

Father's Day Interview w/ Rowan

Fathers Questions

1. Were you close to your family growing up?

My mother passed away when I was very young, so I had a different family experience with my two sisters. Our bond was very strong. I had a very large extended family with my cousin, Aunties and Uncles which exposed me to many different family experiences.

2. What was one takeaway from your relationship with your family that you have passed onto your own family?

That family is important and special so keep them close, support, nurture and most of all have fun together.

3. How many children do you have?

I have three sons and five grandchildren.

4. What traits are important to you in your family and why?

Most important traits are to be honest and to support one another through thick and thin.

5. Do you have any traditions with your children?

Christmas is a very special time not only with my children but my extended family who have over the years turned the day into a celebration for all who attend. Starting early and finishing late.

6. What's the best piece of advice you have given your children?

I have always told my boys and I am a great believer that the harder you work the luckier you get as you are well prepared for whatever opportunities presents themselves at any time. Also, if something is worth doing do it to the best of your ability.

7. What's the best piece of advice a family member has given you?

My Grandfather raised in the depression taught me that everything is worth something to someone. This has turned me into a bit of a hoarder with my wife continually telling me to get rid of the STUFF!!

8. What is your favorite memory of Father's Day?

Travis my eldest son when in preps bought me a Melbourne Football Club ashtray, mini football and mug from the school store so I could become a Melbourne supporter like him. He did not like that I did not barrack for a team.

AFL Questions

1. What is the criteria to be an AFL umpire?

The criteria has changed many times over my time but when I started it was as simple as writing a letter to the VFL and hope you were accepted. I was fortunately given a chance, but I just became one of 450 VFL umpires. The criteria is much more stringent now with fitness and aptitude tests.

2. With the constant changes of interpretations in the AFL, what can the current umpires do to help with the current state of the game?

The umpires can only umpire the way they are coached. I think the fan just wants to see consistency in the approach towards decision making.

3. What did you do outside of AFL/VFL umpiring during your career?

I was Health Surveyor now known as Environmental Health Officers with the City of South Melbourne for most of my working life. The past twenty odd years I have turned my passion into my career by coaching umpires at the AFL and EDFL.

4. Do you think that our more experienced, older umpires, should be more of a father figure to the younger players, or players in general, and provide some words of advice if they see poor behavior creeping in, or if they see some things that they are doing well? Why/Why not? Did you do this when you were umpiring?

In community football in Junior games I think the senior umpire has a role in education of the players and expected behaviors. At AFL level I am strong believer the umpire is there to control the game and ensure it is played in a safe manner.

Quick 10

1. Favourite Food?

Thai with meat and three veg a close second.

2. Tea or Coffee?

Coffee – Long black with dash of hot milk.

3. Favourite Movie?

Love going to the movies. The Shawshank Redemption still one of my favourites.

4. Holiday Destination?

It was Port Douglas but now it's Noosa to see my two granddaughters.

5. Biggest fear?

Snakes

6. What is your favourite way to spend a day off?

I do enjoy a game of golf with my mates.

7. Best quote you've heard?

"Don't worry about things you have no control over"

8. Next item to tick off your bucket list?

Currently revisiting the list because of COVID-19, but Carmel and I did want to drive around England. I don't think that is going to happen anytime soon.

9. If you could invite 3 people to dinner, who would they be and why?

- Paul McCartney – grow up with the Beatles and what amazing stories he could tell about the 60's onwards. He could play a few tunes - "With a little help from his friends."
- The Queen – From Churchill to Brexit. What are the true stories from beneath the "Crown?"
- Jamie Oliver – I love his positivity, enthusiasm and energy in everything he does but more importantly he can cook up a storm.

10. A genie gives you three wishes—what are they?

- Find a cure for COVID-19
- Peace and harmony worldwide.
- No such thing as illicit drug or recreational drugs.