

February 2011



YOULDEN PARKVILLE CRICKET CLUB
JUNIOR CRICKET PROGRAM SURVEY, 2010-11
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1. Background

Youlden-Parkville Cricket Club (YPCC) was founded in 1922 by Harry Youlden, a successful Kensington bookmaker, to give local boys a chance to play the game.

Harry died when he was only 44 years old, but the club he founded is still going strong.

YPCC has had its base at Ryder Oval in Melbourne's Royal Park since 1945.

YPCC has been developing its junior program since 2006-07. Twenty kids started with us. We now have 92 local children participating across three junior programs. Those programs are:

- Have-a-Go Game for 5-8 year olds;
- Super 8s, a modified game format for kids not ready for competition cricket, but ready to move beyond the Have-a-Go/Game program; and an
- Under 12 competition team playing in the North West Cricket Association

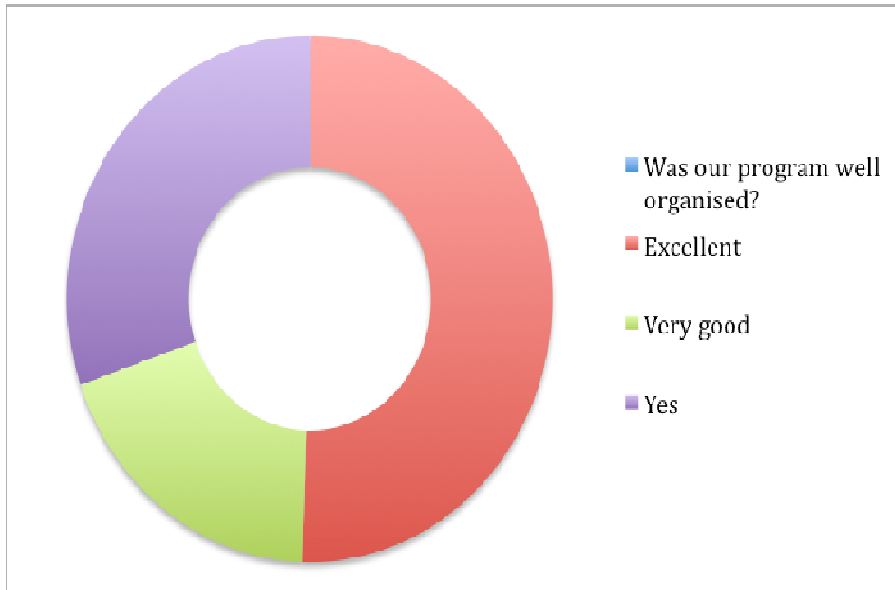
The support of our parents and volunteers, Stuart Clark from Cricket Victoria, the City of Melbourne, women cricketers from Melbourne University Cricket Club, local schools, and businesses have made the program a great success.

Each year we ask kids and parents to tell us what they think of our junior program, and how we can make it better.

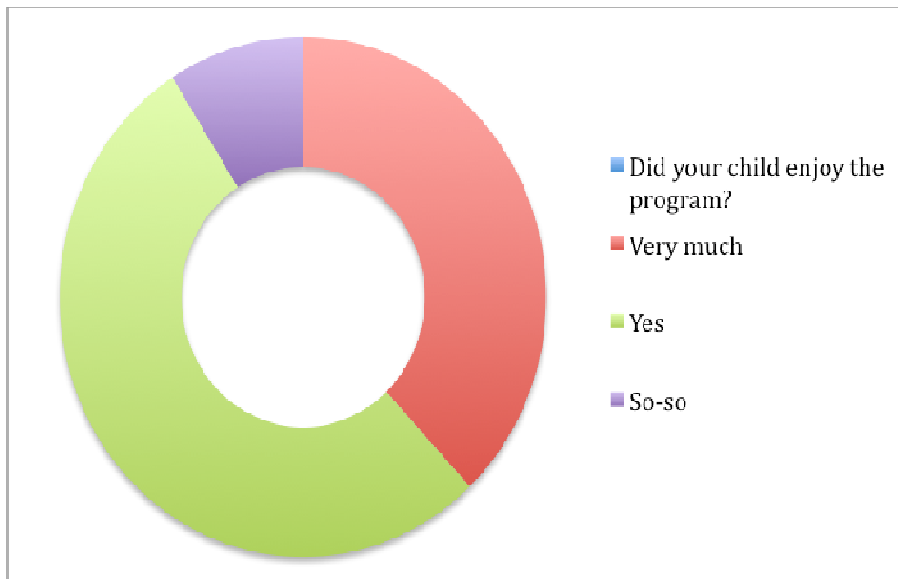
2. What parents of kids in the Have-a-Go and Have-a-Game Program said

