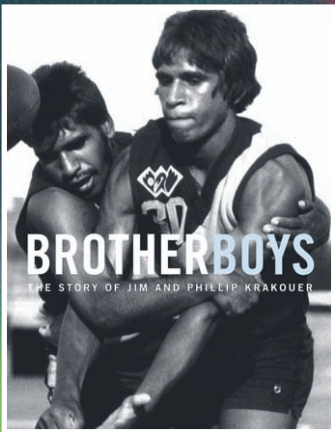


Information



THE KRAKOUERS

Brothers in arms

Page 3

NEXT GOAL

Guy gets down and dirty

Page 4-5

LEGAL ISSUES

High Court & Sport

Page 8

Cover photo:
Richmond goalsneak
Nathan Brown makes
another charge on goal
Picture: Getty Images



BRENDON GALE
AFLPA CEO

AFLPA contacts

Phone: (03) 9328 8001
Fax: (03) 9328 8995
Web: www.aflpa.com.au

Player benefits, AFLPA retirement account
John Hogan
johnhogan@aflpa.com.au

Legal services
Bernie Shinnars
bernie_shinnars@aflpa.com.au

Education, player development & career transition
Lisa Milling
lisa@aflpa.com.au

Licensing & marketing
Sarah Mitchell
sarah@aflpa.com.au

Media & publications
Jason Murnane
jasonmurnane@aflpa.com.au

Reception & administration
Jess Fairchild
jess@aflpa.com.au

General football & agent queries
Matt Finnis
mattfinnis@aflpa.com.au

Administration
Kim Gregg
kim@aflpa.com.au

INTRODUCTION

It's all about communication

One of the key areas I wanted to focus on when taking on the position of AFLPA CEO was the area of member communications.

I place enormous importance on how well the AFLPA office communicates with members.

From my club visits and many chats with players, the feedback is clear. Players want practical and relevant information more often from the AFLPA office.

Our membership is spread across five states and three time zones, which often means email is the most efficient method of communicating with members. This means it's vital that we have your correct contact details. To that end, throughout the next month the AFLPA is conducting a player email address blitz.

Whilst we have many of the players' email addresses on file, I am committed to obtaining as many player email addresses as possible. So, when asked, please take the time to update your email address.

Unfortunately the caffeine tablet debate has captured the media's imagination. We've seen a number of AFL players and other elite athletes such as Wallabies captain George Gregan and boxing champion Kostya Tszyu state they have used caffeine tablets. With all the media cut and thrust, it's worth remembering that caffeine and caffeine-based tablets such as "No Doze" aren't currently listed as a prohibited substance under the relevant anti-doping rules, therefore, players are free to use caffeine as they see fit. However, I urge players to be cautious and ensure that caffeine is used under strict medical supervision.

In other words before taking or considering taking caffeine please talk to your club doctor. Further, it's fair to say

that the debate surrounding caffeine use hasn't helped the image of the game, so please if you're a player who is using caffeine, the less said the better.

This month, we were also faced with the serious issue of illicit drugs in sport following the publication of an article in *The Bulletin* magazine.

Some quarters seem to be suggesting there's an epidemic of illicit drug use in AFL football, but the evidence proves this just isn't the case.

There's no objective or scientific proof showing that illicit drugs are an especially major problem for AFL players. The only scientific data we have clearly shows that use of illicit

The AFLPA is committed to developing a program to fill the current void, however the precise nature and operation of this program is still to be determined. It is likely that any program will be an initiative of the current playing group who recognise the contribution of the players who have gone before them. How the program is supported could potentially involve a range of interest and support groups in addition to the AFLPA, including past player groups as well as the corporate and philanthropic sectors.

We'll continue to investigate the feasibility of a support program with members over the ensuing months.

There's no objective or scientific proof showing that illicit drugs are an especially major problem for AFL players

drugs by AFL players is much lower than that of a comparable group of 17- to 28-year-old males. However we are not sticking our heads in the sand and the AFLPA's decision to support the introduction of the AFL's Illicit Drugs Policy, demonstrates our willingness to deal with an emerging issue in a responsible and balanced manner.

Today's players recognise the contribution made by many past players in growing our great game to where it is today.

That's why we have begun to investigate the establishment of a health hardship fund to support past VFL and AFL players.

Many of the game's past players face similar football-related health and medical issues as the current players, without having received a comparable level of support and assistance during and immediately following their careers.

On Monday, June 20, the AFLPA will be celebrating former winners of the AFLPA's Leigh Matthews Trophy for Most Valuable Player award at an historic awards dinner.

All former MVP winners have been invited to the special event. We're thrilled to say AFL Legend Leigh Matthews will attend the gala event and present former winners who won the award prior to 2002 with their own special retrospective Leigh Matthews trophies.

And finally, this month also marked the announcement of the inaugural AFLPA Mother of the Year award.

In the first year of an ongoing initiative, Maree Selwood, mother of West Coast's Adam and Brisbane's Troy, was announced as the winner.

