



# JAMES 5 HIRD

A C A D E M Y

## WELCOME MESSAGE

Hello everybody and welcome to the September edition of the James Hird Academy newsletter. And what a fantastic past month it has been, the Bombers finishing the season in 8th place, with a final against Carlton this Sunday and the James Hird Academy enjoying many successes of their own.

In early July, the boys got together at Windy Hill for the second "2-day camp" of the year. The camp sought to build on the foundations laid at the first camp, with the boys put through a range of on-field and off-field training and educational sessions, conducted by our senior and development coaches, as well as the numerous fitness and medical experts who support the senior team.

In addition to these sessions, the James Hird Academy boys were joined by a number of our Baby Bombers for a football clinic on Windy Hill. It is fair to say that what the younger boys lacked in size, they certainly made up for with enthusiasm. It was fantastic to see all the boys out there together and enjoying each other's company.

Following the first day, the James Hird Academy boys were joined by their parents for a celebration dinner at the Windy Hill Venue, where they were individually presented with their certificates for the year and listened to speeches from the CEO Ian Robson, senior coach James Hird and assistant coach Mark Thompson. It was another memorable night in the short history of the James Hird Academy.

Away from the Academy, our boys have enjoyed a significant amount of on-field success, with Nick Ryan (NSW), Oliver Tweeddale (NSW) and Tom Fields (QLD) selected to represent their States in the Under 18 Nationals Championships, and Jedd Clothier selected to represent NSW in the Under 16s National Championships. Congratulations to all those boys!

And finally, last week we re-launched the James Hird Academy website which now includes profiles, photos and other information, highlighting the support we are receiving from all quarters of the club. Check it out at [essendonfc.com.au/jha](http://essendonfc.com.au/jha)

All the best and Go Bombers!

**Ryan Legudi**  
James Hird Academy Co-Ordinator

### James Hird Academy Members - Scholarship Holders

PLAYER	AGE	SCHOLARSHIP
Nick Ryan	19	NSW Scholarship
Oliver Tweeddale	18	NSW Scholarship
Kieran Brennan	17	NSW Scholarship
Jedd Clothier	16	NSW Scholarship
Max Lavai	16	International Scholarship

### James Hird Academy Members - Father/Sons

PLAYER	AGE	FATHER
Tom Fields	18	Neville Fields
Joe Daniher	17	Anthony Daniher
Jordan Williams	17	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	15	Paul Vander Haar
Jake Long	15	Michael Long
Tom Wallis	14	Dean Wallis
Jett Bewick	14	Darren Bewick
Harvey Daniher	13	Chris Daniher
Matthew Neagle	13	Merv Neagle

### James Hird Academy Members - Baby Bombers

PLAYER	AGE	FATHER
Jaxon Neagle	11	Merv Neagle
Mason Fletcher	11	Dustin Fletcher
Ricky O'Donnell	11	Gary O'Donnell
Darcy Denham	10	Sean Denham
Kurtis Barnard	10	Paul Barnard
Tom Hird	10	James Hird
Max Fletcher	8	Dustin Fletcher
Joshua Misiti	8	Joe Misiti
Nyawi Lovett-Murray	8	Nathan Lovett-Murray
Alexander Hird	8	James Hird
Tex Wanganeen	7	Gavin Wanganeen
Luca Alessio	6	Steve Alessio
Will Hamilton	6	Paul Hamilton
Luke Barnard	6	Paul Barnard
Noah Caracella	5	Blake Caracella
Alex Alessio	4	Steve Alessio
Logan Daniher	3	Chris Daniher
Mara Lovett-Murray	3	Nathan Lovett-Murray
Aidan Ramanauskas	2	Adam Ramanauskas
William Hird	2	James Hird
Thomas Caracella	2	Blake Caracella
Koby Bewick	2	Darren Bewick
Max Alessio	2	Steve Alessio
Lucas Ramanauskas	1	Adam Ramanauskas
Rylan Johnson	1	Mark Johnson

## A WORD FROM HIRD

Greetings again to all members of the James Hird Academy. We have arrived at the business end of the season, and we know many of you are competing in the finals of your competition.

We hope you have enjoyed the activities of the Academy during the course of the year, and the information we provide through the website and newsletters.

We feel a special bond is developing at all levels of the club, notably amongst our father/sons and scholarship players.

The Bombers are preparing for an intense battle in the MCG final against the Blues.

The players are in excellent physical shape; fit and fresh after the round 24 bye.

They are very much focused on working extremely hard to be competitors, and to implement our game style.

Perhaps we will see you at the G to cheer us on.

James Hird, Senior Coach.





## CAMP 2 REVIEW

In early July, the boys got together at Windy Hill for the second "2-day camp" of the year. The camp sought to build on the foundations laid at the first camp, with the boys put through a range of on-field and off-field training and educational sessions, conducted by our senior and development coaches, as well as the numerous fitness and medical experts who support the senior team.

The boys were put through a range of football skills sessions with our development coaches, Dean Wallis and Hayden Skipworth, with a particular emphasis on skills and decision making under pressure, as well as the importance of executing defensive actions and pressure. The boys also saw first-hand

the level of detail that AFL players are provided before a game on their opposition with a session provided by our Opposition Analyst.

To round off the camp, a number of sessions were conducted by Robert Forster-Knight (ex-Essendon player and now on the recruiting staff at Essendon) that focussed on the importance of preparation and recovery, providing a range of tips to maximise on-field performance.