Our programs rely on parents enjoying time with their kids. That means parents get out on the Ryder Oval and help with the games and activities each Saturday morning. Or they help get BBQ sausages into the hands of the hungry.

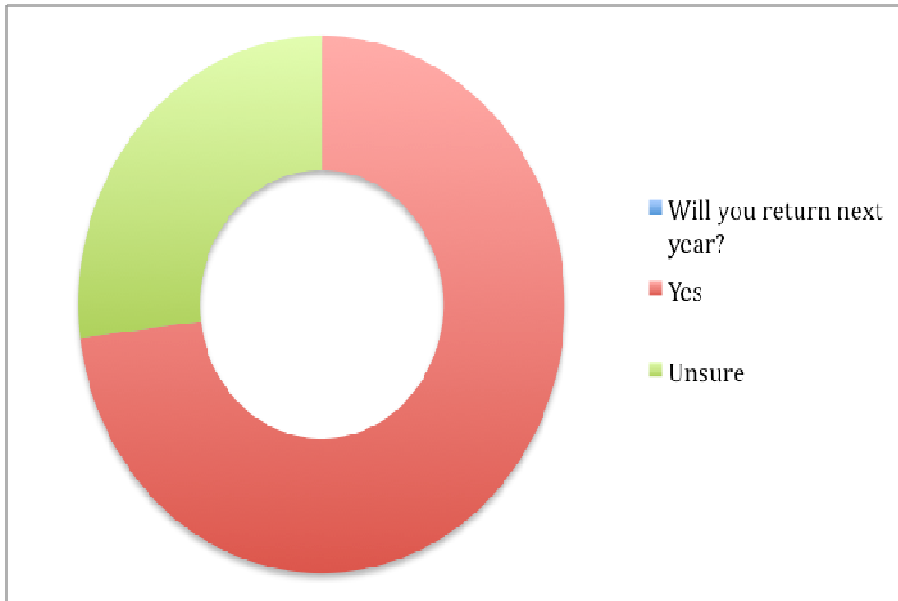
But there is a large amount of preparation by YPCC to make it easy for parents to get involved. So its good to know that parents understand and recognise that the program is well organised.



And what's most important is that the kids are having a good time.



So what's clear is that our parents consider the Have-a-Go/Game program well organised, their kids enjoy themselves, and the great majority will be padding up to join us next year.