Congratulations Maree. Good luck to all players as we reach the mid-season point.

BOOKREVIEW

That old Krakouer magic

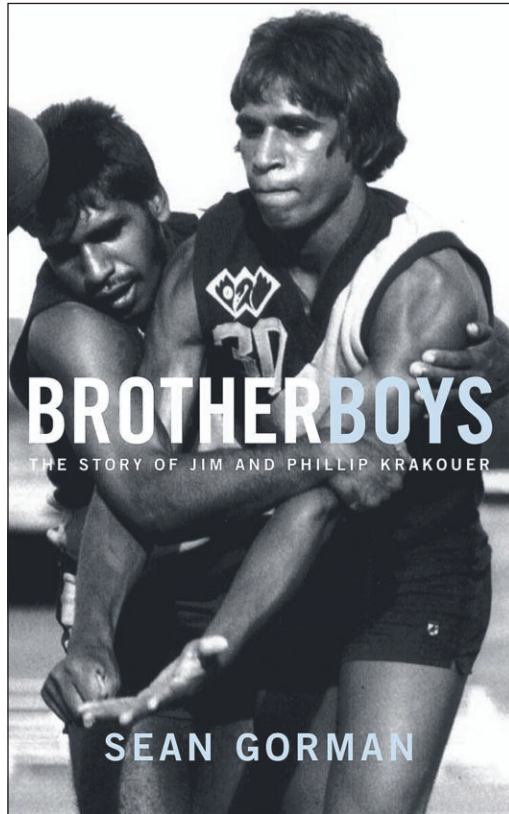
Later this month, former Kangaroo great Jimmy Krakouer will begin an AFL SportsReady traineeship with the Lighthouse Foundation. Co-sponsored by the AFLPA and the AFL, the traineeship will also see Jimmy undertake a Certificate II in Community Services. The Lighthouse Foundation is a charitable organisation which provides long-term accommodation and intensive support for young people who might otherwise be homeless.

Current players Allan Murray and Xavier Clarke are on the Lighthouse Foundation's board.

As a footballer Jimmy Krakouer was gifted. He was a courageous and mercurial talent, who played with passion and intuition. His on-field combinations with brother and foil Phil were even given their own catchphrase – "Krakouer Magic".

Jimmy and Phil's talents first exploded on to the football scene when they turned out for Claremont in the WAFL in the early 1980s. The brothers were soon lured to play in the then VFL with North Melbourne.

The Krakouer brothers played



their footy in a time when racial vilification of indigenous players was a regular occurrence.

The more overtly aggressive Jim would often respond in a physical fashion. In late 1985 Jim received a six-week suspen-

sion which may have stopped him becoming the first Aboriginal footballer to win the Brownlow Medal.

That year, he went on to finish just 8 votes short.

Jim played a total of 134 games



Above: Lighthouse Foundation boardmembers Xavier Clarke, left, and Allan Murray, right, with Michael Long

Left: the cover of *Brother Boys*

with North Melbourne from 1982 to 1989 kicking 229 goals.

He also played a further 13 games with St Kilda in 1990 and 1991. Phil played a total of 148 games in the then VFL.

The Krakouer brothers' lives are now the subject of a boots-and-all book detailing the highs and lows of their lives.

Brotherboys: The Story of Jim and Phillip Krakouer, is an insight into the two Noongar men's journey to get to the top of their football careers.

Written by Sean Gorman, the book details the brothers' lives from being born into a world of financial hardship in Western Australia, through the tough times of reserve life and VFL stardom and beyond.

OUR FUTURE THEME FOR NAIDOC WEEK

NAIDOC week, which celebrates the survival of Indigenous culture and the Indigenous contribution to modern Australia, will be held on July to 3-10.

The theme for this year's NAIDOC week is "Our future begins with solidarity".

NAIDOC celebrations are held to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Earlier this year, Sydney Swan Adam



Goodes received the National NAIDOC Award for Sports Person of the Year.

About 13 per cent (52 players) of current AFL footballers are indigenous.

NAIDOC week is celebrated

not just in the indigenous community, but also in increasing numbers of government agencies, schools, local councils and workplaces. Taking part in NAIDOC Week is a great way to celebrate indigenous culture and build bridges between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.

Tauto Sansbury, Chairperson of the Patpa Warra Yunti Regional Council and the Committee for NAIDOC National 2005 said, "Our

theme expresses Indigenous people's desire for a better future, one in which we can enjoy the opportunities available to other Australians and live in a reconciled nation. We have called for solidarity because Indigenous people must stand together and the wider Australian community must stand with us.

"That is what NAIDOC is all about—celebrating our contribution to the nation together with all Australians."

CAREERADVICE

200 attend program launch



The AFL Players' Association in conjunction with AFL SportsReady, successfully launched the 2005 Next Goal career transition program at a breakfast function at the MCG on Thursday 17 March.

Over 200 current and former players along with business leaders attended the function held in the MCG's Members Dining Room.

