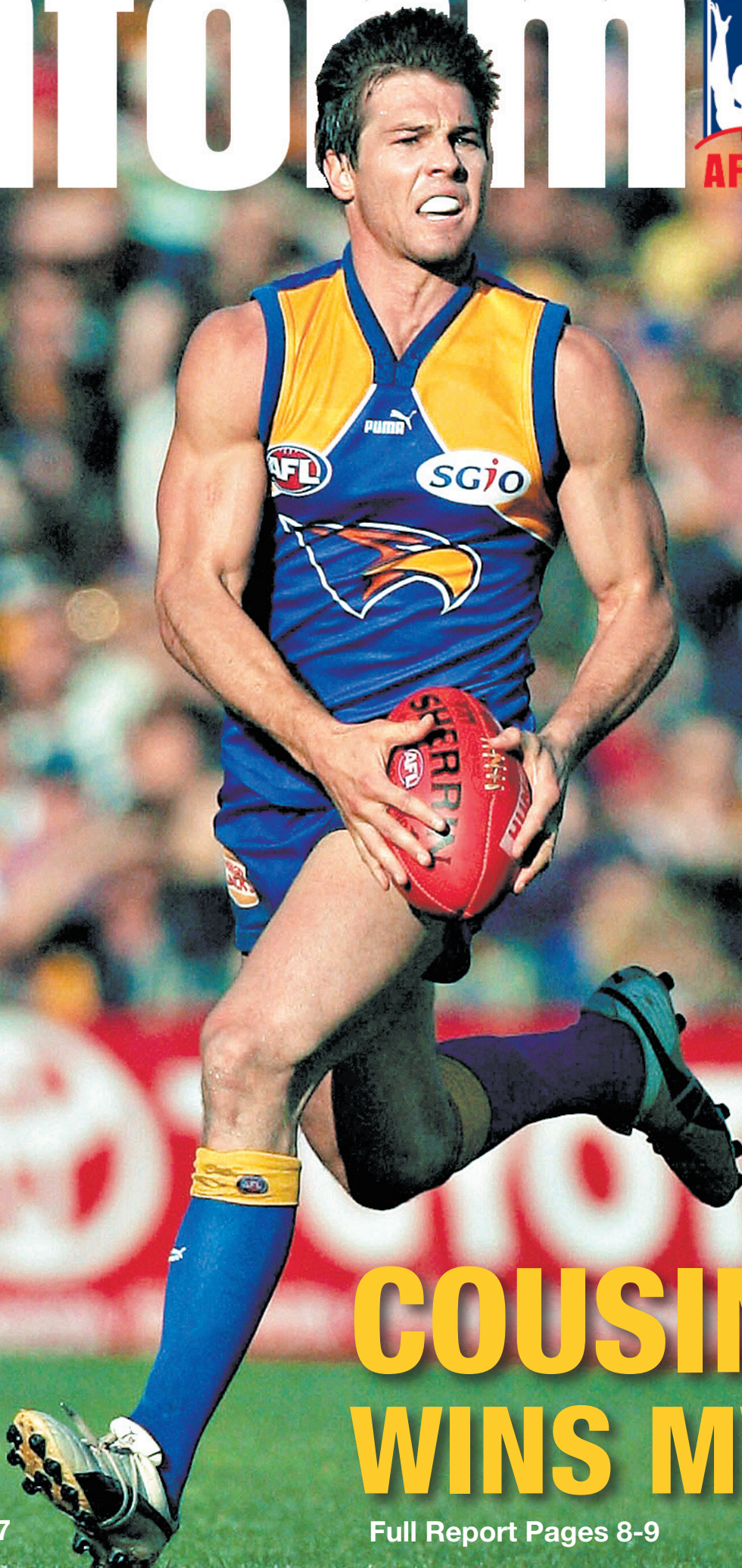


# Inform



**PLAYER SERVICES CHANGE**

Stories Pages 6-7

# COUSINS WINS MVP

Full Report Pages 8-9



## INTRODUCTION



**Brendon Gale**  
AFLPA CEO

“I was also extremely proud of the player response to the devastating Asian Tsunami tragedy”

## It just keeps getting better

The AFL again enjoyed a spectacularly successful year both on and off the field and the game goes from strength to strength. This is a tribute to our fans who continue to support the game in record numbers, the steady hands of those who manage our national game both at club and AFL level, and finally to the players who put their minds, bodies and reputations on the line each week to make the game the spectacle it is.

Once again the AFLPA has been “in the thick of it” throughout the year and has recorded one or two achievements along the way. This year I was also extremely proud of the player response to the devastating Asian Tsunami tragedy. As we all know, we lost one of our own in the Tsunami in Troy Broadbridge. AFL players responded in typical fashion by fast-tracking an enormous increase to the already generous AFL Player Charity Fund. This resulted in a cheque for \$250,000 going to The Reach Broadbridge Foundation. Well done to all players.

In 2005, the AFLPA negotiated a 3% increase to 2006 Total Player Payments, allowing all players to

share in the success of our great game. The AFLPA also developed and completed a new strategic plan designed to help your association gear up to confront new challenges.

