



## *Tom Humphries named Giles Foster Scholar for 2017*

At 18 years of age Tom Humphries has already made his mark as a left arm pace bowler with talent. He has been selected as a net bowler for multiple visiting international teams in the last couple of years and by invitation, bowled to India, the UAE and Afghanistan during the World Cup. Most recently he has bowled to the Melbourne Renegades and the Pakistan team while touring Australia. But to get 2017 off to an epic good start for the Bayswater player, Tom has just been named the Giles Foster Scholar (GFS).

The GFS was co-founded by Stuart Giles and funded via Stuart and [Cathie Reid's Epic Good Foundation](#). Following in the footsteps of Ringwood Cricket Club players [Jackson Freeman](#) (2016) and [Matt King](#) (2015), the scholarship will take Tom to the United Kingdom to play for Great Preston Cricket Club (GPCC) during the English cricket season.

On being named as GFS recipient for 2017, Tom said, 'Having the opportunity to go over to England to play the sport I love has always been a dream for me, especially with Jackson Freeman, a former coach of mine, doing the same thing last year. Playing in completely different conditions to the one I am used to will be a great experience and will help me improve as a player, and a person. Whilst I'm looking forward to experiencing the culture that England has to offer, I cannot wait to immerse myself in the cricket world there, which includes playing and helping others develop their cricket as well.'

Tom's parents Kathy and Darren are equally excited about the opportunity he's been provided, and plan on heading abroad to see their son in action, if possible.

As a youth Tom played junior cricket at Eildon Park Cricket Club before making his senior debut at Bayswater Cricket Club as a 16-year-old. He's also had a role with the Ringwood Cricket Club development program in the last few years. Tom has captained numerous teams and had multiple leadership roles while at school. By playing cricket at a higher level, he says, 'I understand the honour that comes with being able to play for a club like Great Preston.'

With his own long history playing for Ringwood, plus three seasons playing first grade with Bayswater in the Sub District competition and two stints also at GPCC, Stuart is excited about the choice of Tom as this year's scholar. 'Both Cathie and I are impressed with the leadership displayed thus far by Tom in his cricket, school and wider community life. We're excited by our capacity to expand the opportunities the scholarship offers on the ground in the UK with a GFS recipient with so much potential at the commencement of his cricket career.'

As the Club on the receiving end of Tom's youth and experience, Great Preston couldn't be happier. Captain Ian Newton believes the Melbourne-based cricketer is a perfect fit. 'He is young, enthusiastic, committed to his cricket, grateful for the opportunity and keen to help the club progress; these are the main ingredients we are looking for in any new signings. We have plenty of 'experienced' players and creating that mix should help the club move forward and hopefully secure promotion.'



With two previous successful seasons in the books from King and then Freeman one could say that the GPCC is on a hat-trick with Humphries as the 2017 Giles Foster Scholar. Tom says he's looking forward to contributing some handy runs with the bat over the summer but it is his stature and bowling style that excites Ian the most. 'He will replace Jackson as the spearhead of our bowling attack. Despite his youth, he appears to have plenty of experience and it will just be a matter of us helping him adjust to the conditions as quickly as possible. I understand Tom has a yard of pace and that combined with his height will make him a real handful in our conditions, particularly when the wickets harden up. As a captain having someone with that extra pace and offering a left arm variation will be really helpful, I really look forward to seeing him in action!'

While this year's GFS will continue the strong ties and the cricket pathway between Bayswater and Ringwood Clubs in the Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne, there's also a good chance Tom's scholarship will have an impact on his brothers Jack and Sam who share a friendly cricketing rivalry in street cricket games.

As tradition has it, what will be the absolute highlight of Tom's season at Great Preston will be the annual match between GFS Invitational & Great Preston, pencilled in for July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

***For more information contact Anita Heiss, Manager, Epic Good Foundation on [anita.heiss@epicpharmacy.com.au](mailto:anita.heiss@epicpharmacy.com.au)***



*Tom Humphries left celebrates the announcement with Matt King and Stuart Giles (backrow) and Cathie Reid and Jackson Freeman*