MC'd by Tim Lane, attendees heard from a number of the innovative programs success stories, including former Swan Brad Seymour, Collingwood's James Clement, former Tiger and Crow Ben Marsh and former Docker and Kangaroo Matthew Burton.

Brad is currently working with FOX Footy and presented some of his TV work to the breakfast which included an interview with Sydney Swans Coach Paul Roos.

Former Crow & Tiger Ben Marsh exhibited some of his industrial



design work including his design for an innovative bull-bar to be fitted to Mitsubishi four wheel drive vehicles. Dual Olympian and

Commonwealth Games Gold medallist Brennon Dowrick left a lasting impression on the audience with his dynamic presentation which incorporated

Above: Brennon Dowrick's shows his stuff

Left: Richard Armstrong talks to Alistair Nicholson

his 9.9 Gold medal winning pommel horse routine. The Next Goal Program is designed to provide AFL players with meaningful work experience in an identified career path of the player's choice and for which he has an aptitude or past experience.

TEST YOUR SPORTS KNOWLEDGE



AFL legend Leigh Matthews

- 1 Name of the young Australian college basketball star who looks set to become the No.1 pick in the upcoming NBA draft?
- 2 What's the name of the young Aussie currently tearing up the tracks in the world 125cc motorbike championship?
- 3 What phrase did coaching legend John Kennedy urge his players on with?
- 4 Socceroo Coach Frank Farina has been ordered to undertake an anger management course after a post-match incident with SBS reporter Andrew Orsatti. True or False?

- 5 Braith Anasta plays with which NRL Club?
- 6 What iconic footy moment was the only episode in the history of AFL football to make it onto the front cover of every major Australian newspaper?
- 7 Where will this year's end of season overseas football match take place?
- 8 How many club best and fairest awards did Hawthorn and AFL legend Leigh Matthews win over his career?
- 9 What's the highest PGA Golf ranking achieved so far by Australian Adam Scott?
- 10 Who won this year's NBA MVP award?

Rigoni gets his boots dirty



As part of the AFLPA and AFL SportsReady Next Goal program, Melbourne star on-baller Guy Rigoni is set to trade his footy boots for a pair of work boots when he undertakes a work placement with William Adams, the company responsible for the Caterpillar heavy equipment.

Guy has had a long-term interest in heavy equipment and is looking forward to taking on his placement with Caterpillar.

After finishing 2004 on a high playing a key role in the Demon's elimination final against Essendon, the courageous Demon went on to play in feeder club Sandringham's VFL Premiership side. Guy's never-say-die attitude to fight back from a near career-ending back injury (which ruined his 2002 season) and subsequent delisting to win back his place on the Demon's list for 2003 is a tribute to the gutsy Demon.

Guy will be exposed to the full range of Caterpillar gear and services, and will even complete some licensing requirements enabling him to operate a range of Caterpillar equipment.

The Next Goal program is a combined AFLPA and AFL Sportsready program, designed to assist AFL players reaching the end of their playing careers ease into the workforce.

Current placements of the innovative program include Melbourne's Alistair Nicholson who is working with Crowe Lovett in a Project Management/Corporate Banking role, the Western Bulldogs Jade Rawlings



Determination: Melbourne's Guy Rigoni

who has begun a work placement with Cricket Australia in a development role and Shane Parker of Fremantle who is working as a corporate Banker with BankWest.

For more information on the Next Goal program please contact Lisa Milling at the AFLPA on (03) 9328 8001 or Chris Naish at AFL SportsReady on (03) 8663 3068.

MVP winners honoured

The AFL Players' Association is proud to announce that it will be honouring former winners of the AFLPA Leigh Matthews Trophy for Most Valuable Player award at an historic awards dinner on Monday June 20.

AFL Legend Leigh Matthews will attend the gala event and present former winners of the prestigious award with their own special retrospective Leigh Matthews trophies.

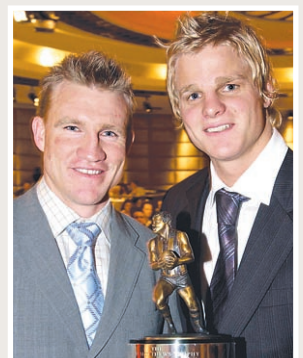
The AFLPA has 20 replica copies of the striking trophy to present to those players who won the award prior to 2002.

In 2002, AFL players voted to name their prestigious peer voted award after the player they considered the most valuable of all time, Leigh Matthews.

All former winners of the respected trophy have been invited to the event.

The night promises to provide some of the games greatest champions with an opportunity to celebrate their magnificent careers.

The awards night is to be televised on FOX Footy Live & Exclusive on Monday 20th June at 7:30pm EST.



Nathan Buckley with last years' winner Nick Riewoldt

LEGALADVICE

What's in a name?

The AFLPA recently had cause to support two current AFL players whose identities had been featured in a newspaper advertising campaign which wasn't authorised by the players or their representatives.

The company which produced the advertisements sought to avoid any requirement to receive the consent of the relevant players by stating (in fine print at the bottom of the ads) that the players "had not endorsed the advertisement and had no affiliation or association with the goods advertised."

