**WHAT’S IN A NAME?**

In the Wurundjeri concept of the living world, all life sprang from Birrarung.

Parks Victoria say Birrarung is derived from an Aboriginal name for the Yarra River (Bay-ray-rung, meaning ‘river of mists’ or ‘Place of shadows and mists’).

As the Melbourne Water website explains: “For the aborigines of the Wurundjeri tribe (part of the Kulin nation that had occupied the lands around Port Phillip Bay for at least 30,000 years) the Yarra River was a life-source that had been etched into the landscape by the ancestral creator spirit Bunjil - the wedge-tailed eagle. They called the river Birrarung - “Place of Mists and Shadows” and it was the dreaming path they followed and camped beside through the calendar of countless seasons.”

And so it has become in Princes Park for boys and girls who seek friendship, fun and learning and, hopefully, embark on a life-long love of football.

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**COOL BLUES TAKE THEIR CHANCES**

Cold and windy conditions made the going tough at times, but it was the Blue team (wearing yellow) that took their chances in the second Under 17 Derby for 2016. With the wind at their backs in the first half, the Gold team maintained possession and created chances. But near misses and another commanding performance from the Blues’ goalkeeper Tarik Kartal meant the teams entered half time at nil-nil. The Blues didn’t waste the wind advantage in the second half, and a clever first touch and turn enabled Leif Lawrie to finish with a rifling shot into the top corner. They held the lead thereafter, finishing 2-1 winners.

It was entertaining football from both sides and a great demonstration of player development from both the coaches over the course of the season.

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**ABUSE OF REFEREES**

**A message from Football Federation Victoria**

Whilst the vast majority of all Clubs do a wonderful job in welcoming referees to their grounds and supporting them for the duration of their fixtures, there is still a minority of individuals within our Clubs that continue to direct verbal and physical abuse towards referees.

Throughout the 2016 Season, FFV has seen an increase in the number of reported incidents in relation to verbal and physical abuse of referees. This is concerning as each year, referees leave the game due to the abuse directed towards them on match days. Subsequently, the number of referees available for appointments in competitions across Victoria is affected.

Last year referee registrations grew by 19%, while this season we are on track to achieve a similar result and we believe (our) initiatives are steering us towards this goal. However, abuse towards referees continues to affect referee retention, which hinders the progress we are making in this important area of football. We need the support of all our clubs to ensure zero tolerance is enforced towards referee abuse.

**This is an edited extract from a memo published this week by FFV. To read the full memo, visit: [http://bit.ly/2abxCrm](http://bit.ly/2abxCrm)**