

# SPORT with Chris de Kretser and Daryl Timms

# CONFIDENTIAL



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## Big Red settles at rear

THEY are calling it *The Greatest Cup Never Run*, a fictional race between the best 24 of the 149 winners of the Melbourne Cup.

Yesterday it came alive with the announcement of the field, weights and barriers, stirring as much excitement among a who's who of racing at the Melbourne museum as the simulated race broadcast is certain to do on Cup Day this year to mark its 150th anniversary.

The field was named to mark the launch of *The Story of the Melbourne Cup, Australia's*

*Greatest Horse Race*, a coffee table book that chronicles the history of the race. A chapter is also dedicated to the fictional line-up.

With the body of the great Phar Lap looking on and the new 150th Cup and the recently discovered Tin Cup won by Comedy King in 1910 on display, Bruce McAvaney excelled in outlining the credentials of each runner as they were named by the VRC's Sue Lloyd-Williams.

Fittingly, Archer was the first drawn carrying No. 12 saddlecloth.

The first winner of the Cup

was followed by champions such as Poseidon, Delta, Nightmarch, The Barb, Peter Pan, Grand Flaneur and Hall Mark, as well as more recent winners Rain Lover, Light Fingers, Doreimus, Might And Power, Rising Fast, Saintly, Comic Court, Vintage Crop and Galilee.

Finally, it was the turn of the three topweights.

Carbine at No. 2 had McAvaney reminiscing about 1890 when "Old Jack" won the Cup, Makybe Diva at No. 3, whom he described as "unique", and Phar Lap at No. 1.

"One to go now, I wonder who that could be," said McAvaney as Big Red's name was about to be read out.

"Gee, Greg, I'm glad you put him in," he jokingly chided Racing Victoria handicapper Greg Carpenter, who selected the field.

McAvaney was quick to point out that Poitrel at No. 17 and Dalray at No. 20 looked very well weighted.

And Cups King Bart Cummings, it seems, was not happy that Light Fingers and Galilee were given more weight than they carried to win.

### ... and more from Cup book launch

WITH the election campaign in full swing, it might be worth considering a telegram that VRC chairman Rod Fitzroy revealed at yesterday's book launch.

Signed by the "Punters of Victoria", it was sent to Phar Lap's trainer Harry Telford on November 8, 1930 after his triumph in the Melbourne Cup.

"If only you could stand up on your hind legs and talk, we would make you PM," it said.

Premier John Brumby, at the launch, said the telegram further enhanced Phar Lap as an Australian icon.

Then he had a friendly jibe at his deputy Rob Hulls.