Following action by the AFLPA and the players' managers the company apologised for their advertisements and agreed to not conduct any further advertising using AFL player identities without receiving the prior consent of such players. However this case does highlight an inadequacy in the protection afforded to high-profile Australian sportspeople and celebrities from unauthorised exploitation of their identities.

Only in America

In the US, most states have laws which provide for a right of publicity which can be used by athletes and celebrities to pro-

tect and commercially exploit their name and image.

Hence, an advertising campaign stating "Andy Roddick and Joe's Spaghetti House – both delivering the biggest serves in their field" whilst not containing a false endorsement by Roddick of the size of spaghetti meals served at Joe's, clearly uses the tennis player's identity to help market the restaurant. It is likely that such an advertisement, if published without the consent of Andy Roddick, would give rise to a right of action for compensation from the tennis player in many states of the USA.

Australian Protection Against False Endorsement

However if the same advertisement was published here, it may be that Andy Roddick would have no protection available under Australian law. In Australia, there is no legal right of publicity currently recognised by the courts and, as a result, athletes and celebrities are forced to rely on other laws to defend themselves against unauthorised use of identity.

As such, advertisers who wish to push the boundaries of the law can seek to avoid paying players' endorsement fees by using tactics such as the fine print employed by the company

alluded to in the introduction to this article. Some high profile athletes such as Steve Waugh have successfully registered their names as trade marks enabling them further protection against those who might seek to trade off their fame. Similarly, a number of AFL players have registered their autographs as trade marks as a shield in battles over sporting memorabilia rights. Alternatively, unique nicknames such as "Thorpedo" can also be the subject of trade mark protection.

Importantly, these protections are only concerned with commercial use of a player's image and do not restrict a newspaper, radio or television station from using your identity in an editorial or news format.

What about defamation?

Defamation is a legal action which may be used by any person to recover compensation in circumstances where a third party has caused damage to their reputation as a result of some form of public statement. This could be in the form of an offensive remark by a radio commentator, an inaccurate and damaging newspaper article or even a photograph (eg, former rugby league player Andrew Ettinghausen once successfully

sued a magazine for defamation after it published photos of him which revealed his genitals).

The action of defamation will be available whether or not the offending statements or images were published in an editorial or advertising context. However it should be noted that a person accused of defamation may defend their conduct on the basis that the statements were in fact true or represented "fair reporting" of a public issue.

What can AFL players do to protect their identity?

Players should consult with their managers to protect their identities from exploitation. Players should be vigilant of the public use of their identity and act upon any reported instances of any unauthorised use.

At the very least you should ensure that any use of your identity is consistent with the "player image" provisions of the CBA. Players should also be mindful of their public comments and the public image which you wish to portray. Finally, depending on your personal circumstances and goals, you might investigate trade marking your name, nickname or signature.

WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

During May/June, the AFL Players' Association will be contacting all players to obtain a current email address.

With a diverse membership, based around Australia, in a number of different time zones, it's crucial that your representatives have your correct email address.

So over the coming weeks, expect to receive written and SMS requests to provide the AFLPA office with your current email address. We urge all players to please respond to these requests.

Farewell Mark Stevens and Steven Koops

The AFLPA wishes a fond farewell to the Crows' Mark Stevens and the Bulldogs' Steven Koops.

Mark, 29, was drafted by the Kangaroos in 1993 and played 21 games before crossing to the Crows in 1998, where he played 101 games and went on to play in Adelaide's 1998 premiership side. He finished 122 career games and a total of 123 goals.

Mark was well known for his brilliant marking ability and strong work ethic.



Stevens



Koops

Steven, 26, made his debut with Fremantle in 1996 and went on to play 78 games with the Dockers before crossing to the Western Oval in 2003.

Steven played a further 11 matches with the Bulldogs to bring his career game total to 89 games with 49 goals. Steven played mainly as a defender/utility and was famous for the daring and exciting way he played the game throughout his 10-year career.

