

5 October 2022

Mayoral Message

Dear Residents



Over the last couple of weeks, we've seen how sport can unify a City... a state... and a nation. There were record breaking crowds at the AFL and NRL Grand Finals, as fans put aside the woes of the world to watch their favourite teams do battle.

From the "average Joe", to businessmen and politicians - including our own Prime Minister Anthony Albanese - thousands rubbed shoulders at the stadiums to take part in the healthy camaraderie that is grand final fever.

And while the long-awaited Grand Finals were done and dusted in just 80 minutes, we are now left with the aftermath... the post footy season blues. But it's a happy reminder of the important role that sport plays in our lives.

It's not just on the footy field, but on the basketball court, the cricket pitch, the athletics track and the swimming pool, that we see communities coming together. Families and friends unite over Saturday morning competitions, and teams come together to fundraise for good causes with their weekly sausage sizzles.

For our youngsters, sport is vital in boosting self-esteem, developing social skills and teaching discipline... not to mention the many health

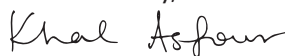
benefits. Sport is a great leveller and can elevate one to the highest levels.

There are thousands of opportunities across our country, particularly our City, to get out and get active, learn a new sport, and be part of a team. We have world class venues such as Memorial Oval that regularly host the Sheffield Shield, and the Dunc Gray Velodrome that hosted cycling at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Many famous athletes have come through the sporting code in our City... Steve Waugh, Ian Thorpe and Terry Lamb, just to name a few. And recently, we cheered on our 17-year-old Australian Dolphin, Abbey Connor, who trains at our local swimming pools. It's fantastic to see so many sporting stars born and bred out of our City, and the wonderful facilities and teams that we're lucky to have.

So, as the weather warms up, I encourage you all to get up, get the kids out and join that weekend sporting team. And, may we all look forward to cheering on the Bulldogs next footy season.

Yours sincerely,



Clr Khal Asfour

MAYOR