Welcome to the first official Bombshell for 2016. We hope you enjoy reading through the results of your fellow club mates for round one of the footy season. Sunday was a great start to the start of the Bombers season!

Please Like us on Facebook or follow us on Instagram for photos and game day information.

Miranda Australian Football Club

miranda_bombers

If you have any photos you would like to submit for the Bombers social media or Bombshell, please email them to bombshell@mirandabombers.org
ROUND 2 – SUNDAY 3RD APRIL

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<td>Ramsgate Rams</td>
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<td>U8 Auskick</td>
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<td>U9 Black</td>
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<td>U15</td>
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PLEASE NOTE: The draw is subject to change. Your team manager will confirm your game details each week.

CLUB UMPIRES

Welcome to our new Club Umpires – Josh Hollands and Tim Manchester – from our U15’s team. Here’s your chance to get to know the boys a little better.

When did you start playing AFL?
Josh: 2013
Tim: 2013

Who is your favourite team / player?
Josh: Essendon / Dyson Heppell.
Tim: Skipper of Carlton, Marc Murphy.

What made you decide to become an umpire?
Josh: For the experience.
Tim: Thought it would be a good opportunity to learn a bit more about the game.

Biggest challenge umpiring?
Josh: Having confidence.
Tim: Overcoming nerves and making the right calls.

Best thing about umpiring?
Josh: Seeing the little kids have fun!
Tim: Getting paid & running around with the little kids.

Favourite thing to do when not playing footy?
Josh: Surfing
Tim: Bodyboarding

Best footy advice you’ve been given?
Josh: The sky is the limit, never give up!
Tim: Have belief & determination (from my coach, Chris).

Thanks boys for taking on such an important role within our club.
Joel has had an illustrious junior footballing career, one that every player would be proud of and might want to attain. However this is not why, in my mind, he is the perfect player to be endorsed as our club captain. He has a passion for footy, his team and the Bombers which he has shown through his actions right the way through his football journey. Joel has always put his hand up to help out our younger players at club events and training. He has been a great help on home game days around the club for many years, often being the last to leave the ground after everything has been packed away and is always relied on at team training and games to put in 100% effort. These are all outstanding traits to have as a leader however the greatest trait Joel possesses and the one in my mind that makes him a great role model for our junior players is that of humbleness. Joel is a fantastic footballer yet does not rest on his past achievements, he works hard at all his skills week in and week out and performs on game day at his highest level with an understanding and appreciation of all his team mates’ abilities.

Cam Gregory (Joel's U17 coach)

When did you start playing AFL?
Under 9’s in 2008

Who is your favourite team / player?
Sydney Swans. Ryan O'Keefe and Dan Hannebery

Favourite thing to do other than AFL?
It’s the only thing I do!

Use three words to describe winning last year’s grand final?

Your best AFL memory so far?
Winning last year’s grand final

Best footy advice you’ve been given?
Put your head over the ball.

Best footy advice you can give to your Bombers club mates?
If you prepare well and opportunity comes your way, grasp it with both hands.

Career Achievements
Games played: 182
Representative player: Under 13 – Under 15
Under 11 - Premiership player
Under 12 - Premiership player; Best on Ground in the grand final
Under 13 – 3rd Best and Fairest in Association
Under 14 – Best on Ground, Dreamtime Match at Waratah
Under 17 - Premiership player
The only thing brighter than the sunshine at Olds Park on Sunday morning were the new footy boots worn by many of the auskickers, the colours are more vibrant every season.

There were nearly 140 auskickers between the Bombers and the Panthers that made a very enjoyable start to the season.

It was pleasing to see the hard work in the off season pay off firstly through the work of the committee in particular Brett Rudzis with all his work in recruitment that has seen the numbers of participants in each age group increase significantly since last season. Also to the bombers girls coordinator Kristie Carrick who through talking with parents and working with the AFL has doubled the number of girl participants in Auskick.

A few of the highlights from the morning were the very high skills for the first game of the season, with strong marks, clean handballs and open and running football on display and what we understand to be the first all girls team to take the field for the bombers in auskick who played against an all girls team from the Panthers.

Special thanks to all the parents who have accepted roles to coach and manage teams this season and to all the parents and family who cheered passionately for both teams on the weekend, it is going to be a great season in Auskick.