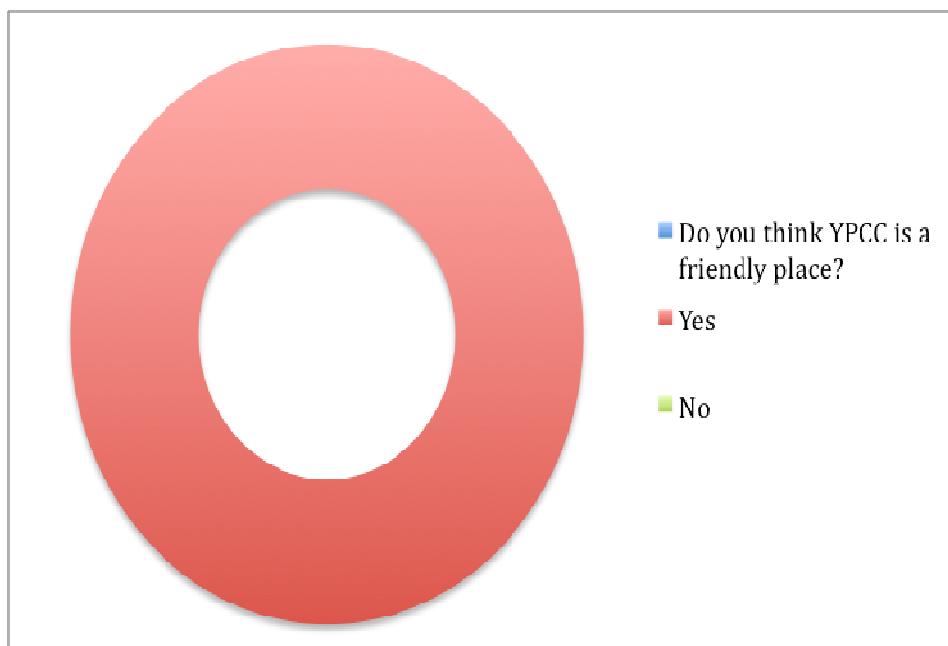


3. Feedback from the super 8s and under 12 competition team

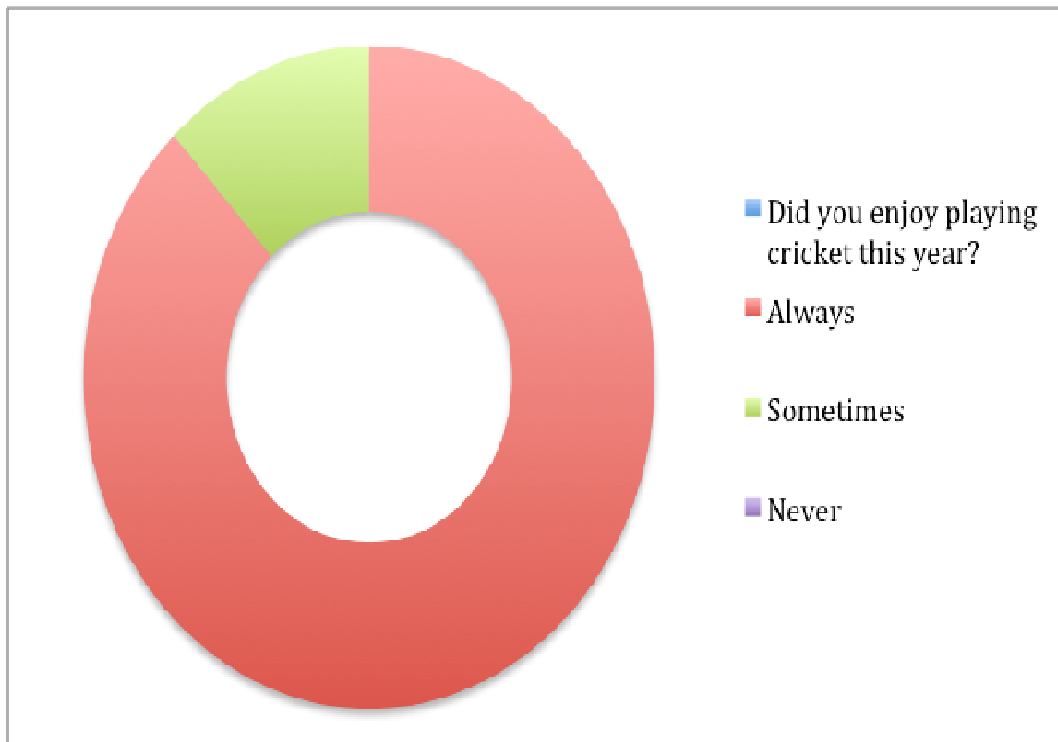
What the kids said

Our junior players gave YPCC a big thumbs up. When we asked them what they liked best about playing cricket, they told us they'd had fun, learnt new skills and met new friends.