The AFLPA wishes both Steven and Mark all

CHARITYFUND

AFL players meet the challenge

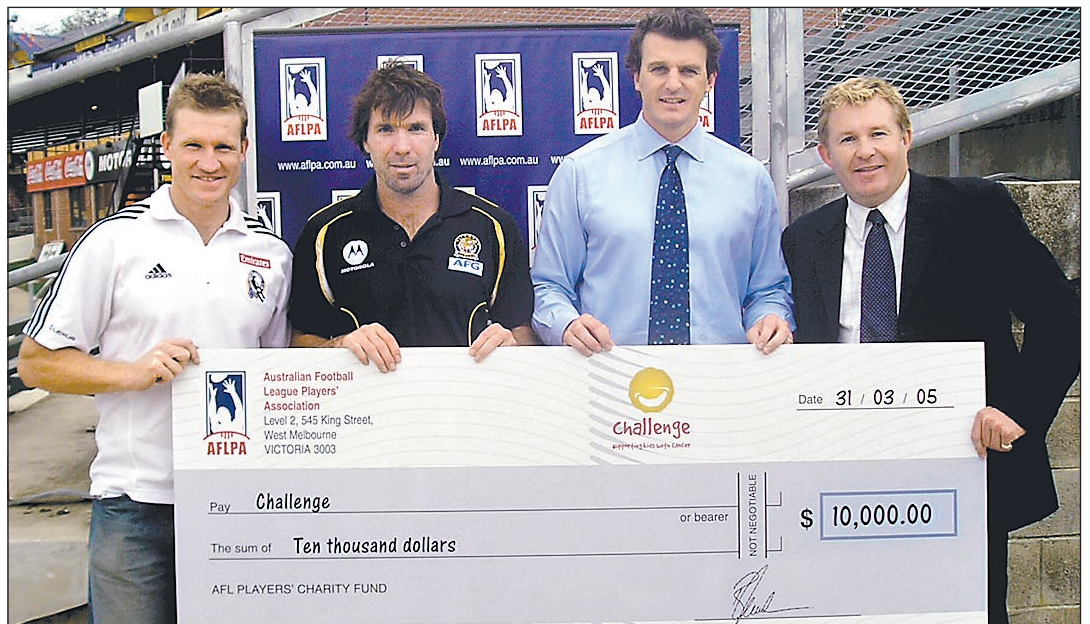
Collingwood captain Nathan Buckley and Richmond veteran Wayne Campbell, on behalf of the AFLPA's charity fund, recently presented Challenge CEO David Rogers with a cheque for \$10,000.

Challenge is Victoria's major provider of support services to children and their families living with cancer and other life-threatening disorders.

Both Nathan and Wayne are patrons of the Victorian charity and have a strong commitment to the organisation's goals.

This \$10,000 donation follows on from a \$20,000 donation made by the AFLPA Charity Fund to the Royal Flying Doctor Service late in 2004.

Since season 2000, senior players from all 16 AFL clubs have donated \$15 from each senior match payment to the AFL Players' Association Charity



Buckley, Campbell and Gale present a cheque for \$10,000 to Challenge CEO David Rogers

Fund, donating hundreds of thousands of dollars to numerous charities along the way. This year, all AFL players

are contributing a further \$20 per senior game to go towards a special Troy Broadbridge/Tsunami fund, details of which

will be released at seasons end. This is in addition to the \$15 per game players regularly contribute to the charity fund.

Hard choices to be made

The time is coming to make an important choice about your superannuation.

Choice of Fund legislation, passed in Parliament earlier this year, means you will have the opportunity to choose which fund you want to invest your super in from July 1, 2005.

Most players have their super provided in the AFL Players & Staff Superannuation Fund (The AFL Fund). The AFL Fund provides a number of features and benefits which may not be available to you if you choose to have your super paid elsewhere.

Some things to consider include:

- Make sure you understand the features and offerings of both your current fund and any you are considering as an alternative option.



- Compare fees and charges and be particularly wary of entry and exit fees. The AFL Fund offers large fund fee rebates for all members, and does not charge any entry or exit fees.
- Don't look at short-term returns – remember super is a long-term investment so it's better to look at returns over 5 or 10 years, depending on your investment timeframe.
- Carefully consider your insurance. In The AFL Fund you receive discounted premiums at wholesale group rates, as well as automatic acceptance for insurance cover up to certain levels without having to provide

evidence of your health. If you change your super fund, it may be difficult to obtain insurance cover, and premium rates may be higher than individual retail rates.

- Consider any other offers for members. For example as a member of The AFL Fund you are able to receive a special banking packing through AMP Banking, including a discounted AMP Home Loans package.

Choice of Fund will apply to new Superannuation Guarantee contributions made after 1 July 2005. Your club will give you a Standard Choice form in the next few months. If you don't want to exercise choice you don't have to do anything – you will automatically continue in your current plan.

For more information on the

AFL Players & Staff Superannuation Fund, please contact the Fund's financial planner, Andrew Raphael on (03) 94324227, or CustomSuper on 1300 653456.

This article may contain advice that is not based on your personal objectives, financial situation or needs. Accordingly, before acting on the advice, you should consider how appropriate the advice is to those objectives, financial situation and needs. Before making a decision about a financial product, you should read the current product disclosure statement.

Any advice in this advertisement is provided by AMP Superannuation Limited, ABN 31 008 414 104 AFSL No 233060, the issuer of CustomSuper. We are part of the AMP group of companies. AMP companies receive fees and charges in relation to its financial products as set out in the product disclosure statements and customer information brochures.

AMP employees and directors receive salaries, bonuses and other benefits from the AMP group.

LEGALADVICE

The High Court and sport

The handing down of the High Court's decision in case between the Commissioner of Taxation and Joanna Stone was eagerly awaited. It is not often we are happy with the ATO winning a tax fight but we were as it should have positive ramifications for AFLPA members.

What was the Decision?

