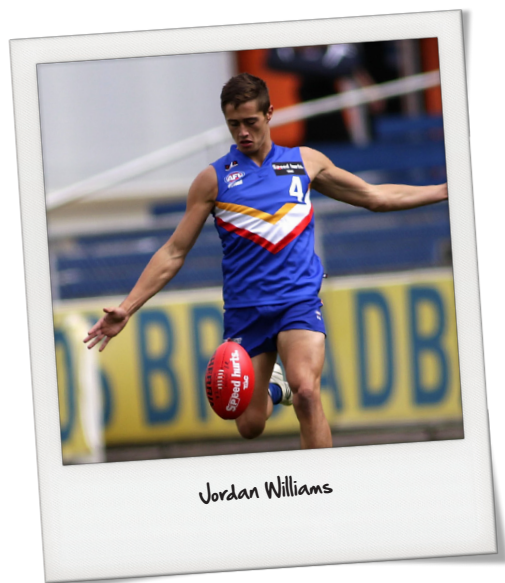
Son of Dean (127 games)

A quick midfielder, Tom recently played in the AFL Victoria U16 Metropolitan Carnival for the Calder Cannons, and will play for Doutta Stars in the Essendon District Football League. He has recently been selected in the interleague representative squad for the Essendon District Football League under 15's and is participating in the VIC Metro VIS trials.

JORDAN WILLIAMS

Son of Darren (109 games)

After playing 4 games as a bottom age player for the Eastern Ranges in the TAC Cup last year, Jordan has been appointed Deputy Vice Captain and has played in every Ranges game this year. A running midfielder, he recently participated in the VIC Metro Under 18 trial game.



MEMBER IN PROFILE

CHRIS CAREY

AGE	17 years old
TEAM	Warragul Mighty Gulls
POSITION	Forward/Ruck
FAVOURITE PLAYER	David Hille
HOBBIES & INTERESTS	Playing football and going to the gym.
FAVOURITE MOVIE	Step Brothers
FAVOURITE TV SHOW	Modern Family



Chris Carey with his Dad Steve.



Chris Carey.

WELCOME – JAMES BYRNE



During the off-season, Essendon appointed former Adelaide player James Byrne as Development Manager. Byrne played 24 games for the Crows from 2000-01, before winning club best and fairests with Glenelg in the SANFL and South Fremantle in the WAFL. He joined Geelong's VFL team in 2004, and captained the side to a VFL premiership in 2007, also winning the J.J. Liston Trophy.

He retired at the end of 2008 and worked as a stockbroker, but has built up his coaching credentials through part-time and voluntary development coaching roles with Geelong and Collingwood.

Byrne's main role will be working with the Bombers' first to third-year

players and managing the Jack Jones Development Academy at the club.

James will also be involved with the development of the James Hird Academy program for 2012, ensuring it aligns what is being implemented with our more recent draftees.

"I would like to take the opportunity to welcome back all the James Hird Academy players for the 2012 season. I am very excited about being involved in the Academy program this year and help you all improve your football over the coming season.

Together with Hayden Skipworth, Rick Ladson and myself, we will look to help you advance your football in addition to what you are learning from your local clubs and representative sides, through strong individual skills assessment, weights programs and dietary education.

We see the James Hird Academy as a strong platform for the Essendon Football Club to develop its own players that have a desire to improve their football, whilst helping realise what it takes to play AFL football.

I look forward to meeting you all in season 2012 and wish you the best of luck for your football in the weeks ahead."

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

PLAYER	BIRTHDAY
Koby Bewick	10 January (Age 3)
Jackson Neagle	30 January (Age 12)
Jake Long	2 February (Age 16)
Kieran Brennan	11 February (Age 18)
Tom Wallis	14 February (Age 15)
Matthew Neagle	19 February (Age 14)
Kurtis Barnard	20 February (Age 11)
Will Hird	20 February (Age 3)
Will Hamilton	1 March (Age 7)
Joe Daniher	4 March (Age 18)
Luke Barnard	4 March (Age 7)
Jordan Williams	7 March (Age 18)
Tom Hird	28 March (Age 11)
Mason Fletcher	8 April (Age 12)
Joshua Misiti	11 April (Age 9)
Daniel Thompson	30 April (Age 18)
Jedd Clothier	4 May (Age 17)
Jett Bewick	20 May (Age 15)

OUR NEWEST MEMBER



Congratulations to Damien Peverill (144 games) on the recent birth of his son Noah. The newest member of the Baby Bombers and the James Hird Academy!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DESCRIPTION	DATE	VENUE	WHO
Game Day Experience, Dreamtime at the 'G Essendon vs Richmond	Sat, 19 May, 7.45pm	MCG	James Hird Academy
James Hird Academy Camp	Mon 9 July 10.00am	Windy Hill	James Hird Academy
Guard of Honour Game Essendon vs Western Bulldogs	Sun, June 30 7.40pm	Etihad Stadium	James Hird Academy & Baby Bombers
End of Year Celebration - traditional pie night	TBC	TBC	James Hird Academy & Baby Bombers