Weekly Award Winners:

U5 – Tyler, Ashton
U6 – Carlos K
U7 – Carlos W, Jett

U8 AUSKICK

U8 AUSKICK vs. Penshurst Panthers, Olds Park

It was fantastic to see almost 30 under 8s players ready and eager to take the field on Sunday for our first round of the season against Penshurst. Fifteen new faces joined our 11 veterans from last season to form the makings of a formidable squad for 2016.

U8’s game 1 was played with real spirit on Sunday. To all of our first gamers, you guys got stuck straight into it which was great to see. There was a lot of teamwork across the park with plenty of leads, calling, as well as an impressive amount of handballing!

A big thanks to our selfless players who helped out the panthers and of course to all the U7’s stars who joined us. Isaac Leonard had a great game of it forward and back - marking, passing and goaling like a champ - to take out the player of the match award. Well done!

Due to our huge numbers in U8’s game 2 was played on the larger U9 field where all the boys did a terrific job spreading out over the big space. Our season opener was kicked by Felix Martin, well done mate. Good efforts from everyone in the kicking department - some long drop punts where on show. Thanks to our lads who made up the numbers and played for Penshurst, your sportsmanship is great to see. Our standout player who marked, kicked and chased very well was Luke Coombes. Congrats Luke!

Stu, Dave and Alison
U9 BLACK

U9 BLACK vs. Penshurst Panthers, Olds Park

For many of the boys it has been a long off season and a long wait for the first game of the season. With the addition of some new players to the team and some added rule changes it was always going to be a bit of an unknown how they would go.

From the very first bounce they looked as like they had been playing together for months and the first timers were sensational. The ball movement was a joy to watch, the marking, kicking and handball skills were first class with the opposition coach and manager complementing their skills in particular their leading and tackling. Would A great start to the season for all the players.

U9 RED

U9 RED vs. Penshurst Panthers, Olds Park

Miranda Bombers U 9 Red travelled to Olds Park to play Penshurst White.

7 of the 13 players were playing Aussie Rules for the first time so it was amazing effort to finish on par with the opposing team on the day.

Everyone on the team showed great effort throughout the course of the game in hot conditions and based on the boy’s performance, there is a lot to look forward to during the season.

The boys revelled in their first game of modified tackle footy. It was quite clear that a few of the boys had played rugby league before with some fantastic runs that would have put Billy Slater to shame – only to be penalised for not bouncing the ball but we’ll work on that.

It wasn’t fair to hand out a player of the match this week because everyone showed such great endeavour and promise on the day. I was especially happy that the players looked to handball and share the ball with each other which was a focus at training on Friday. Let’s focus again at training this week and I’m sure everyone will continue to improve each week.

Thank you to all the players for putting on such a great show in their first game of the year.

U10 BLACK

BYE

U10 RED

U10 RED vs. Penshurst Panthers, Olds Park

Welcome to all the Under 10 Red players for 2016, hope we have an enjoyable season. From last year we have retained Harrison, Ethan, Scott K, Keiran, Kai and Charlie and we have picked up four new players in Jayden, Scott L, Beau and Cooper Our numbers are a bit down on last year so it would be great if we could pick up a couple more.
We kicked off our season with an away game against Penshurst Panthers. They are only fielding one side this year so have a bit more depth than us, and they definitely handled the windy conditions a bit better than we did. As was the case last year we were undermanned in terms of height, which made it difficult in overhead marking contests. Once the ball hit the ground we were more than competitive, we just need to continue to work on manning up a bit more. In a fairly low scoring game, our better work was done in defence, with Ethan in particular having a great second half. Kai continued on from his great form of last year, Keiran was good in the centre, and Scott K and Charlie contested well. Of the newer players Jayden was in everything, Cooper contested well and after some encouragement Scott L played out the second half and fitted in well. Beau took some good marks and was the first winner of our weekly Coaches Aware. A big thank you to Ryan, Jack and Hunter from Under 10 Black, and Noah from Under 9’s who rounded out our numbers and allowed us to field a competitive side. Hoping we can improve a little against Cronulla this weekend.

GO BOMBERS!

U11

U11 vs. Penshurst Panthers, Olds Park
Penhurst 7.11.52 defeated Miranda 3.8.26

Round one saw us playing away at Penshurst in fairly warm conditions.