In 2005 we started the “new” Past Player Health Hardship Fund. Starting in 2006, current players will forfeit about \$2 million of total player payments over the next three years. This will assist the generations of past players who may be experiencing health related problems as a result of their football playing days and who often do not have the means to get themselves right.

One of the things I’m most excited about is our revamped Player Development Program. After careful consideration we decided to bring in-house a range of services previously outsourced to CD Sports. From November 1 the AFLPA has been providing players with a fully integrated suite of player development services, including education and training and career and psychology services in-house. We’ve employed some of the best in the business to help provide players with tools and advice to

make the most of the opportunities that being on an AFL list can provide. I would like to thank CD Sports for their strong contribution to the AFLPA over the past six years.

I should also congratulate the Sydney Swans on their mighty effort in taking out the 2005 Premiership. I must also pay tribute to West Coast for being part of a top-class Grand Final. Congratulations is also due to 2005 AFLPA award winners in MVP Ben Cousins, Best Captain Mark Ricciuto, Best First Year Player Brett Deledio, Most Courageous Glenn Archer and Marn Grook winner Aaron Davey.

I also wish all the best to those players leaving the AFL this year. Whether you managed to play 297 games or didn’t crack a senior AFL game, you’ve achieved the dream of so many by simply making it onto an AFL list.

Season 2006 will no doubt provide us with as many opportunities as challenges. We all look forward to tackling 2006 with a renewed effort and vigour.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe, happy and prosperous new year to all.

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**Vice-President**  
Nathan Buckley (Collingwood)

Brett Burton (Adelaide)  
Tom Harley (Geelong)  
Adam Goodes (Sydney)  
Glenn Archer (Kangaroos)  
Darryl Wakelin (Port Adelaide)

Joel Bowden (Richmond)  
Alistair Nicholson (Melbourne)  
Simon Garlick (Western Bulldogs, Sydney, former player)

### Club delegates

Ken McGregor (Adelaide)  
Luke Power (Brisbane)  
Ian Prendergast (Carlton)  
James Clement (Collingwood)  
Mark Bolton (Essendon)  
Shaun McManus (Fremantle)  
Charlie Gardiner (Geelong)  
John Barker (Hawthorn)  
Cameron Bruce (Melbourne)  
Leigh Brown (Kangaroos)  
Brendon Lade (Port Adelaide)  
Daniel Jackson (Richmond)  
Justin Peckett (St Kilda)  
Jared Crouch (Sydney)  
Rohan Smith (Bulldogs)  
Drew Banfield (West Coast)

## WORKPLACEISSUES

Matt Finnis, Manager Player Relations

# Code of conduct under review

The AFLPA is currently reviewing the Players' Code of Conduct in conjunction with representatives from the AFL and a number of AFL Clubs. It is expected that the revised Code of Conduct will formalise the role of club leadership groups playing a part in determining appropriate penalties for players who do not comply with the Code and general team rules of player behaviour. The revised Code is also intended to require clubs to consider alternative penalties to monetary fines in responding to player breaches. The review of the Players' Code of Conduct is due to be completed in early 2006.

### AFL Drug Codes

At the time of writing this article the AFL had not yet completed the amendments to its anti-doping policy which are required to comply with the WADA Code. All players will be provided with detailed information on the changes to the AFL's anti-doping policy prior to its implementation.

The AFLPA is negotiating with the AFL in relation to the future operation of the Illicit Drugs Policy (IDP) first implemented at the start of the 2005 season. The introduction of a WADA compliant anti-doping policy required the AFL to seek the consent of the AFLPA to amend specific provisions of the IDP. It is likely that any continued operation of the IDP will be dependent upon a more rehabilitative (as opposed to punitive) response being taken to players who are detected using non-performance enhancing drugs outside of competition times.

### CBA mid-term review

The 2003 - 2008 AFL/AFLPA Collective Bargaining Agreement includes a mid-term review on or before February 1, 2006. Matters to be considered in accordance with this review include:

- The level of total player payments for 2007 and 2008 (to be determined following conclusion of the AFL's current broadcast rights negotiations);

- The Standard Player Contract;
- The powers of the AFL Investigations Manager; and
- Player injury and insurance arrangements and benefits.

### Telstra Dome Surface

The AFLPA continues to be represented on the Telstra Dome Arena Surface Working Group as a means of monitoring and addressing issues associated with the playing surface at that venue. The AFLPA has been advised of the resurfacing plans for the 2006 AFL season as well as a number of research and development initiatives being undertaken by Telstra Dome management in an attempt to improve the safety and playability of the surface. The AFLPA would like to thank retiring player Wayne Campbell for his involvement as a member of this Working Group in recent years.

### Tribunal Review

The AFLPA recently provided a submission to the AFL's Tribunal Review Committee for considera-

tion in its evaluation of the operation of the new tribunal system in 2005. The submission was based upon feedback received from players throughout the course of the 2005 season.