We want our club to be place where kids enjoy themselves and learn to respect others and their own talents. That won't happen if they don't feel welcome. Our players told us we'd jumped over that hurdle well and truly.



Different kids liked different parts of the program. We had a range of activities each week, including skills coaching and drills, modified and competition games. The involvement of parents and grandparents in those activities was the fuel that made the engine work – and the kids appreciated it.

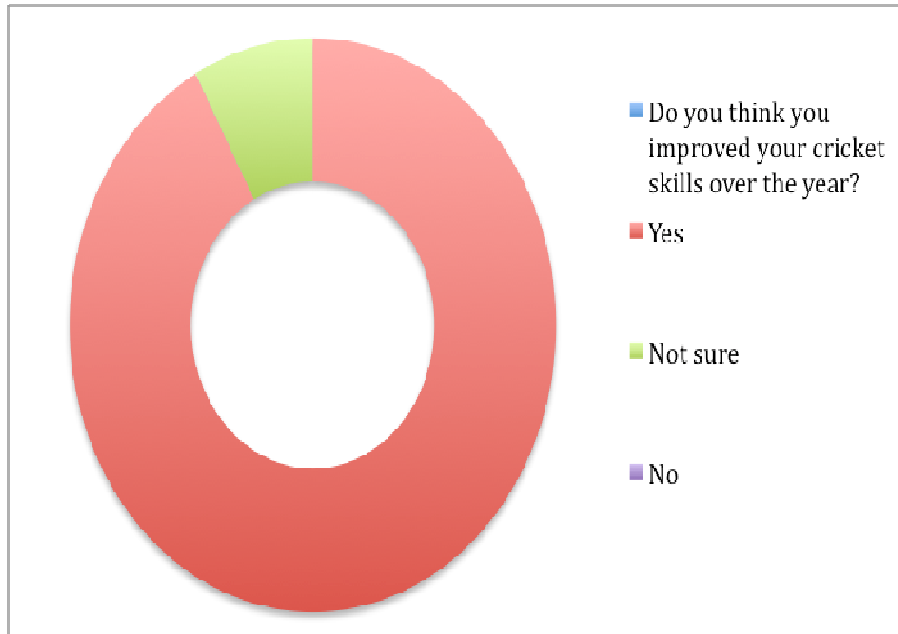


So what did the kids say they liked the best? This is what they said:

- *It's fun and we get to do skills and games*
- *Batting and fielding and the games*
- *Playing cricket games*
- *Hitting a six*

One player said he loved *smashing the spinners*, and one of our spinners told us he enjoyed *bowling leg-spin and getting wickets*. And so starts a lifelong struggle! Another said he was already hooked on *bowling, because getting someone out is the most satisfying aspect of cricket*