We had a number of Bomber debutants in the game with Oscar, Lachie, Riley and Paul playing there first games of AFL. We also had Blake making a welcome return after taking a year off.

U11’s is the first year of real footy for the boys with only a few rules modified. The intensity of the game certainly was a step up from u10s and combined with having a number of new players resulted in to a very slow start in the first half. Penshurst were working much harder than us to get to the contest and opened up a two goal lead at quarter time. The second quarter went much the same way and by half time we were struggling having not kicked a goal for the half, with Penshurst adding another couple to go into the long break 4 goals up. The half time talk was all about lifting our pressure around the ball and working hard for our teammates by getting to the contest, laying shepherds and executing our skills better. All parents would have been very proud as the boys responded magnificently and although the half was pretty even on the scoreboard, this didn’t reflect us having much better of the play for most of the half. Individually all the boys can be proud of their efforts:

Aidan - was our co-captain for the game and spent most of the game in the backline. He was particularly prominent in the second quarter when we were under a lot pressure. Worked hard to provide a link at half back as we moved the ball out of defence and applied lots of pressure. Worked himself to a standstill and had to ask for a rest in the third quarter.

Ben - a super game from Ben who picked up where he left off last year. Playing across half back, Ben used his pace to get to contests and provide run out of defence. One particular piece of play in the third quarter summed up Ben where he cut off a ball bouncing towards goal, paddled it through the back pocket before taking possession and driving it out of defence.

Blake - played as a full back and took responsibility for the kick ins. Was under a lot of pressure early in the game but maintained his composure well, cutting off a number of attacks and growing in confidence through the game. Also showed team inspiring courage on a number of occasions, one memorable instance in the last quarter when he backed himself to run into a 50/50 situation with two Penshurst players going the other way, Blake was first to the ball and won the contest with terrific courage.

Ethan - playing in the centre, Ethan was everywhere on the field and worked hard to help out his teammates in defence. Ethan is always strong at the contest and really made the opposition nervous through great physical pressure when they had the ball. Ethan’s contested marking was a highlight, particularly in the last quarter where he took 3 or 4 great marks in defence. Also worked forward as well to have a number of shots on goal.
Evan - played as a deep small forward so had limited opportunities in the first half. Evan’s pressure and tackling in the forward line was critical. Laid the tackle of the match in the third quarter on a much larger opponent, right in our goal square and wasn’t rewarded by the umpire.

James - played forward for the game and although he didn’t see a lot of footy in the first half worked his way into the game and had a very good second half, presenting well and providing tackling pressure. Took a great diving mark in the third quarter which ultimately lead to a goal to Tom.

Kye - started forward then moved to defence for most of the second half, Kye provided great energy throughout the game and demonstrated a number of times his ability to read the play and cut off Penshurst attacks and then provide pressure when the ball hit the ground.

Lachie - in his first game of footy, Lachie was fantastic, playing through the centre and on a wing. He was quite nervous before the game but once he got into the game this went away and he was a key reason for our better second half, providing pressure and presenting continuously through the centre of the ground. In the last quarter particularly he was everywhere, continuously cutting off Penshurst’s movement of the ball out of their defence, with some great marking. This also lead to a well taken set shot for goal after a 25 metre penalty from another intercept mark.

Noah G - played throughout the game as a high half forward and worked tirelessly to present for his teammates. Played a very important role linking our defence and attack and was rewarded for his hard work with a well taken goal in the third quarter. Noah also provided great on field leadership throughout the game.

Noah H - played deep forward for most of the game and worked very hard to keep the ball in our forward line. Was really unlucky not to have had a few goals as his contested work provided a few chances which he couldn’t quite convert.

Oscar - for his first game Oscar was given a real challenge to play centre half back. After working his way into the game and gaining confidence, Oscar was very important for us taking the game on and driving the ball forward on a number of occasions in the second half. His contested marking was also a highlight as was his ferocious tackling.

Paul - another one of our debutants who worked his way into the game as his confidence grew. Playing on the wing, Paul worked hard to get to contests and demonstrated some great skills with some nice handballs to set up play.

Riley - in his first game Riley was fantastic, in the second half playing as a forward he seemed to be everywhere and continuously ran to space. Almost had a goal on debut but found himself on the wrong side for a left footer and couldn’t quite bend the ball back. A great first game to build on.