Allowing players to enter an "early plea" has significantly reduced the number of tribunal hearings (there were nearly 100 fewer tribunal hearings in 2005 than in 2004), and the use of past AFL players as tribunal panel members is viewed positively by AFL players. However, AFL players have indicated that consistency in tribunal decisions continues to be a point of concern.

The AFLPA suggested that the tribunal system can be further enhanced by allowing players to introduce evidence of like cases and ensuring consistency in the manner in which points are added or deducted depending on a player's previous tribunal record. The AFLPA have also called on the AFL to review the level of financial fines imposed on players by the Tribunal and the definition of a melee offence.

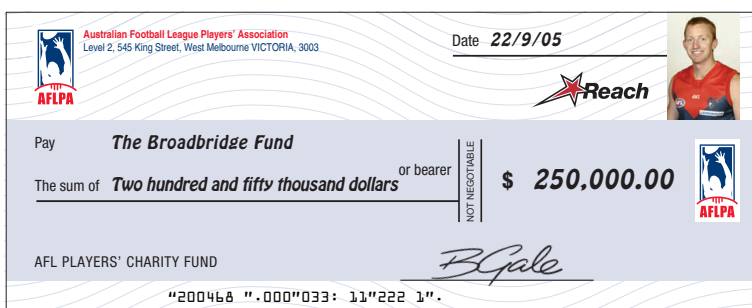
# \$250,000 to Broadbridge fund



Troy Broadbridge

AFL players donated \$250,000 to the Broadbridge fund this year. The players resolved to contribute a special \$20 levy per senior game to honour the memory of fallen Melbourne player Troy Broadbridge and all those lost in the Boxing Day Tsunami.

This \$20 was in addition to the \$15 per senior game players contributed to this year's AFL player Charity Fund. AFLPA Vice President Nathan Buckley and AFLPA CEO Brendon Gale presented Troy's widow Trisha Broadbridge and Jim Stynes of the Broadbridge Fund with a cheque for \$250,000 of player-



donated money at the Grand Final eve edition of the Footy Show. Also on the night, Pratt Foundation chairperson Heloise Waislitz generously donated \$50,000 to the Foundation.

The Broadbridge Fund was established by Trisha Broadbridge and Jim Stynes of The Reach

Foundation. The Fund aims to reflect Troy's life and legacy, fitting the objectives of all AFL players who wished to honour Troy and support those people whose lives were shattered by the Tsunami. Since the Fund's inception, players have donated over \$500,000 to charity.

## RETIRING PLAYERS

# Thanks for the memories

**T**HE AFLPA wishes a fond farewell and good luck to the following former senior listed AFL players. Note: A number of the following players may be re-drafted in forthcoming drafts.

### ADELAIDE

**Mark Stevens** 122 games (Roos 21, Crows 101) 1998 flag.  
**James Begley** 61 (St K 36, Adel 25).  
**Chris Ladhams** 54.  
**Jacob Schuback** 7.

**Josh Krueger**  
**Matthew Smith**

### BRISBANE

**Darryl White** 268 , three flags (2001, '02, '03), AFL Indigenous Team of the Century.  
**Martin Pike** 247 (Melb 24, Fitz 36, Roos 81, Bris 106) four flags (Roos 1999, Lions 2001, '02, '03), 1996 Fitz B&F.

**Tom Logan** 1.  
**Llane Spaanderman** 1.

**Leigh Ryswyk**

### CARLTON

**David Clarke** 101 (Geel 89, Carl 12).  
**Digby Morrell** 72 (Roos 40, Carl 32).  
**Brett Johnson** 70 (Haw 38, Carl 32).  
**Glen Bowyer** 55 (Haw 35, Carl 20).  
**Karl Norman** 28.

### COLLINGWOOD

**Shane Woewodin** 200 (Melb 138, Coll 62), 2000 Brownlow Medal and Melb B&F.  
**Andrew Williams** 116 (Wc 84, Coll 32).

**Matthew Lokan** 46.

**David King** 9.

**Tom Davidson** 1.

**Brayden Shaw**

**Billy Morrison**

### ESSENDON

**Justin Murphy** 185 (Rich 12, Carl 115, Geel 18, Ess 40). **Matthew Allan** 141 (Carl 140, Ess 21), 1999 All-Australian, Carl B&F.  
**Mark Alvey** 59 (Dogs 45, Ess 14).  
**Damian Cupido** 53 (Bris 13, Ess 40).  
**Marc Bullen** 44.  
**Ben Haynes** 26 (Rich 5, Ess 21).

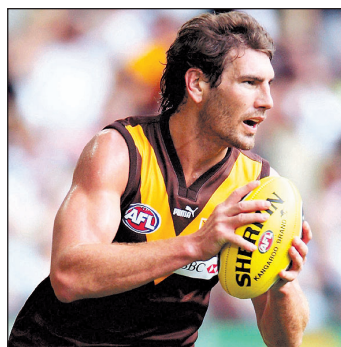
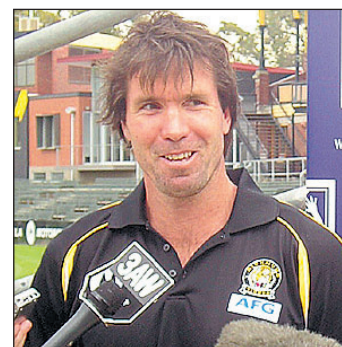
**Paul Thomas** 8.

