

MARIBYRNONG & HOBSONS BAY **Star Weekly**

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2021 AFL Grand Final winner poster and photo **INSIDE**

The pride of the west

By Goya Dmytryshchak

Western Bulldogs fans may be commiserating after Saturday's AFL Grand Final loss to Melbourne but say they are proud and grateful to the club for lifting their spirits during a tough year.

Mat O'Keefe said the Bulldogs' success throughout the season had kept spirits high in the west during a tough year.

"To win three finals and be leading the grand final well into the third quarter made for a good 2021 and there is no shame losing to a Melbourne team of rare form and talent," he said.

"We are already looking forward to seeing them give the Dees some payback in the finals next year.

"We're sure the team is disappointed but we know they'll come back bigger, stronger and better than ever next year."

- Julie McShanag

"The question is, when do we pull down all the Doggies decorations from inside and outside the house? Feels like the Demons cancelled Christmas.

"We're not used to losing grand finals - we've won every other one we've seen."

Darcy Rose congratulated the Bulldogs for inspiring so many.

"Be proud of our team in good times and bad and thank them for inspiring us at a horrendously difficult time for us and under extremely difficult playing conditions for them," she said.

"They experienced extreme travel, quarantines, bans on training and lack of support in the crowds while forced to play interstate but they soldiered on and lifted our spirits at a time when we needed it the most.

"Are we upset that not they but 'we' lost? Absolutely, but like us in 2016 Melbourne had the greater drive to win after 57 years without a flag and we were definitely outclassed by a superior side on the day."

Julie McShanag said fans were feeling very



proud of the boys and grateful for a fantastic season and epic finals campaign.

"We had the best time celebrating those wins and that definitely helped us get through lockdown," she said.

"We're sure the team is disappointed but we know they'll come back bigger, stronger and better than ever next year.

"We just can't wait to get back to the footy. Watching from home just isn't the same."

Maribyrnong mayor Michael Clarke congratulated the Bulldogs on their "bold season".

"It was a gritty final that showed a lot of

courage and heart," he said. "We all took pride in seeing the Doggies represent the west in the grand finals."

Bulldogs chief executive Ameet Bains thanked fans for their support and said when easing of restrictions allowed the club would repay that faith.

"We know how difficult it has been for our members and fans in Victoria to not be able to see the players up close throughout the finals series, at Marvel Stadium, the MCG or at VU Whitten Oval," he said.

"As we've seen throughout the state in the last few weeks, especially in our heartland

of the west, our fans have been incredible in their support of the team, whether they've sent messages of support on social media or dressed up themselves or their houses in red, white and blue.

"We want to repay that faith and say thank you, by getting our members and fans together, when it's safe to do so.

"We're currently working through some plans, and as always, we'll be guided by the advice of the state government and the Department of Health, to understand when that might be possible."

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VCAT overrules on ‘safety risks’

By Goya Dmytryshchak

The state’s planning tribunal has approved a subdivision near two major hazard facilities (MHFs) known as the Newport Fuel Terminals.

Hobsons Bay council had refused to grant Fu Bo Xia and Satomi Matsumura a permit to replace a single-storey house with two double storey townhouses at 6 McNeilage Street, Spotswood, based on the risk.

However, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal overturned this refusal on appeal.

Senior MemberGeoffrey Code said the

council’s five grounds of refusal all related to the proximity of the land to the Newport Fuel Terminals.

“The council maintains the proposal would be an unacceptable planning outcome having regard to safety risks, the setting of a poor precedent, and compromising future development of the fuel terminals,” he said.

“The Victorian WorkCover Authority (WorkSafe) licenses MHFs.

“Adjoining the residential pocket are two major hazard facilities (MHFs) that WorkSafe identifies as the Newport Fuel Terminals.

“These are the Ampol MHF and the Viva Energy MHF and both are fuel distribution

centres.”

The tribunal heard the Environment Protection Authority had recommended to the council that a 250-metre buffer between large fuel storage tanks and dwellings should apply and was not met in this case.

WorkSafe told the council it opposed the granting of a permit due to the ‘numbers, occupancy and vulnerability’ of persons present in the dwellings, and to the ability of those persons ‘to be organised and safely respond to an emergency’ at the MHFs.

In granting the permit, Mr Code said “the risks are not as great as assessed by the council”.

“... The concern is over-stated,” he said.

“In terms of dwelling development, one additional dwelling is at the lowest end of the scale.

“In terms of an increase in people ordinarily present on the land, the increase is one household or up to four people.

“The proposal will not result in a large gathering of people.

“Residents of the two dwellings will not have particular vulnerabilities to being safely evacuated, if that were necessary, which might be the case if the proposal was a child care centre or an aged care facility.”