Sam - looked a lot more comfortable at the start of his second season. Starting in defence he had a great start to the game cutting off the first attack of the game and continued on from there. Sam’s work in packs was a highlight where he managed to get his hands free and get the ball out to his teammates on a number of occasions.

Theo - won the player of the match award for what was his best game of footy to date. It’s been great to watch Theo develop as a player over the last few years to the point where his skills now have caught up with his endeavour. Today playing in the centre he was everywhere, taking marks, winning contested positions and using the ball very well.

Tom - our other co-captain for the day, Tom’s role was our key runner out of the centre and after a slow start where the opposition closed him down, Tom exploded in the second half with hard running and his great ability to beat a tackle and deliver the ball was on display continuously. Scored our first goal of the game and could have had a few more.

Although a first up loss, the boys can take many positives out of this game, particularly believing what they are capable of when they are on their game. A few things to work on at training this week but all can be proud of that second half effort in particular.
Footy’s back, and finally the coach has something to say! Upfront I want to say a huge thank you to Sonja Parker who has been sensational in getting everything sorted whilst work commitments have had my focus. Also, to Adam Parker, with all of his football nous and drive to get this team into shape (and doing a better job than the coach!), we are in great hands.

For the old crew, great to see you all back and to those new to the club a huge welcome. Please come over and say hi, join in at training or match day, and make yourself feel as much a part of this team as anyone. Early on I want to also thank those parents that have volunteered for regular match day duties (goal umpiring, boundary umpiring, water runners, medical, etc., etc.) and anyone else that wants to play a part please don’t be shy – I could do with help to manage the interchange and positional board (hint hint).

Well the season 2016 is underway and what a magnificent “beach” day it was…very warm and a bright sunny day to kick off the year. Our training started 4 weeks ago with a big focus on skills, particularly given the transition to full field and the need to hit targets by hand or foot. The boys had turned up in numbers with a full squad raring to go and excited about the season ahead. Some came back wanting redemption for last year’s early exit and others heard the news and wanted to be a part of history (fingers crossed!).

Our first road trip took us to Pennant Hills, home of some very big name AFL players including current Swans Co-Captains Jarrad McVeigh and Kieren Jack, Jarrad’s brother Mark who played for the Essendon Bombers, Kieren’s brother Brandon who plays for the Swans and Lenny Hayes, a champion midfielder for St Kilda. It is also the home of last year’s U12, Division 3 Premiers.

The boys turned up ready to play, and welcomed their leadership group for the year Harry Parker (Captain) and Co-Vice Captains Jasper Arthur and Seb Wilbers. With experience as school leaders last year we trust that these 3 boys will help to lead the side on the park each week.

Our squad of 22 was only missing Luke Jarvis and it was great to welcome an incredible 10 new faces to the club, of which only Ben, Elijah and Daniel had played Australian Rules Football regularly before:

- #2 Hutch Kumu
- #3 Brady Armour
- #4 Daniel Raffin
- #6 Rory Cole
- #14 Elijah DeRieve
- #15 Charlie Mortimer-Short
- #18 Ben Kavanagh
- #19 Cain May
- #24 Liam McKelleher
- #28 Harry Slater

Each one of these boys contributed very well with some great showing of all the skills - handpassing, kicking, marking, tackling and best of all their attack on the ball. They will certainly be better for the run as they get a greater feel for the game and their team mates.

We started well winning the toss and kicking with the wind, totally dominating the first quarter although couldn’t apply any scoreboard pressure. Pennant Hills however took advantage of the conditions scoring 4 goals in the 2nd, 1 against the wind in the 3rd and a further 3 in the 4th to win convincingly in the end.
Whilst the scoreboard didn’t tell the full story there were some great efforts across the ground to reflect on that should give us confidence that we can compete well. Some further focus on positional play, contested ball work and marking and hopefully an enhancement to our vocal skills should help us to overcome the perceived pressure that we were under.

Our defensive group (when the ball wasn’t sailing over their heads) was solid with some strong performances from the usual group of Peter, Jack and Xavier whilst the addition of Ryan, Ben and Jacob (who took some good marks in the last quarter in the forward line too!) and a few of the new boys rotating through gave us some good run and marking. Charlie impressed in his first game with some clean hands and great dash and will be a great addition to the group.