**Sam Hunt** 7.

### FREMANTLE

**Dion Woods** 59.

**Andrew Siegert** 36.



Clockwise, top left: Stuart Maxfield, Leigh Colbert, Wayne Campbell, Mark Stevens, Nick Holland, Corey McKernan

**Dylan Smith** 17 (Roos 11, Freo 6).

**Toby Stribling**

### GEELONG

**Brenton Sanderson** 209 (Adel 6, Coll 4, Geel 199), 2001 Geel B&F.  
**James Rahilly** 90.  
**David Haynes** 65 matches (Wc 46, Geel 19).

**Will Slade** 11.

### HAWTHORN

**Angelo Lekkas** 180 , 1997 AFL Rising Star Nominee.  
**Nick Holland** 179 , 2000 Haw B&F, 1995 AFL Rising Star.

**Simon Beaumont** 179 (Carl 152, Haw 27).

**Steven Greene** 42.

### KANGAROOS

**Corey McKernan** 237 (Carl 41, Roos 196), 2002 Carl B&F, two flags (1996, 1999), 1996 AFLPA MVP, 1996 All-Australian.

**Leigh Colbert** 209 , (Geel 105, Roos 104). **Lance Picioane** 77 (Adel 4, Haw 58, Roos 15).

**Michael Stevens** 61 (Port Adel 17, Roos 44).

**John Baird** 46.

**Ashley Watson** 7.

**Kris Shore**

**Shane Harvey** 14 (Ess 11, Roos 3).

### MELBOURNE

**Chris Heffernan** 144 (Ess 97, Melb 47), 2000 Ess Flag.

**Guy Rigoni** 107

**Luke Williams** 51.

**Steven Armstrong** 43.

**Cameron Hunter** 2.

### PORT ADELAIDE

**Matthew Primus** 157 (Fitz 20, Port 137), 2001-02 All-Australian, 2002 Port B&F.

**Roger James** 147 , 2004 Port flag.

**Stuart Cochrane** 104 (Roos 60, Port Adel 54).

**Jared Poulton** 88.

**Stephen Gilham**

**Luke Peel**

### RICHMOND

**Wayne Campbell** 297 , 1995, 97, 99, 2002 Rich B&F, 1995 & 1999 All-Australian.

**Mark Graham** 243 (Haw 223, Rich 20).

**Rory Hilton** 91 , (Bris 9, Rich 82).

**Shane Morrison** 13

(Bris 5, Rich 8).

**Kyle Archibald**

### ST KILDA

**Austinn Jones** 226 ,

1997 & 2004 All-Australian.

**Brent Guerra** 96 (Port Adel 65, St K 31).

**Nick Stone** 20 (Haw 17, St K 3).

**Dylan Pfitzner**

### SYDNEY

**Stuart Maxfield** 289 (Rich 89, Sydney 200).

**Jason Ball** 194 (Wc 103, ydney 91), two flags (Sydney 2005, WC 1994).

**Matthew Nicks** 175.

**Andrew Schauble** 167 (Coll 79, Sydney 88). 2000 B&F.

**Ben Fixter** 27.

**Heath James** 18.

**Jarrad Sundqvist** 9.

### WEST COAST

**Phil Matera** 179, 2003 All-Australian.

**Jeremy Humm** 22.

**Zach Beeck** 1.

### WESTERN BULLDOGS

**Ben Harrison** 161 (Carl 2; Rich 74; Dogs 85).

**Daniel Bandy** 150 (45 Dogs; 105 Freo).

**Steven Koops** 89

(Freo 78; Dogs 11).

**Izacc Thompson**



**INDIGENOUS TEAM**



# A century of sheer magic

The AFL's Indigenous Team of the Century, recognising 100 years of achievement by Indigenous players.



**Followers:**

Graham Farmer  
Andrew McLeod  
Barry Cable

**Interchange:** Michael McLean; Byron Pickett; Michael Graham; David Kantilla; Ted Kilmurray; Peter Burgoyne

**Captain:** Graham Farmer  
**Coach:** Barry Cable  
**Umpire:** Glenn James

## Thousands join Michael on the long walk

*"Don't give us pity, give us hope, give us help, give us education, give us goals, join with us."*

**Michael Long**

On Sunday December 4, thousands of Australians joined Indigenous AFL legend Michael Long at Princess Park on the Long Walk 2005.

The 2005 Long Walk built upon the momentum from Michael's November 2004 historic and remarkable journey of walking from Melbourne to Canberra to meet with

Prime Minister John Howard to help raise the profile of Indigenous issues. The Long Walk is a statement of strength, leadership and inspiration, a step towards uniting all Australians.

The support from Indigenous and non-Indigenous people has been overwhelming.