"He hasn't been able to get the heart out of Canberra —

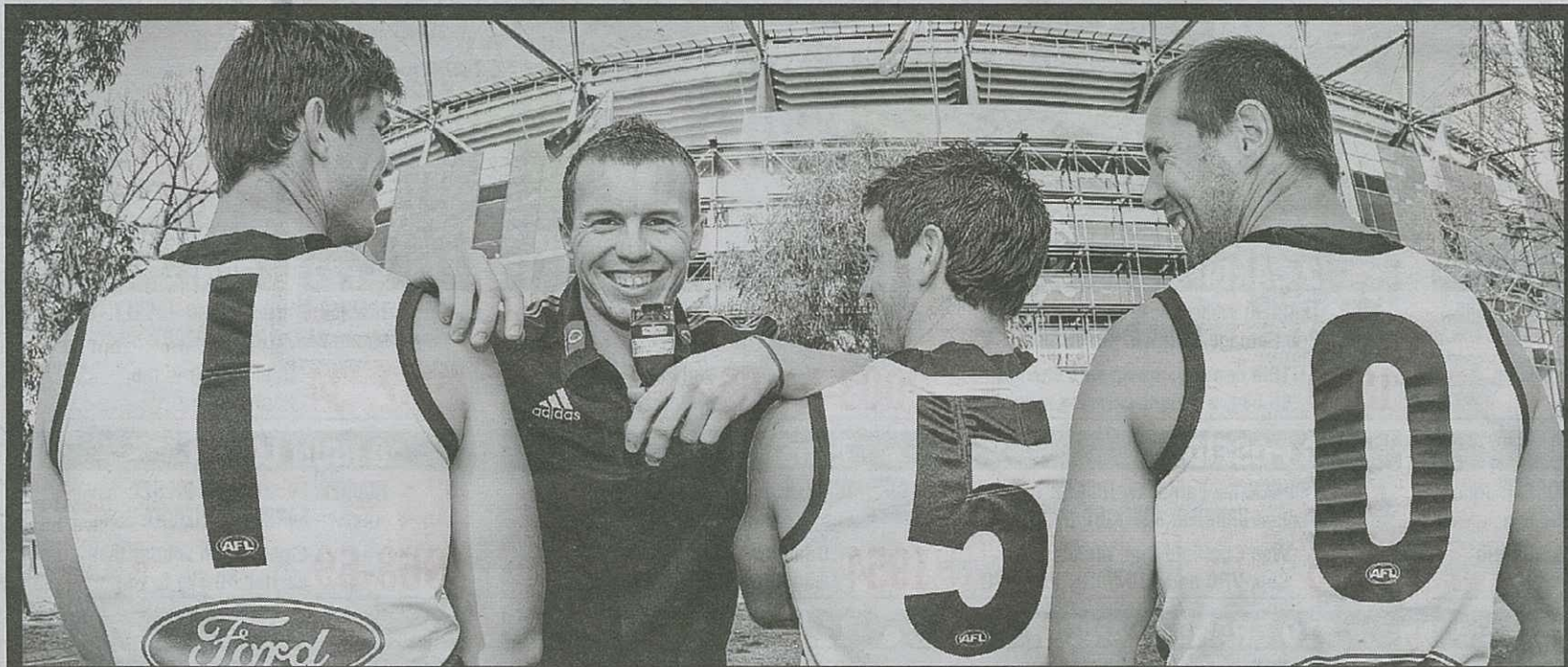
lots of people have failed at that," he said.

Hulls failed in his attempt to have Phar Lap's heart — in Canberra — and skeleton — in New Zealand — reunited with his body at Melbourne Museum for the 150th Cup celebration.

### Next best to having a winner

*The Story of the Melbourne Cup* is the work of Slattery Publishing Media with Herald Sun backing. It was edited by racing journalist Stephen Howell.

Geoff Slattery, who masterminded the project, told the launch the book enabled him to achieve the best substitute for a lifetime dream of owning a Melbourne Cup winner.



Numbers up: Peter Siddle with Cats Tom Hawkins (left), Shannon Byrnes and David Wojcinski. Picture: MICHAEL KLEIN

SPEEDY Geelong star David Wojcinski also can produce a bit of pace with a cricket ball.

"He can swing it both ways," said teammate Shannon Byrnes when they got together with Tom Hawkins at the MCG to mark the 150-day countdown to the Boxing Day Test match.

Australian fast bowler Peter Siddle was quick to prick up his ears at the mere mention of swing after our batting line-up's disastrous recent efforts at

## Wojo's a swinging Cat

countering the moving ball against Pakistan in England.

"Show me how," a smiling Siddle said. "I can't even swing it one way."

Wojcinski, sporting a shiner from Saturday's clash against Brisbane Lions, has been keeping his arm in with an occasional game of cricket in the

off-season with his more serious cricketing teammate, Jimmy Bartel.

Wojo plans to roll the arm over seriously when his footy days are over. In the meantime, the Cats trio will be in Siddle's corner this summer, even though he is a keen North Melbourne man.

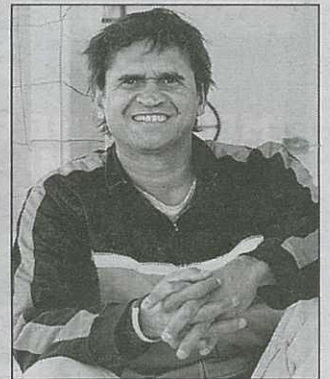
The paceman hopes to return from a

back injury to take on the Poms in the Ashes series, especially on Boxing Day.

He will begin his comeback for Victoria in the Champions League Twenty20 tournament in South Africa.

He is also rearing to go for Victoria in the Sheffield Shield and fit enough, if needed, for the limited-overs internationals in India in October.

Boxing Day tickets are available at [www.cricket.com.au](http://www.cricket.com.au) and Ticketek.



