



Thank you

Mathew Montebello

I walked into the CYs with the hope of having an impact and making a difference. Never did I imagine that the biggest impact would occur with me. Over the past 11 years the relationships I have formed help shape the person I am.

As a way of reconnecting with past students, coaching at the CYs also reconnected me with my love for the game of football. Someone once told me good people make good football clubs, and I was surrounded by so many who supported, guided, educated and mentored me throughout my journey.

Over the years there have been many highlights. The establishment of a clear player pathway with Williamstown Juniors, the 19s program going from strength to strength in the Premier Division under Con, and of course the 2 Senior premierships that I was fortunate to share with lifelong friends Michael (Jobbo) Johnstone, Steven Puhar and Cam Oates.

I have been fortunate to coach so many future greats of the club who have given so much to the club on the field. Ben Gray and Tom Johnstone come to mind as those that made others stand taller, while always leading by example even in the biggest moments on the biggest stage.

If I have one regret, it's that I never found the CYs earlier in my football life. The honour being presented with a CYs heritage senior player number would have been amazing, but instead I have to be satisfied with handing them out, which was a very special honour.

I will miss the Fearon on Thursday night leading into selection. The energy and banter with the players, the smell of the Welshy's kitchen, the hot selection debates, the distant sound of player fines and Mick Buckley harassing me for the team. As for game day there is nothing like playing on the Fearon. With large community support, varied weather patterns and the best gallery in the business it gave me so much pride to address the group on the field, feeling the crowd around you. While the buzz in the social rooms after a win has no equal in the VAFA.

What makes all these so special is that they all capture a moment of relationships with players, coaches and support staff. Without these relationships we do not have a what we have, an amazing club that I have been so lucky to be part of.

I would like to thank the dedicated committee members, passionate on-field volunteers, amazing coaches and an outstanding playing group, I have been simply blessed to be part of an amazing club during an amazing time in club history.

I am super excited to bring my family down to home games at the Feraon. I'll be replacing jaw grinding gum chewing with hot dogs and snakes from the canteen. While half time will not involve any surprise silver spoons and intense speeches but will instead involve a kick on our beloved Fearon.

If home is where the heart is then the CYS is the place I will forever call home. For I am Forever CYs and nobody can ever take that from me.

Thank you
Montey