For more information, log on to:  
[www.thelongwalk.com.au](http://www.thelongwalk.com.au)



**THE LONG WALK**

**TEST YOUR SPORTS KNOWLEDGE**

- 1: What record weight (for a mare) did Makybe Diva carry to win this year's Melbourne Cup?
- 2: Who won the 2005 AFLPA Best First Year Player?
- 3: What Aussie golfer finished second to Ian Baker-Finch in

- the 1991 British Open?
- 4: What is Rugby League legend Reg Regan's catchphrase?
- 5: Who's the head coach of Super 14 Rugby Union side Western Force?
- 6: Which F1 team did Jenson

- Button pay a penalty of \$20 million to avoid driving for in 2006?
- 7: Which V8 Supercar driver's almost came to blows after a crash at this year's Bathurst?
- 8: What team does Socceroos

- coach Gus Hiddink coach in the Dutch Premier League?
- 9: When did Lleyton Hewitt last defeat Roger Federer?
- 10: Who were the first Australian's to climb Mount Everest?

## PLAYERDEVELOPMENT

# Major reshuffle for player services

### LISA MILLING

#### Manager, Education & Player Development

##### So Lisa, big changes in the PDP department?

Yes, after a strategic review of the PA we felt that it was time to bring in-house what previously was provided by external providers. We've established a national network of staff and consultants featuring some of the best in the business, to run services for all the players and past players (up to three years).

##### Tell us a little about the team.

**Steve Alessio** has 13 years' experience at Essendon, close to 200 games and a premiership. With Steve going through his own transition, he relates to players directly, and his dry sense of humour helps.

**Leigh Russell** has the skills, the knowledge and the experience with that rare mix of understanding in the elite sporting environment through her experience with track and field and with Hawthorn.

**Pippa Grange** has vast experience with stress, injury, depression, relationship and crisis management and understands referral networks. Pippa has excellent experience in the elite sporting environment.

**Ralph White** is from the Victorian Department of Sport & Recreation. He has run our cross-cultural awareness programs for the past seven years and has extensive knowledge of welfare, mentoring and indigenous training.

**Jess Fairchild** has come to us fulltime and administers all the education & training grants, workshops. She is certainly the go to person for us.

##### What excites you most about the revamped Department?

We'll be more individually focused; looking at the individual needs of the players and find the best solution. If we don't have it in-house then we'll go and source it out. We will find the best model or the best solution for the individual.

### STEVE ALESSIO

#### Career Transition Manager

##### Ces, what does your new role with the AFLPA entail?

Basically helping out all the retired and delisted guys make the transition from their playing days to work life. The growing importance on guys is to make sure that this process is not left to the end of their careers. It is a process they need to work through during their career so that it is a smooth transition.

##### So how good was that great Essendon Premiership side of 2000?

Are we on to footy already? The 2000 team was essentially a product of the 1999 preliminary final, which we lost by a point. We made our mind up that 2000 was going to be a watershed year for us. We had tremendous belief, determination and confidence in ourselves that year. The confidence of the side going into the Grand Final was just unbelievable. It was really a great team to be a part of.

##### What's the weirdest request you've ever had from a fan?

I signed the shoulder of a girl from one of the interstate cheer squads. A month later she showed me the autograph and she had turned it into a tattoo. From then on I was very wary about doing that again. Especially since I'd changed my name. When I first started signing I was Frederico Fernandez and that's what I signed it as and then it went to Steve Alessio so unfortunately there's a girl walking around interstate who's got a Frederico Fernandez.

The AFLPA has employed former Essendon premiership player **Steve Alessio** as it's new Career Transition Manager.

He has played 184 games over thirteen years at Essendon and played in 2000 premiership team. He won the best clubman award three times.

For the past eighteen months, Steve has worked at AFL SportsReady. Prior to that he undertook part-time work in conjunction with his football and study commitments. Steve has also completed a BA Business (Computing), Diploma of E-Business, Certificate IV in Building and a Certificate IV in Workplace Assessment and Training.

**Leigh Russell** is the AFLPA's newly appointed Career & Education Manager. Leigh has worked as a teacher in South Australia and the UK and has managed academic programs at The University of Adelaide. Leigh has experience in counselling students and elite performers and

### KEY DATES

**Jan 9-10** AFLPA/AFL Induction Camp

**Jan 16-17** Level 2 Coaches Course

**Jan 20** Round 1 Next Goal applications close

**Feb 17** Round 1 Education & Training Grants applications close

**Feb 27** Uni Semester begins  
March 10 Rd 2 Next Goal applications close

was most recently employed as Athlete Career Advisor at Hawthorn Football Club.

Leigh has completed a Graduate Certificate in Career Counselling for Elite Performers (Sport), Graduate of Social Science (Counselling), Graduate Diploma of Education, BA (Sociology & Psychology) and a number of other relevant career counselling and training courses.

**Pippa Grange** heads the AFLPA's

### JESS FAIRCHILD

#### Player Development Program Coordinator

##### Jess you are the new Player Development Program Coordinator?

Yes, I have been at the PA for two years now and have recently changed roles to PDP Coordinator, which I'm absolutely loving.

##### What does your job entail?

I am the player development program coordinator which includes processing the Education and Training grants, coordination of workshops, the induction camp for the newly drafted players, indigenous camp, forums for the player development managers and assist with our five player development staff and interstate consultants that we have on board at the association.