Joanna Stone was an Olympic athlete and a Queensland policewoman. She received government grants, prizemoney, sponsorship and income for product endorsements. Whilst she was happy to concede her endorsement income was taxable, Joanna believed her prizemoney and government grants were not taxable.

The High Court disagreed and held she was taxable on all income derived from sport.

What is the impact for AFLPA members?

As you are aware the AFLPA and its Tax Advisors Dominion Private Clients have been negotiating with the Tax Office to clarify the tax deductibility of certain costs for Players.

Although Tax Counsel for the Australian Tax Office are still considering the impact of the decision, the "widening of the ATO's net" by the High Court on what income is taxable strengthens the view that costs incurred in earning that income should be tax deductible. The major issue we are still fighting is the tax deductibility of player-agent fees.

Next Steps

We are in the process of making some minor changes to the CBA between the AFLPA and AFL. This will satisfy some technical

concerns the Tax Office had concerning the tax deductibility of Player Agent Fees where the Player has renegotiated his contract with his existing Club.

We will continue to lobby the ATO concerning the tax deductibility of agent costs where a player changes clubs.

Action required by you

As previously advised members are recommended to:

- (i) Ensure your Player Agent Contract has been updated to conform with changes suggested in our recent mail.
- (ii) Have their Tax Agent contact Anthony Jackson at Dominion Private Clients (9607-6886, or anthonyjackson@dominionpc.com.au) if they have received an amended tax assessment disallowing football-related costs. Anthony can then advise on how to protect your interests.



Eskimo Joe

Eskimo Joe our top live band

Perth's Eskimo Joe was named Australia's favourite live band at the second annual Jack Awards, held recently in Sydney.

Eskimo Joe outpolled last year's winner, Powderfinger, and hot pre-award favourite Jet. Eskimo Joe defeated happening Sydney band Wolfmother and two of Melbourne's rock scene royalty in the Casanovas and Dallas Crane, who were also nominated for the title.

Eskimo Joe's single of 2004 *From the Sea* was voted third favourite song by AFL players in last years player survey.

Phil Jamieson from Lismore band Grinspoon was voted best male performer, while Little Birdy frontwoman Katy Steele, was named best female performer.

The best newcomer gong went to the the mega-selling Missy Higgins, whose debut album *The Sound of White* has gone on to sell by the bucket load.

More than 110,000 people voted via SMS or online.

Fans of the Motley Crue autobiography, *The Dirt* especially enjoyed the appearance of Motley Crue's Tommy Lee at the awards. Tommy whet the appetite of the many Motley Crue fans waiting for the band to tour Australia in December with the legendary English group Motorhead.

Certificate launched

The AFLPA launched its Professional Development Program, Certificate II and IV in May. The program, to be managed by Athlete Development Australia, builds upon the foundation set by the AFLPA's successful STEP Program, which a number of clubs and players undertook over seasons 2002-2004.

The program is accredited through Victoria University and aims to promote and support the professional and emotional development of AFL players off the field.

The initiative was launched at the North Melbourne Football Club by Kangaroos coach Dean Laidley, AFLPA CEO Brendon Gale, ADA Program Manager and former Roo and Blue Mark Porter, former Docker and Roo and workshop facilitator Matthew Burton and senior Kangaroos player Leigh Colbert.

Both Certificate's will be man-



Porter, Laidley, Gale, Burton and Colbert at the launch

aged by Porter and co-facilitated by former AFL player Jim Plunkett. Both Mark and Jim have extensive football and academic experience.

The Kangaroos and Geelong are running certificate IV, whilst Carlton, Hawthorn, Melbourne, Adelaide and Fremantle will be running certificate II.

Certificate II focuses primarily on rookies and first, second and third-year players. Certificate IV is aimed at third-year to sixth-year players.