Warburton: Winmar going to reunion. Picture: MARIE NIRME

## Winmar relishes flag glory

CHAMPION Saint Nicky Winmar is back in town this week to attend a premiership reunion and appear on the *Margrook Footy Show*.

Winmar, who has become a recluse in the West since his retirement, will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Warburton Millgrove Football Club first division flag in the Yarra Valley Mountain District League.

It was his first premiership at any level after a career that included 230 games for St Kilda and 21 with the Western Bulldogs.

Winmar will join his premiership teammates at a reunion at Warburton Oval on Saturday followed by a function.

He will be interviewed on the *Margrook* show on Foxtel's NITV channel and Channel 31 tonight at 7.30.

"Nicky Winmar is one of the all-time greats of the game. It'll be an honour to have the champ on the *Margrook Footy Show*," host Grant Hansen said.

Panel member Gilbert McAdam plans to reminisce about the day Winmar lifted his guernsey and proudly pointed at the colour of his skin against Collingwood.

"I kicked five goals and got the three votes in the Brownlow Medal that day, but no one remembers that," McAdam quipped.

### Last call at the pub with no peer

NAUGHTON'S Hotel in Parkville — close to what used to be known as Princes Park and the venue of many an infamous after-footy drinking session — will call last drinks tomorrow.

It was where Carlton's Stephen Kernahan gave us that immortal rendition of *Stand By Your Man* after the 1987 premiership victory.

It was the scene of some antics from former Blue Brendan Fevola on Mad Monday last year, when he was photographed swinging a large sex toy above his head.

And Brian from Tassie, a frequent Naughton's patron back in the early 1980s, remembers seeing Colling-

wood premiership hero, the late Darren Millane, having a drink there.

"Once when I went to a Collingwood-Fitzroy game at Princes Park, I went straight to the pub after the game," Brian recalled yesterday.

"Darren Millane had beaten me there, which wasn't bad considering I was a spectator and he played in the game."

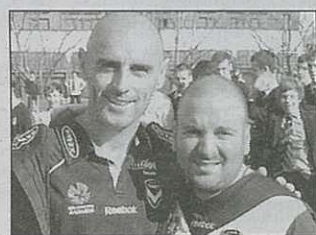
### Didak signing news to us

THEY certainly have a good sense of humour at the local newsagency in Port Douglas, Queensland.

Last week we reported that veteran TV newsman Rob Gaylard was staggered the day after Jason Akermanis's sacking when the newsagency displayed a sign reading: "Herald Sun sold out because of Mick Malthouse sacking."

The newsagent insisted it was true, but Gaylard then saw another sign (left) in the newsagency this week and realised he was a victim of a leg-pulling.

The newsagent admitted yesterday the sign was the work of a staff member who enjoys a joke.



Mates: Kevin Muscat and George Calombaris

### Success recipe

WHEN he takes off his apron George Calombaris likes to don his Melbourne Victory shirt.

The *Masterchef* judge is a Victory fan and a close friend of captain Kevin Muscat.

They were a big hit on Tuesday at Melbourne Grammar when they shot an

episode of *Football Stars of Tomorrow* for One HD.

### Kowalski upset

FORMER Olympic swimmer Daniel Kowalski told Eddie McGuire and Luke Darcy on *Triple M's Hot Breakfast* yesterday that he is still upset with the comments about homosexuality by ex-Western Bulldog Jason Akermanis.

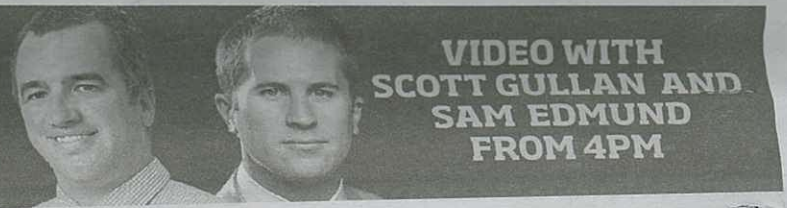
Kowalski, who revealed his homosexuality in May, said Akermanis's comments were "beyond words".

The most common question Kowalski is asked is about advice for somebody about to come out.

"It's such an individual, personal thing that all I can do is explain for me it's been a great process... They'll know deep down when the time is right."

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