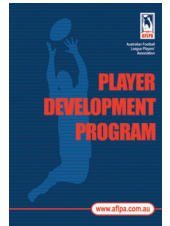
##### Important question Jess, who do you barrack for?

I actually have a couple ... growing up as a girl in South Australia I was a mad Adelaide Crows supporter, but my Melbourne team is St Kilda. All in all, I just love the game!

##### When you were a kid did you have posters on your wall and who were they of?

Being an Adelaide Crows supporter I was in love with Tony Modra, he was my sweetheart ... not to mention the grabs he used to take!

## PLAYERDEVELOPMENT



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**Ralph White** 0422-691-630  
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**Jess Fairchild** (03) 9328-8001  
jess@aflpa.com.au

new Psychology Services department. Pippa has significant experience in counselling people with injuries, career transition, grief and loss, and self-esteem issues.

Pippa believes that solid working relationships with clients, based on trust and joint work efforts, lead to confident choices for the athlete.

Pippa has completed a Doctorate of Applied Psychology

(Sport), Graduate Diploma in Applied Psychology, Graduate Diploma in Counselling and Communications, Joint Honours in Bachelor of Science (Psychology and Sport Science) and specialised psychological accreditation for testing and training.

**Ralph White** takes over from Michael Long as Indigenous Programs Coordinator.

Ralph has welfare, mentoring and indigenous training experience over the past 30 years. Originally from Darwin, Ralph worked as a Koori consultant at the Indigenous Sports Unit of the Victorian Department of Sport and Recreation for the past 14 years.

He has extensive experience in dealing with indigenous youth and has delivered the AFLPA's Cross-Cultural Awareness Program for the past five years.

Ralph will work for the AFLPA one day a week and for AFL SportsReady four days a week.

### LEIGH RUSSELL

#### Career & Education Manager

##### So Leigh, you are from Adelaide, no?

I'm not actually from Adelaide, I'm a Melbourne girl but moved to Adelaide after Uni to work and ended up staying for quite a few years.

##### You have a teaching background?

Yes I'm a reformed teacher. I wasn't sure what else to do when I finished my Bachelor of Arts, but always knew I wanted to work in welfare/counselling. So here I am!

##### So what does your new role with the AFLPA entail?

I'm in charge of all the career and education services for all the teams, including the interstate ones, which essentially means that players will come to see me for career counselling if they don't know which direction they might take after footy, or educational advice - help with applications to courses or dealing with TAFE & Uni's. For example, when players move interstate, they might need help to do a cross-institutional enrolment and get settled into a new university. I'm also looking after other things like study skills, job skills and managing the workshops the AFLPA offer on topics like career planning and public speaking skills.

##### And you were with the Hawks before?

Yes I was assisting Damien Hardwick, who is the Player Development Manager there - career and personal counselling - getting the boys on track off-field.

##### What's the weirdest request you've ever had from a player?

That would be trading secrets but I have had some unusual requests for courses -like cattle breeding, fly fishing or aeronautical engineering - not your usual pathways but it keeps me challenged to find the answers and get the boys into these courses!

### RALPH WHITE

#### Indigenous Programs Coordinator

##### Tell us a little about yourself?

I was born in Darwin and have spent the last 30 years in Melbourne. My father's people are from Cape Leveque, who are the Bardi people.

##### What does your role at the AFLPA entail?

Provide support and advice on behalf of the AFLPA to AFL Clubs, their representatives, players and officials on Indigenous issues. To deliver cross cultural awareness programs to interested clubs and to develop and promote AFLPA services and programs. Also develop and maintain a supportive relationship with all Indigenous players.

##### Who is your role model or the biggest influence on your career?

My Mother was the biggest influence on my life. I admire those people who have managed against adversity to change.

##### When did you decide to get involved in Indigenous affairs?

I have been involved in Indigenous affairs for the past twenty years in Melbourne, working in youth affairs, community services, health, tourism and sport and recreation. I have always been passionate about working with my people and enjoy the challenges in working with government and community groups to create opportunities for change.

##### Some of the things you'd like to achieve in your new role?

The main thing I would like to achieve is to have an AFL industry that is more culturally aware and supportive of cultural diversity.

### PIPPA GRANGE

#### Psychology Services Manager

##### So Pippa, you are originally from England?

Yes I am from Yorkshire - Freddy Truman country but I've been here about nine-and-a-half years now.

##### So we best not mention the Ashes?

No you talk about the ashes this year for a change!

##### Hmmm. So what does your new role with the AFLPA entail?

With the new set-up in the Player Development Program there is now a function that's psychology services. So where as previously CD Sports looked after any off-field welfare issues, now it comes through the Player Development Program. My role will be to look after anything that falls under the umbrella of counselling. So drugs, alcohol, gambling, relationships, any personal counselling issues for player or spouse. It can be as diverse as post-natal depression or relocation, pretty much anything you would go and see a counsellor for now the PA provides that service.