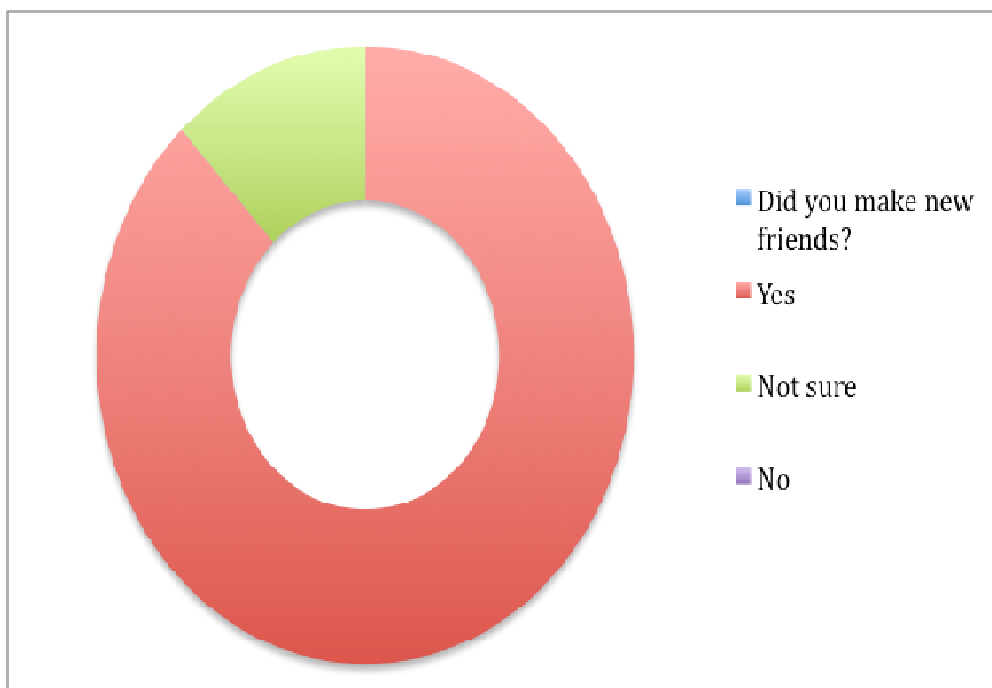
The great majority of kids felt they had improved their cricket skills. For the kids to say that means their own confidence in their physical abilities has also grown.



Playing sport teaches people a lot about how to get on with others. We want to create opportunities for our kids to meet their peers from other local schools, and make new friends. And based on what the kids say themselves, it looks like this is happening.

Our players told us they were

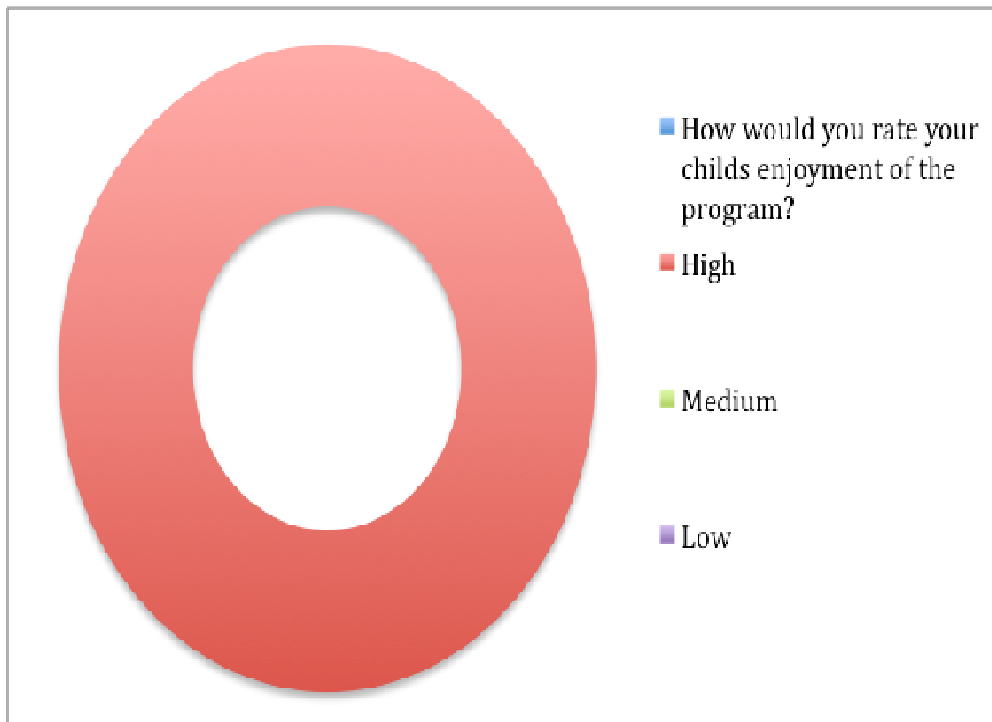
- *Having fun*
- *Having fun while learning to play cricket,*
- *Meeting new people from other clubs*
- *Making new friends*
- *Playing with my friends*