Kangaroos coach Dean Laidley

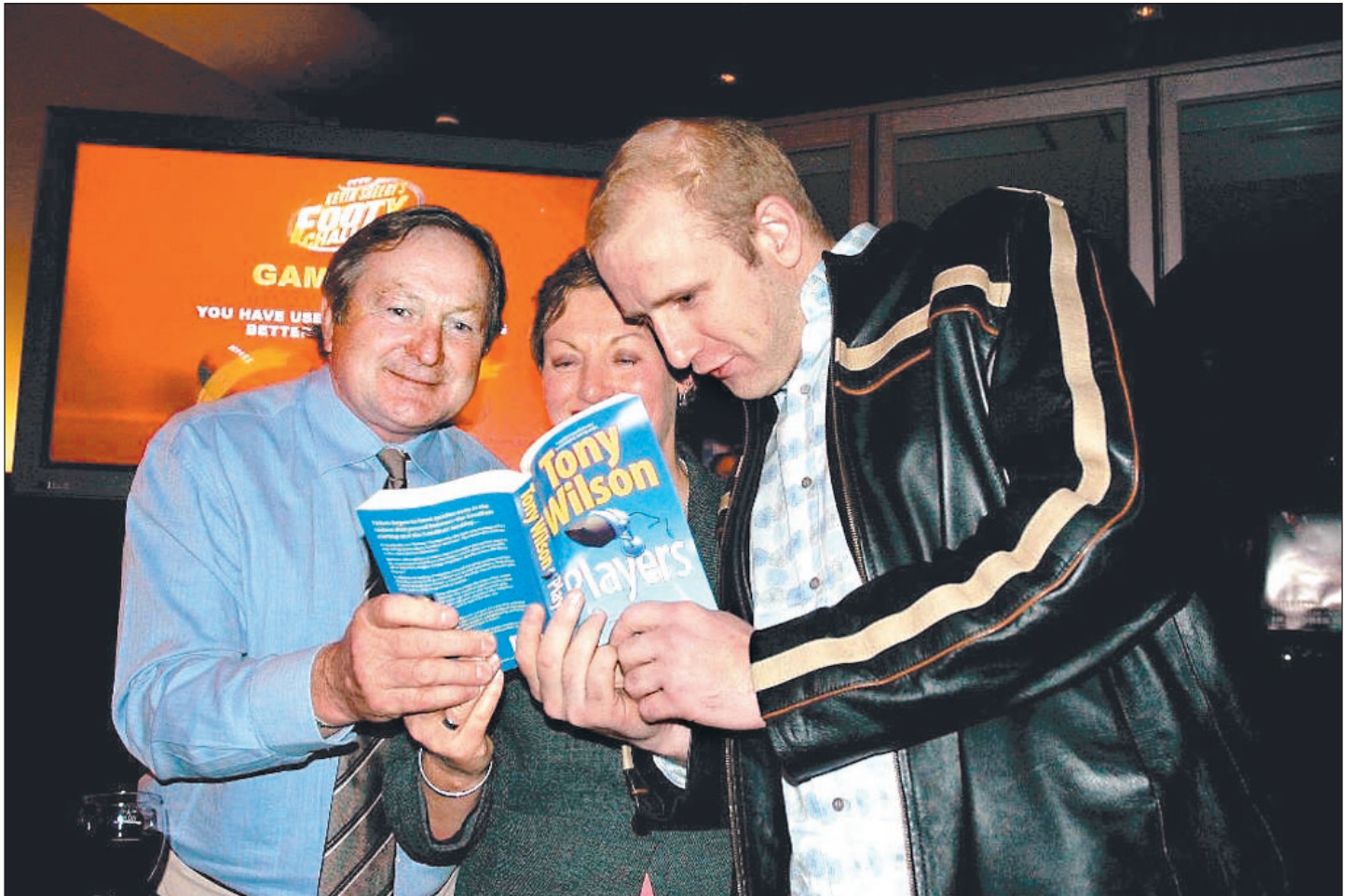
supports the initiative which includes 22 Kangaroos enrolled in the Certificate IV course.

"We draft these kids, we take them away from their parents, and as much as we'd love to think they are all going to make it in AFL football, facts and stats will tell us that doesn't always happen," Laidley said.

"We need to make sure that if that doesn't occur, we need to make sure we prepare them for life after football to make sure they walk away being the very best people they can."

NEWRELEASE

Former Hawk tells it as it was



The way it was: Kevin Sheedy, Mary Boukouvalas share a tall tale with Tony Wilson

Tony Wilson, former Hawthorn player, commercial solicitor, series winner of ABC TV's *Race Around the World*, and current 3RRR breakfast show host has written his first novel *Players*.

Players takes us into the cutthroat world of TV and football.

Here, Tony lists his top five most memorable things to have ever happened to him in the Hawthorn Football Club change rooms in reverse order:

5 Being asked to tutor Shane Crawford in VCE maths (he nailed probability, and has gone on to become a great punter).

4 Singing *The Day the Wobblers Died* at the 1992 *Players* Skit

night. One fan got me to sign the lyrics sheet for him. It was my first ever autograph.

3 Dominating the Sit & Reach flexibility test with a then club record +23. (Nice to be remembered for long arms and stretchy hamstrings).

2 Being punched repeatedly in the head during a sparring session with Dermott, who made short work of my mean-streets-of-Camberwell defences.

But the clear highlight was:

1 Listening to the great John Kennedy sing a few bars of the fictional Mustangs theme song *Kick Long, Sweet Maribymong* during the launch of *Players* last month.

Yes, after those halcyon years

spent padding out spots 40 to 46 on the Hawthorn list, a huge life highlight came just a few metres from where I was finally given the bullet.

For AFL players, there are hopefully lots of laughs in *Players*, and some details there to indicate I was once an AFLPA member (although sadly, only for one year) There's the post-match press conference where the coach gaffer tapes his mouth. There's the headbutt from Tickets Thompson (a 52-year-old playboy ex-footballer who stars on the hit show *Leather and Lace*) who decks a homeless man during the filming of his street vox pop segment *Tickets and Dickheads*.

There's the description of a foot disappearing into a fat trainer's gut during a rubdown. There's the players struggling with the rigors of the Zoo Ambassador program.

