

# Dennis Cricket Club hosts family day with no alcohol

September 22, 2015 12:00am

Julia Irwin - Northcote Leader <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/leader/north/dennis-cricket-club-hosts-family-day-with-no-alcohol/story-fnglenug-1227537277677>



Dennis Cricket Club wants to set a good example so for the first time is having an alcohol-free Grand Final Family Day. Will Green, Chris Haspell, Samuel Cormie, Callum McGeachan, Olive McGeachan, Chris McGeachan, Luke Green and Angus Green are looking forward to the event. Picture: Andy Brownbill

DENNIS Cricket Club is among growing numbers of sporting groups making the shift from boozy boys club to family-friendly places for everyone.

The club along with Northcote Junior Football Club will celebrate this new focus with its first alcohol-free Grand Final Family Day on October 3 with cricket and football games and a barbecue lunch and of course the screening of the big event in its clubrooms.

Club president Chris Haspell said with numbers of juniors growing, it seemed appropriate to hold events that catered for all ages to further encourage this growth and make the club a safe, welcoming and enjoyable place for everyone. "This year's committee felt that by making the Grand Final Family Day an alcohol-free event, it was truly making it a family event," Mr Haspell said.

"Not just for players but for their families and even other members of the community."

“We’re no longer just a bunch of blokes hiding away from home staying out at all hours, many senior members have wives, girlfriends, children who I’m sure would love them to be able to share love of cricket with them.”

Young club member Angus, 14, said kids generally didn’t like seeing adults drinking and out of control.

“Footy should be watched for the sake of footy rather than something to do when you’re having a drink,” he said. “It’s going to be safer and more pleasant for kids — and the adults will be setting a good example for older kids like me.”

Good Sports Victoria state president Mark Nash said the shift in focus away from alcohol at sports clubs was a statewide phenomena with the most recent figures showing no financial loss for clubs that went alcohol-free or reduced consumption and many long and shortterm gains.

He said growing the juniors was one of the main gains, with clubs more attractive to families when they were alcohol-free or service was restricted.

The Australian Drug Foundation’s Good Sports program provides free support to clubs to reduce alcohol-related risks.

Mr Nash said most recent statistics showed the 2400 Victorian clubs that participated in the Good Sports program had a 42 per cent reduced risk of alcohol-related harm to members and were 37 per cent less likely to engage in risky drinking.

Mr Nash congratulated Dennis Cricket Club’s committee on the decision to run alcohol-free events.

“The club can make a huge impact on its juniors through positive role modelling,” Mr Nash said.

“Young people really look up to senior coaches and players.”