Our midfield team of old - Harry Parker, Jasper and Seb combined nicely and were joined by Harry Slater and a few new wingmen rotated though in Hutch, Elijah and Cain. Jasper not only dominated the ruck and high ball, he also continued the brilliant transition from last year showing some tremendous ground skills and bursts of speed. Harry P had a ridiculous number of possessions with his consistently strong endeavour, generally with 2 or 3 opponents tailing behind. The surprise packet and our man of the match award winner Harry Slater in his first game was superb and can only get better from here.

The forward group really struggled through a combination of poor delivery and inexperience and I’m certain will bounce back next week. Our core group of Rory at Centre Half Forward (commonly referred to as the hardest position on the ground to master), Corey, Liam, Harry G, Rhys, Daniel and Brady all tried hard and showed some great signs not only offensively but also defensively. From what I have seen at training and during the game these guys can play and will form a very strong attacking unit as the season continues.

Next week the boys will bounce back, I am certain of it, with another road trip whilst the clubhouse continues to be developed (pack your picnic basket!), this time to St Ives. I will leave you all with a riddle to solve whilst thinking about next weeks’ game…Answer at half time next week!

As I was going to St. Ives,
I met a man with seven wives,
Each wife had seven sacks,
Each sack had seven cats,
Each cat had seven kits:
Kits, cats, sacks, and wives,
How many were there going to St. Ives?

**U15 vs. Forest Lions,**
Miranda 7.15.57 defeated Forest Lions 2.3.15

**Goals**
Jay Scarra, Josh Moors, Tim Manchester, Luke Kendrick, Josh Brennan, Franky Crossle, Nick Hooker (1 each)

It was great to have the footy season back! Round 1 saw the Under 15’s travelling to Belrose to take on the Under 14 premiers of Division 3 in 2015, the Forest Lions. Blue skies and warm weather set up challenging conditions for footy with a 1.45pm start.

After some very solid training in the offseason the effort had been put in by the team but with a lot of new additions to the squad from last year it was the goal of the team to show a high level of effort and if the team did that then the result would look after itself. With two new players to AFL and four players new to the club, it was always going to be a possibility that we went into the game a bit raw but I am really pleased to advise that the team put in a good effort for Round 1 and came away with a good win.
As a team we have a lot of improvement to work on, especially our kicking and hitting a target but especially our goal kicking! It was a good start to the season though and with further effort, commitment and belief the team will continue to improve as the season progresses as there are big challenges ahead over the next. 15 weeks. While I believe this team is up for the challenge and we have a great squad this year, the team as a collective group need to believe that and apply the commitment and effort to make it happen. These young men need to realise they are in control of what happens to this team this season. That fact alone will determine how far they can go this season. There will be ups and downs and how they adjust and overcome those will position them well in footy and in life in general.

Angus Whitaker and Marko Bobosevic both put in good efforts for their very first games of AFL and while as coach I have not been able to show them every aspect of the game, they showed some good endeavour in getting to the ball first and being competitive, well done guys.

For the new to the club or returning to AFL and the Bombers, Josh Brennan, Franky Crossle and Josh Moorsy all put in very polished performances for their first games with a new team. In fact, all 3 young men kicked goals which was a great result and gathered a lot of possessions for the team. Moorsy was good off half forward flank and used his speed very well and created a number of opportunities in the forwards. Franky was impressive around the ground and strong through the centre and Brenno was very impressive through the mids and off the half back line. His strength was a highlight and I have not seen the palm off used that well in quite a while as he was then able to give himself space for a clean disposal.

Luke Kendrick was enormous for the team in the ruck and down forward. He is a wonderful overhead mark and showed that in the game with a number of great grabs. Zac Fraser continued his good form from 2015 and had a great game from the mids and centre half back. Zac is a real competitor and when he channels that in a positive way, his influence on the team and game is fantastic. Dutchy off half forward was also good and his attack on the ball and speed around the ground was very good and what impresses me most about Dutchy is that he took on board my feedback from last season and has worked on his fitness and it has already shown in good results from Round 1. Coupled with his good footy skills by hand and foot, Dutchy looks like he could have a real breakout season. Will Corcoran was good in the back line and also continued his good form from 2015 and Steven Salom had a very good game off half back flank. When Steven involves himself in the game like he did last Sunday, he turns defence into attack very quickly and he has all the skills of the game at his disposal. Lastly Jay Scarra was good around the ground from the midfield and our new captain, Tim Everitt had a very good game. Whether in the midfield or from defence, Tim attacked the ball and never gave the opposition an inch. Nick Hooker provided an early contender for goal of the year by running deep into the pocket, chasing a bouncing ball and knocking it back in from going out of bounds and then doubled around the opposition and regathering effort the ball, steadied himself and then proceeded to grubber through a goal through traffic from not far from the boundary much like Buddy Franklin! Nice work Nick!