##### So it's good to get these services at arm's length from the clubs?

We do enjoy great relationships with the clubs, but the idea is that it's a neutral third party. Sometimes, even if there's close relationships within the club, coaches or PDM's, there can be confusion about selection decisions and neutrality. The roles can be a bit confusing so it's a good option for players to get out and speak with the PA.



## MVP AWARDS

## Cousins collects top players' award



Victorian Minister for Sport & Recreation Justin Madden presents Peter Allen with his life membership award

### Most Valuable

<b>Ben Cousins</b> . . . . .	159
Matthew Pavlich . . . . .	99
Barry Hall . . . . .	73
Mark Ricciuto . . . . .	37
Scott West . . . . .	36

### Most Courageous

<b>Glenn Archer</b> . . . . .	204
Jonathan Brown . . . . .	107
Leo Barry . . . . .	55
Troy Cook . . . . .	36
Brett Voss . . . . .	34
Jimmy Bartel . . . . .	34

### Best Captain

<b>Mark Ricciuto</b> . . . . .	223
Ben Cousins . . . . .	143
Michael Voss . . . . .	79
James Hird . . . . .	70
Peter Bell . . . . .	24

### Best First Year Player

<b>Brett Deledio</b> . . . . .	207
Ryan Griffen . . . . .	153
Andrew Lovett . . . . .	91
Josh Drummond . . . . .	44
Jordan Lewis . . . . .	35

**C**ongratulations to West Coast Eagles captain Ben Cousins upon winning the Leigh Matthews Trophy for Most Valuable Player. Over 500 people attended the gala Grand Final eve MVP awards night. The awards, held at Melbourne's Park Hyatt, were again televised live across Australia on FOX Footy.

West Coast Eagles Match Committee member Tim Gepp accepted the prestigious trophy on Ben's behalf. In a taped acceptance speech, Cousins told of what winning the prestigious award meant to him. The Leigh Matthews Trophy for Most Valuable Player remains the only award in footy voted by players.

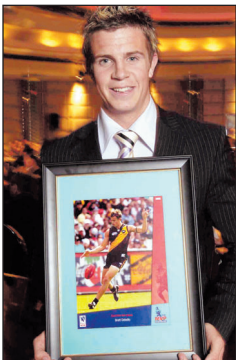
A total of 159 players selected Cousins as the League's Most Valuable Player. Runner up Matthew Pavlich received the nod from 99 players with Sydney's Barry Hall receiving 73 votes to



**MVP AWARDS**



Aaron Davey, Jimmy Krakouer, Derek Kickett and Xavier Clarke at the MVP awards night.



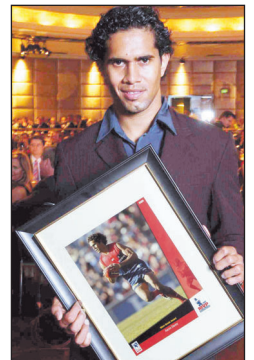
Brett Deledio



Glenn Archer with Clinton Grybas



Mark Graham, Nick Holland and Steve Alessio



Aaron Davey

finish in third place.

In other awards, Adelaide Crow's Captain Mark Ricciuto received the Integrated Group Best Captain award, wresting the title away from four time winner Michael Voss. Fellow Crow and AFLPA Executive member Brett Burton accepted the award on Mark's behalf.

Shinboner of the Century Glenn Archer, was again judged Most Courageous by his peers, receiving the Pacific Internet

Most Courageous Player award for a record fifth time.

Melbourne's Aaron Davey received the Marn Grook Award, for the best emerging Indigenous player, following on from the Best First Year Trophy he won in the 2004 awards. This year the Marn Grook Award was sponsored by Qantas.

Richmond tyro Brett Deledio was selected by fellow players as 2005's Best First Year Player, sponsored by PKF Chartered

Accountants & Business Advisors.

Collingwood Vice-Captain James Clement received the Education and Training Excellence award, sponsored by Computer Power, for his achievements in education and training.

Fellow Magpie and AFLPA Vice-President Nathan Buckley accepted the award on James' behalf.

Also on the night, Peter Allen's 20 years of service with the AFLPA was recognised, with Peter

being named the Association's inaugural Life Member. The award was presented by former VFLPA President and current Victorian Minister for Sport, The Honourable Justin Madden.

Jon Ralph of the Sunday Herald Sun received the Grant Hattam Trophy for football journalism, sponsored by Corrs, Chambers Westgarth lawyers, for his story, "The day my life changed - the inside story on the amazing recovery of Angelo Lekkas".



## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# Players have input on key issues

**O**n Saturday November 26, the AFLPA held its annual player Executive and Delegates conference. The conference plays an important role in giving players a forum to discuss and consider issues affecting the playing group in a collective and consultative environment.

Twenty six player representatives, across all AFL clubs (bar Brisbane, Port Adelaide and St Kilda, who were unavailable due to club commitments) attended the conference, discussing a range of subjects affecting AFL players.

AFLPA CEO Brendon Gale led playing-group discussions on a number of pertinent issues, whilst the AFL's Andrew Demetriou and Adrian Anderson also presented to the group.