In addition to these sessions, the James Hird Academy boys were joined by a number of our Baby Bombers for a football clinic on Windy Hill. It is fair to say that what the younger boys lacked in size, they certainly made up for with

enthusiasm! It was fantastic to see all the boys out on the ground together and enjoying each others company.

A special thanks must go to all those who donated their time to conduct the various sessions at the camp, and a special mention to Adam Tipungwuti, all the way from the Tiwi Islands, who joined in these sessions.

Some photos from the camp can be found at our new website, [essendonfc.com.au/jha](http://essendonfc.com.au/jha)

Attendees: Jett Bewick, Kieran Brennan, Chris Carey, Callum Daniher, Harvey Daniher, Tom Fields, Jake Long, Jydon Neagle, Matthew Neagle, Nathan Neagle, Nick Ryan, Daniel Thompson, Oliver Tweeddale, Todd Vander Haar, Tom Wallis, Jordan Williams, Adam Tipungwuti.



2011 JHA intake



Will Hamilton and Josh Misiti



Todd Vander Haar



Logan Daniher and Koby Bewick



Jett Bewick tries to evade Jordan Williams

## CELEBRATION DINNER



Joe Fontana presents a certificate to Daniel Thompson

Following the first day's activities, the James Hird Academy boys were joined by their parents (including ex-players Steve Carey, Chris Daniher, Merv Neagle and Paul Vander Haar) at a celebration dinner in the Windy Hill Venue that was attended by almost 70 people.

The boys were presented with their certificates for the year and listened to speeches from the CEO Ian Robson, Senior Coach James Hird and Assistant Coach Mark Thompson on what the Essendon Football Club means to them and the direction the club is taking.

It was a wonderful night and a great insight into what makes Essendon not just a fantastic football club, but a fantastic place to be around. Another memorable night in the short history of the James Hird Academy!





## RECENT NEWS



Oliver  
Tweeddale  
with Merv  
Keane

### STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTION

Nick Ryan (NSW), Oliver Tweeddale (NSW) and Tom Fields (QLD) were selected to represent their States in the Under 18 Nationals Championships, and Jedd Clothier represented NSW in the Under 16's National Championships. Congratulations to all those boys!

Unfortunately, Tom Fields injured his shoulder in the National Champs and required surgery, which he subsequently underwent last month. All the best with your recovery Tom, you'll be up and about in no time!



### TAC CUP SELECTION

Congratulations to Jydon Neagle who has been invited to play with the Murray Bushrangers in the TAC Cup in 2012. He will join fellow James Hird Academy Members, Joe Daniher (Calder Cannons) and Jordan Williams (Eastern Ranges) who will also play in the TAC Cup next year.



Tex Wanganeen and Joe Daniher

### AIS SQUAD SELECTION

Congratulations to Joe Daniher who will once again be a member of the AIS/AFL Academy in 2012. A new structure will be in place for the 15th intake with 30 players chosen from the 2011 NAB AFL Under-16 Championships to enter 'level one' of the program and 30 players who turn 17 in 2011 - and are therefore eligible for the 2012 NAB AFL Draft - picked to enter 'level two'.

Following his participation in 2011, Joe will enter the level two program in 2012.



Gavin and Tex Wanganeen

### ESSENDON MASCOT

Baby Bombers member Tex Wanganeen recently ran out with the Senior Team as Essendon's mascot prior to our round 17 match vs Adelaide at AAMI Stadium. Tex and his father Gavin who were guests of the club for the evening, had a fantastic time catching up with old friends. It was wonderful to see a Wanganeen back in Essendon colours.



**ESSENDONIANS**  
(formed 1960)

### "THE ESSENDONIANS" PRE-MATCH FUNCTION

The James Hird Academy also had the privilege of being invited to attend The Essendonians pre-match function before the memorable round 20 Essendon vs. Sydney game at Etihad Stadium. Jordan Williams, Chris Carey, Todd Vander Haar and Jett Bewick all attended the function and carried themselves magnificently throughout the night, especially when interviewed on stage by Steve Alessio. The night not only provided the boys with an insight into the diverse range of support the club receives, but also provided the Essendonians with an insight into the James Hird Academy and how it fits within the club.

Special thanks to the president Rob Harwood for his kind offer to host the boys.



Will Hamilton

### AFL GAME DAY

A second video clip of Will Hamilton interviewing fellow Baby Bombers members recently aired on Channel 7's AFL Game Day. For those boys featured, please keep an eye out in the mail for a DVD of the clip.



## MEMBER IN PROFILE



Merv and Jydon Neagle

### JYDON NEAGLE

FATHER	Merv Neagle
AGE	17 years old
HEIGHT	183cm
OCCUPATION	Building Apprentice
HOBBIES & INTERESTS	Playing any other sport
FAVOURITE POSITION	Centre
FAVOURITE PLAYER	Luke Hodge



Jydon Neagle during a drill



## MACCA'S MESSAGE

Remember to always be a good teammate!

Brendan McCartney,  
Assistant Coach

### MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS

PLAYER	BIRTHDAY
Max Alessio	31 July (age 2)
Alex Hird	7 August (age 8)
Chris Carey	11 August (age 17)
Thomas Caracella	15 August (age 2)
Lucas Ramanauskas	20 August (age 1)
Jydon Neagle	29 August (age 17)
Nick Ryan	31 August (age 19)
Max Lavai	16 September (age 16)
Ricky O'Donnell	20 September (age 11)

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**CONGRATULATIONS** to our sponsor Joe Fontana and his family on the arrival of his new baby girl Cartier.