

## Local junior spends time with Scottish Soccer Giants

During the recent school holidays Berrima resident Sam Rose spent time in the UK training and playing with Scottish football icons Glasgow Rangers. Formed in 1872 Rangers are considered one of the founding fathers of football winning the Scottish League title a world record 54 times, the Scottish Cup 33 times and the Scottish League Cup 27 times over their 141 year history. Their purpose built training facilities at Murray Park north of Glasgow are world class and cover an area of 38 acres.

The Chevalier College year 10 student completed a week of training at Rangers which involved 5 full days of morning and afternoon sessions alongside academy players who were competing for professional contracts. Rose then played for Rangers in a game versus a touring Irish U17's regional team.

*"The main difference I found initially was the speed of play" said Rose "but in that environment your own speed with the ball increases very quickly"*

Highlands Soccer Association Technical Director Nick D'Amore has spent the last 4 years personally training Rose, and was instrumental in organising his time with Rangers via the HSA's and HFC's affiliation with the Scottish club via their Soccer Schools which have been held in the Highlands during Easter for the last 4 years.

*D'Amore said "the Highlands link with Rangers allows us to send sufficiently talented individuals to Scotland for training and trials and Sam is our first to make the trip"*

Rose was a Moss Vale SC junior starting with the local club at age 6 and currently plays for the semi professional club Macarthur Rams in the National Premier League.

Rangers plan to return to the Highlands later in the year during the September school holidays for their fifth year of soccer schools. More information will be made available closer to the time.

Rose was then offered the opportunity to spend a week training with Falkirk FC who play in the Scottish First Division. Falkirk train out of the Scottish Institute of Sport located in the University of Stirling with world class facilities and are renowned for the quality and quantity of players produced from their academy. In their recent Scottish Cup semi final Falkirk fielded no less than 8 of their academy graduates in the starting 11 with 4 of them being under 18 years of age.

*"I went quite well at Falkirk" said Rose "as they asked me to return for a second week of training and would like to see me back later in the year"*

Falkirk FC in conjunction with the University of Stirling offer International Football Scholarships. This unique initiative sees talented young footballers combine their sport with a university degree and is offered to non UK residents.