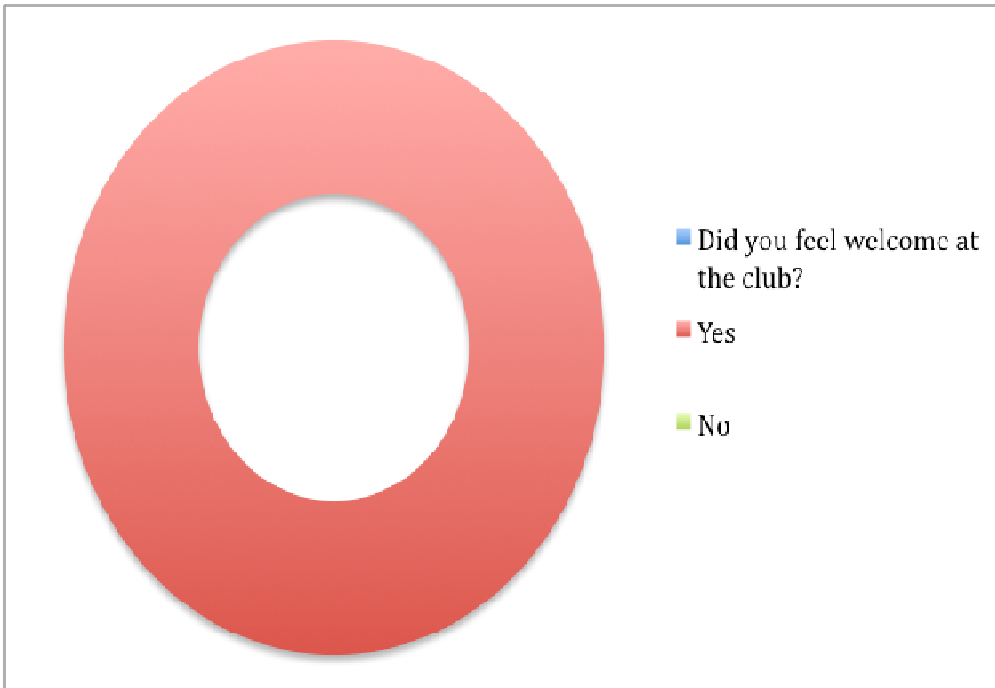
A couple of kids couldn't put their finger on exactly what they liked the best from playing cricket at YPCC. They just liked *Everything, All of it!*