Many thanks go to Jeremy Moors for goal umpiring, Syd Walsh for boundary umpiring, Will Harrison and Miles Scarra for running water and Brendan Scarra for running duties. Colleen Hooker did a tremendous job as Team Manager and got the team and the coach through the day! My thanks go to all the parents and supporters of the team for travelling out to Belrose, having the boys there on time and for being great supporters. It is very much appreciated and makes a difference to the team when they get good support throughout the game. Please keep it going throughout the season.

Go the Bombers!
U17

U17 vs. Wests Tigers,
Miranda 10.7.67 defeated Wests Tigers 7.8.50

Goals
Liam (5), Tyler (2), Hunter, Henry, Ryan (1 each)

A new season, a new division and a new look team. With two debutants in Zayden and Alex and returning players Nick, Ben and Henry and without a couple of our regular centres available to play we were a very different looking team however we slotted back into our regular way of playing and began extremely well. With great use of the ball and pressure tackling we put on 5 goals in the first quarter to Wests one. I wasn’t aware but was made aware after the game that Wests had won the premiership in second div the last three years, they made a late come back to put some fright into the bench but our Bombers hung on to post the win.

Joel our acting Captain won the toss and kicked with the wind. In the centres we had Riley, Matt, Dom and Ryan. These guys won the clearances and Liam, Tyler, Hunter, Zayden and Alex worked across the forward line to get the goals on the board. Wests did manage to get the ball forward however the pressure our wingers Nick and Ben and the centres put on Wests helped to create turnovers. Joel’s work as Centre half Back also contributed hugely with three intercepting contested marks through the quarter. His work was so classy he forced a match up change.

The second quarter was much closer as Wests had the wind and put on a few goals. We managed one as well against the breeze but our backs had to really stepping up to stop a run of goals. Julian, Henry, Lachlan, Jack, Harry and Joel worked hard to put the breaks on. A special mention to Harry’s eyes for the ball contest in this quarter and his poise in running the ball at different times. Jack also had multiple runs and at one stage put in a fifth effort in a running play to take the ball forward. We went to the break with some deep breathing and sweat coming from brows.

The third quarter saw us kick away again and some great defence especially deep back by Julian kept Wests from kicking a major. He read the flight of the ball and took a number of Full back last line marks. We also kept up our running play through the centre and saw Riley, Matt and Dom start to get a real flow going working together. Some nice marking by Ben on the wing as well especially leading from kick outs.

The last quarter was tough as our team tired. Both teams were low on numbers and had 16 on the field. This can create space however it also means there is a lot more running. We seemed to feel it and with newer faces in the centres still learning their roles we were unable to stem a late flurry of long range shots. We did post two ourselves against the flow and in the end these were so important to the end result.

The basic structures of the team stayed most of the game but Tyler, Hunter, Harry, Nick and Lachlan all had runs in the centres relieving tired legs. Ben played great on the wing and was put in the back line to sure up the defence in the last quarter. Henry jumped between deep back and forward and our Centre Riley came off for a rest only to go straight back on to CHB to relieve an injured Joel. As a coach its fantastic to have players willing to play anywhere they are asked and to challenge themselves through learning new positions. Zayden and Alex in their first game both got their hands on the ball in the forward line with Zaydens first touch in footy turning into a team goal as he hand balled truly to a running player at the back of a contest.

Great to start the season off with a win and see Nick, Ben, Alex and Zayden all get their water bottle shower during the song out of the way.

Many thanks to our parents and friends coming to watch and special thanks to our helpers on the day. Madeline, Chook, Michael, Uncle Frank, Ben and Paddy.

Go Bombers
Cam