This year, a number of young emerging club leaders were also invited to the conference, in addition to the AFLPA player Executive, club delegates and alternate delegates.



**Above:** Advisory Chair Neil Hamilton, Brett Burton, Chris Judd, Drew Banfield, Alistair Nicholson and Joel Bowden

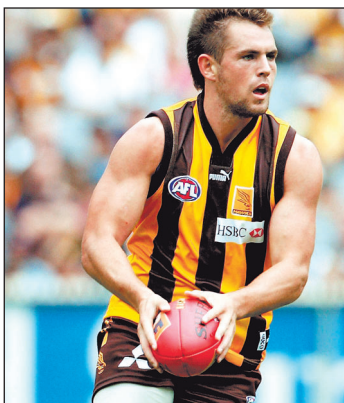


Brendon Gale



Charlie Gardiner and Sam Mitchell

## Support your association



**Pacific Internet is a proud long-term sponsor of the AFLPA. We recently sponsored the Most Courageous Player Award at the annual Most Valuable Player Event. Pacific Internet also supports the AFLPA, by contributing 5% of every Internet connection held by AFLPA members back to the Association.**

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**SHORTPASSES**

# Tracing our history

Do you have any historical AFLPA or VFLPA-related documents or material? The AFLPA is in the process of pulling together its history. If you have any material you would like to donate to the AFLPA, please contact Jason Murnane at the AFLPA on 03 9328 8001 or email [jasonmurnane@aflpa.com.au](mailto:jasonmurnane@aflpa.com.au).

## Grants reminder

All receipts for your Education & Training Grants must be submitted to Jessica Fairchild by Friday 2nd December 2005. Should you have any queries in regards to your E & T reimbursement please call Jessica Fairchild on 03 9328 8001 or email [jess@aflpa.com.au](mailto:jess@aflpa.com.au).

## SportsReady staff

We welcome the following new AFL SportsReady staff - former Sydney Swan Gavin Rose as a Traineeship Consultant (WA office); current Port Adelaide player Shaun Burgoyne as Indigenous Liaison Officer (SA office); Ex-Australian netballer Eloise Southby-Halbish as Traineeship Consultant; and former Sydney Swan Peter Filandia as Traineeship Consultant (Victoria office).

## Indigenous map

Current Indigenous players have recently been contacted by the AFLPA to supply the Association with the town they were born and the tribal area they identify



Bob Hawke addresses a VFLPA meeting in 1976.

with. The AFLPA is using this information to create a map of Australia highlighting the rich & varied background of Indigenous AFL players. Thanks to those players who have already supplied this information. For details, contact Ralph White on 03 9328 8001 or [ralphw@aflsportsready.com.au](mailto:ralphw@aflsportsready.com.au).

## Player appearances

Last year over 70% of AFL footballers were undertaking accredited study at University or TAFE. To help players maintain the balance between the demands of study and AFL football, the AFL has agreed to assist players undertaking study during peak times when scheduling player appearances.

## Study exemptions

The AFL has agreed to grant an exemption to players completing Year 12 or equivalent from the AFL's six half-day appearances.

The AFLPA contributes up to \$5000 per player undertaking Year 12 to assist with school expenses and in particular tutoring when missing class due to training/travel commitments with football.

The AFL has also agreed that AFL player appearances will not be scheduled at exam periods. The AFLPA has a network of 32 "Elite Athlete Friendly Universities" that provide flexibility around the scheduling of exams when they coincide with travel to and from games or on match day.

**QUIZ ANSWERS**



Best First Year Player, Richmond's Brett Deledio

- 1: 58 kilograms
- 2: Brett Deledio
- 3: Mike Harwood
- 4: Bring back the biff
- 5: John Mitchell
- 6: Williams
- 7: Marcus Ambrose & Greg Murphy
- 8: PSV Eindhoven
- 9: 2003 Davis Cup Semi Final
- 10: Tim Macartney-Snape & Greg Mortimer (1984).

## DISCLAIMERS

The articles appearing in this publication are intended to promote awareness of the activities of the AFLPA and matters of general interest to AFL players as professional sportsmen. It should be noted that the AFLPA is not qualified to give financial, legal or investment advice nor are the views expressed by the views expressed by the AFLPA in this publication intended to constitute financial, legal or investment advice.

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## PLAYER ASSIST

From November 1, the AFLPA's PlayerAssist helpline will no longer be available. The following services remain available to all players:  
**Legal Assist** 1800 551 884  
 This is a 24-hour, seven-day referral service to a lawyer for advice on criminal law and other

legal related matters.  
**Specialist Referrals**  
 (03) 9328-8001 or 0402 140 996 (after hours)  
 Pippa Grange, Psychology Services Manager. For confidential counselling or specialist referral for gambling, depression, anger management,

relationship, financial or other related personal issues. All enquires will be treated with STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY. If you have any questions please contact Lisa Milling, the AFLPA's Manager, Education and Player Development on (03) 9328-8001 or 0414-422-044.



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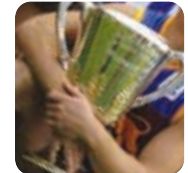


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