4. What the parents said about the super 8s and under 12 program

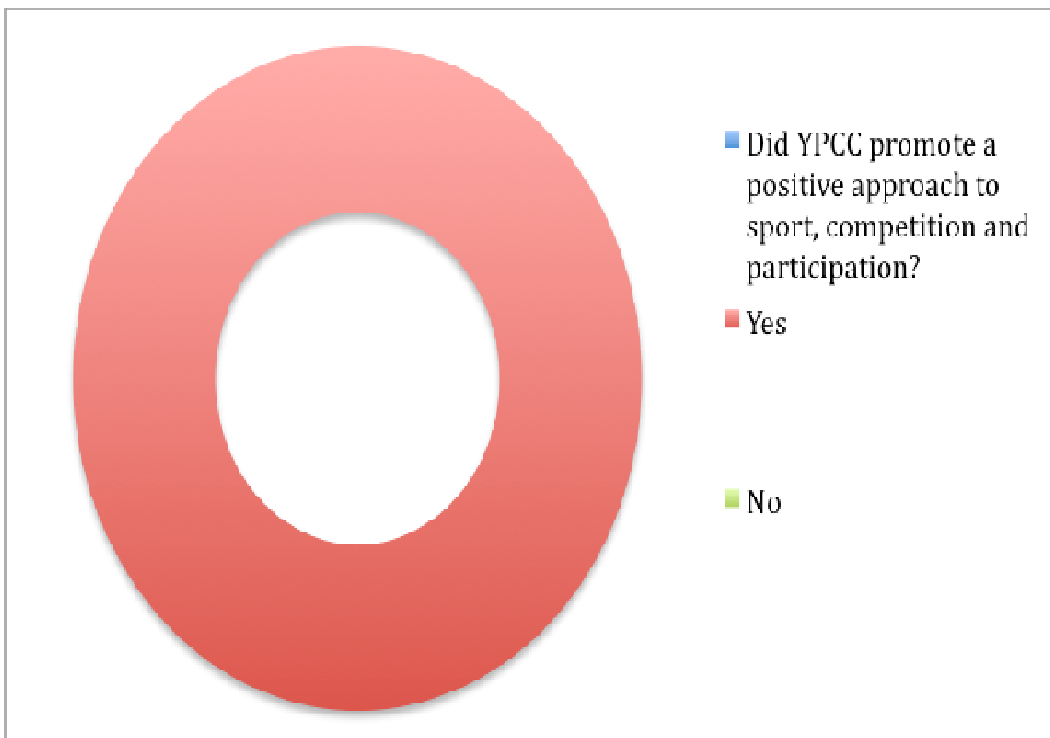
The levels of satisfaction with the program was extremely high.



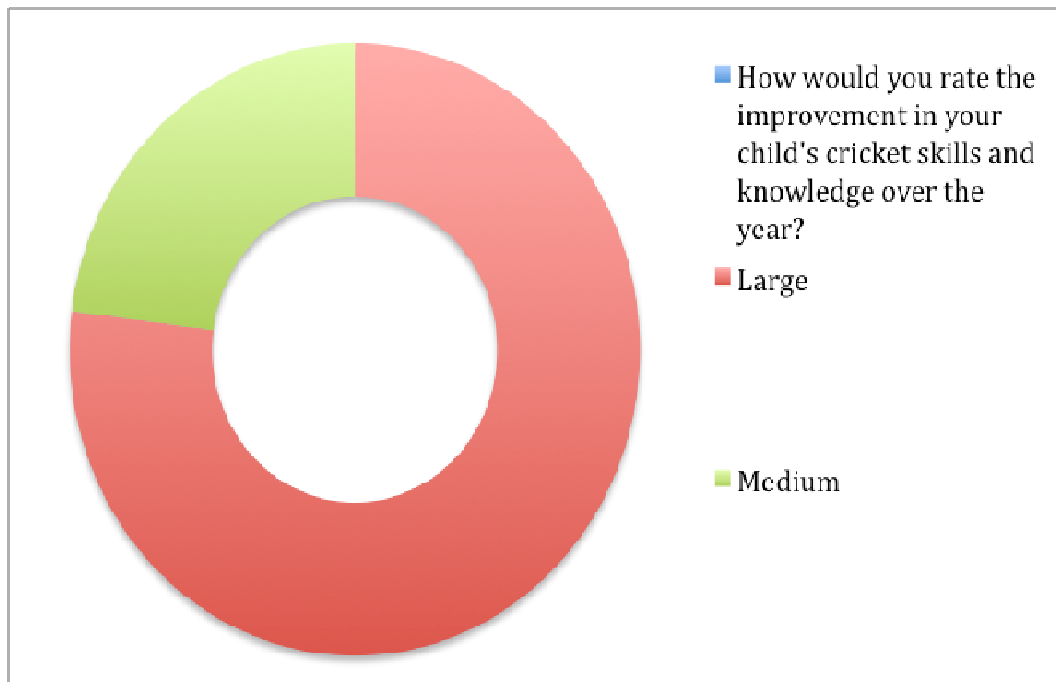
The club has a charter that sets out the rights and responsibilities of players and officials of our club. Welcoming and respecting new people is a key part of that charter. The next chart tells us our players and officials are walking the walk, not just talking the talk when it comes to upholding our inclusive and friendly club environment.