There's the disastrous retirement announcement and the disastrous last game of the fading champion Billy Nock.

There's sex, voyeurism, love, deception and even a testical tattoo. Thanks to former players, family and friends who came along to the Glenferrie rooms to help celebrate my big night.

And thanks to the Hawthorn Football Club for having us. It was so much better than a punch in the face from Dermott. Or a headbutt from Tickets.

SHORTPASSES

Tick those boxes

It's that time again. Next month, the AFLPA will survey all players as part of the yearly AFLPA/Herald Sun survey. Players are urged to take a few moments to complete the survey. The collective playing group's views on a number of areas will be canvassed. Your responses are valuable to your AFLPA representatives. The answers provided will help set the AFLPA's agenda over the coming months.

AFLPA beats AFL

AFLPA staffer Kim Gregg took home the bacon in the recent Sport Employment Australia Golf Day defeating, amongst others, AFL Ground Operations Manger Jill Lindsay. As a former pro-golfer, Kim blitzed the field to win in a canter. Kim can be contacted at the AFLPA office for those in need of golf tips!

Review new CDs

If you think you can do better than Molly Meldrum reviewing new release CDs, please contact Jason Murnane at the AFLPA office. From the next edition of *Inform*, the AFLPA will be printing a number of player written CD reviews. Your taste can range from Spiderbait to Michael Buble, from Shannon Noll to Interpol, from Missy Higgins to Deltra Goodrem (if you are brave enough to own up to it). Best of all, you get to keep the CDs you review.



FootyMag at www.footymag.com

New magazine

The Footy Mag is a new grass roots monthly publication targeted at Victorian country and metropolitan football leagues. The magazine contains features on leagues, player profiles, match reviews, colour photos, competitions and ladders.

The Footy Mag aims to provide exposure for all leagues. Not only will it provide information on leagues, ladders, players, but also expose the hard-working engine of clubs: the ground markers, the canteen staff, the team managers etc.

To receive your monthly issue of The Footy Mag, go to their website, www.thefootymag.com, and subscribe. This interactive website will also contain a user forum, photo gallery, ladders and results just to name a few

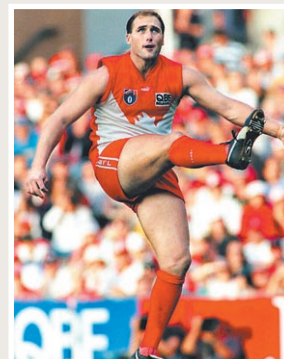
You can also log on to see how your favourite player is faring in the Burley Sharpshooter award, which provides \$1000 cash to the winner.

Like to promote your club? Send photos and information to matt@thefootyzone.com.au.

Donate old boots

Thanks to the Richmond players who have just given all their old footy boots to Tommy Hafey for a prison footy side. Also thanks to the Carlton boys, whose donated boots will provide indigenous players currently playing in the Gippsland League the opportunity to continue to play footy and be an active part of the sports culture. If you have any old footy boots you no longer need, please contact Lisa Milling at the AFLPA.

QUIZ ANSWERS



Tony Lockett

- 1 Andrew Bogut
- 2 Casey Stoner
- 3 Don't think do!
- 4 True
- 5 Canterbury Bulldogs
- 6 Tony Lockett's goal kicking record in 1999.
- 7 The Brit Oval, London.
- 8 Eight: 1971, 1972, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1980, 1982.
- 9 Eight (May 2005)
- 10 Phoenix Suns guard Steve Nash.

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 AFLPA in this publication intended to constitute financial, legal or investment advice.

All advertising in this publication is subject to approval of the publisher (the AFLPA). The AFLPA reserves the right to reject or cancel any advertisement at any time. Publication of any advertisement does not constitute endorsement by the AFLPA of any product, nor warrant its suitability. The AFLPA accepts no responsibility or liability for the accuracy of claims made by advertisers or damages incurred from use of the products or services.

AFLPA MOTHER OF THE YEAR



The AFLPA is pleased to announce that Maree Selwood has been named the AFLPA Mother of the Year. Mother of West Coast's Adam (left) and Brisbane's Troy (right), Maree was named Mother of the Year at a function held at Melbourne's Telstra Dome. Maree was one

of a number of commendable nominations received by the AFLPA. Maree was nominated by West Coast Eagles Coach John Worsfold. The event was organised by the Kangaroos Network of Women and also served to raise funds for OvCa, the Ovarian Cancer Network of Australia.





The official
web site of the
AFL Players' Association

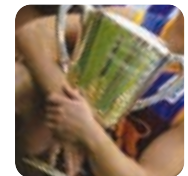


Current Player Login

New users [click here](#).

User Name

Password ([forgotten?](#))



Get the latest **AFLPA** news at www.aflpa.com.au

- About AFLPA Services
- Download the CBA and other information
- History of the Association
- About the Most Valuable Player Awards
- Player-only Section
- Weekly MVP Poll



Official website of the AFL Players' Association