

Tigers kick off tenancy at new ground

CRAIGIEBURN'S newly completed Highgate Recreation Reserve was abuzz with excitement last Friday as the Richmond Tigers went through their paces at a training session in front of dozens of keen onlookers. The session was part of the Tigers' preparation for the NAB Cup, which kicks off this month. Earlier in the week, the foot-

ballers held a footy clinic at the reserve for local youths keen to try out their own ball skills. The Tuesday night superclinic for children was part of the 2010 Telstra AFL Community Camp. The \$3.6 million Highgate reserve is a joint venture of Hume Council, the State Government, the Australian Football League and developer Stocklands.

Richmond Football Club, also a key partner in the project as a tenant, will be holding sports programs for the local community. Richmond players began the week of activities with a sports breakfast at the Craigieburn Sporting Club, where coach Damien Hardwick and assistant coach Danny Daly talked about their plans for this season. CEO Brendon Gale also spoke about sponsorship opportunities.



New goals: Lachlan, 13, of Craigieburn, enjoys the footy clinic with Richmond footballers at Highgate Reserve. **Picture:** Marco De Luca

Gearred up for a dream ride

By Laura Lunara

A ROXBURGH Park man with a passion for hot-rod cars has helped bring a smile to the face of a child recovering from leukaemia.

Bored and lonely after a divorce, Steven D'Elia decided that the two hot rods in his garage could be put to better use.

He called the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which soon found Hurstbridge youngster Blake Karakalchev was another avid car buff.

Blake, 6, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in November 2005 and finished 3½ years of chemotherapy last January.

The pair met last weekend and Mr D'Elia took Blake and his brother,

Liam, 4, on some joy rides in one of the hot rods.

"The Make-A-Wish Foundation contacted me because they knew this little boy was car mad," Mr D'Elia said.

Later, Mr D'Elia presented Blake and his family with a voucher for an all-expenses-paid trip to the Gold Coast, thanks to the foundation.

Blake's mum Bianca said the family would make the trip this week.

"After everything that we went through with Blake being so sick it's so nice now for him to be able to experience such a thing," she said.

The foundation has granted over 5700 wishes to children and young people with life-threatening medical conditions since 1985. Details: visit www.makeawish.org.au



Wish granted: Blake, 6, with brother Liam, 4, left, had fun being driven around town in a hot rod this month.

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