Our parents are also satisfied that we're striking the right balance between encouraging their kids natural competitiveness and creating a positive, inclusive environment in which to play the game.

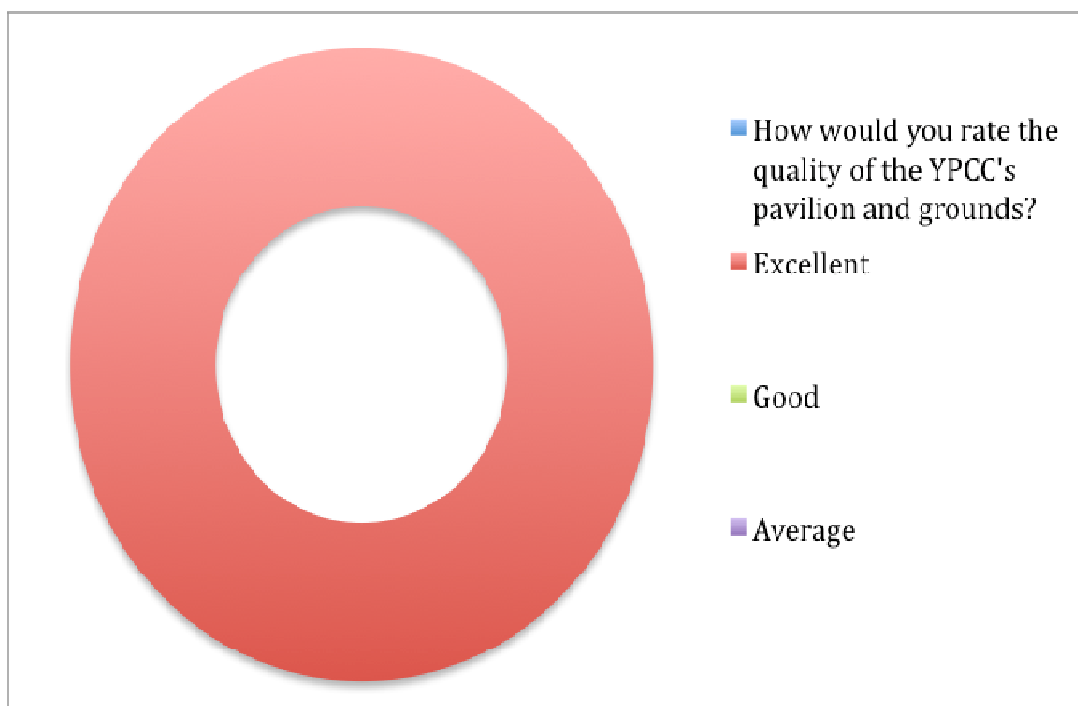


YPCC's senior players have been heavily involved in providing specialist coaching during the year, and this along with parents and grandparents getting involved and offering advice and encouragement has certainly helped build the kids' skills and confidence – no matter what their ability.



But at the end of the day, the high level of skill and knowledge development is really a big credit to the kids themselves, who are willing to listen and learn, and confident enough to put that knowledge into practice.

YPCC is fortunate to have excellent facilities. Parents were overwhelmingly impressed with both our grounds and pavilion. The City of Melbourne are our landlord, and hold enormous influence over the future of clubs like YPCC. They could send clubs like ours into extinction with a single bad decision. But the City of Melbourne's willingness to set reasonable leasing arrangements and their openness to discuss and negotiate issues as they arise has been important to the success of the junior program.



Parents have a lot of different hands trying to get into their wallets. The suburbs around YPCC are privileged to have a huge range of things for kids to get into after school and on weekends. Because of that fact we've recognised that our junior program needs to provide great value for money. It's wonderful to get feedback that we're hitting the mark.