Deborah Frenkel with Mika, four, and Raphael, one. 249893 (Damjan Janevski)

\$75 cashback for reusable nappies

Hobsons Bay parents are being offered a \$75 rebate to buy reusable nappies.

The idea stems from Newport mum Deborah Frenkel, who switched to reusable nappies with her second child.

She made a community budget submission through the Pitch Your Idea program, suggesting the council give parents an incentive to give reusable nappies a go.

“When I had my daughter in 2017, we were using disposable nappies and sending piles and piles of disposable nappies to landfill,” she said.

“As an environmentally conscious parent, the idea of a literal mountain of disposable nappies, which last for centuries in landfill,

was horrifying. When I became pregnant with my now one-year-old son, I told myself that we would switch to reusable nappies.

“After using them for a while, reusable nappies quickly became easier to use than disposables, with fewer leaks and poo explosions.

“I totally get why most families don’t even consider them but I think it’s one of those things that once you try, you’re quickly converted.

“I had heard of other council areas around Australia providing rebates for reusable nappies and figured it would be a good way to help other new families in Hobsons Bay get started with them.”

Parents and expectant parents in Hobsons Bay can receive up to \$75 off the purchase price of reusable nappies under the reusable nappy rebate trial.

A 2020 Monash University study predicted that by 2025 Hobsons Bay will be using more than 64 million nappies per year.

Hobsons Bay mayor Jonathon Marsden said switching to two reusable nappies per day would prevent more than 1500 disposable nappies from entering landfill each year.

“Reusable nappies are kinder to the environment and reduce landfill,” he said.

For more information and to apply, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/reusablenappyrebate

Ducktober challenge

Residents in Melbourne’s north and west are being challenged to take part in the Ducktober campaign.

The campaign asks participants to immerse themselves in water for 20 days during October to raise awareness for mental health.

Waves of Wellness is the mental health surf therapy charity behind the challenge, and delivers free clinical-based group programs on the beach, with a learn to surf component built in.

According to Waves of Wellness, their “health by stealth” approach has helped over 1700 people across Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland.

According to Lifeline Australia, the service is on track for its busiest year in its 57 year history, with 694,400 calls made to the service this year, to August 20, 2021.

Waves of Wellness chief executive and co-founder Joel Pilgrim said the increase in calls to Lifeline was behind the challenge.

“There’s never been a more important time to look after our own mental health, than right now,” Mr Pilgrim said.

“Australians have been through a lot in recent times, so our Ducktober campaign is encouraging people to focus on wellbeing, by doing what makes them feel great.

“We’re calling this out in a fun way, for a great cause.”

Waves of Wellness is asking people to “give a duck” for the one in five Australians who experience mental ill-health.

Michaela Meade

Financial incentives for kinder teachers.

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Double digit rate rises

By Goya Dmytryshchak

Maribyrnong residents slugged with double digit rates increases are questioning the council.

Yarraville's Bruce Light said his bill had jumped 14 per cent for 2021-22.

"We're in a COVID crisis," he said. "Last year, the council made the right decision under the mayor, Sarah Carter, when she said because of the stress, which was caused to the community, they went for a zero increase.

"The financial burden being imposed on Maribyrnong ratepayers has become too much.

"The stress, both mental and financial, resulting from the COVID restrictions and constant lockdown has hurt and is hurting many Maribyrnong residents.

"Council's decision to raise rates, based on unrealistic property values is only going to add to their mental stress and maybe push them over the edge.

"My pension's gone up 1.1 per cent and my rates have gone up 14 per cent."

Yarraville's Martin Hermans said he was shocked at his increase of 18 per cent.

"As a self employed electrician, I am already doing it hard raising two schoolchildren throughout his never ending lockdown," he said.

"I was aghast when I received my 2021-22 rates notice indicating an increase of a whopping 18 per cent.

"For the life of me I cannot understand how council can substantiate such a horrendous burden on its residents."I contacted the rates department who referred me to Westlink Consulting for an unsatisfactory explanation of comparable house sales in my neighbourhood."

Corporate Services Acting Director Lisa



Bruce Light. (Joe Mastroianni)

King said the spread of valuation movements across different property types resulted in a variation in the rate cap per each property.

"Maribyrnong City Council applies the Capital Improved Value (CIV) system of rating, which is the most commonly used valuation system by Victorian councils and one that recognises the full development value of the property," she said.

"It's also reflective of the general market value of the property as at the date of valuation.

"The calculation for CIV includes a general rate for residents.

"A differential rate is applied to other

types of land, such as commercial, industrial and vacant land and to commercial and industrial premises – when compared to the residential rate in the dollar.

"This means that in 2021-22, for each \$1 a resident pays, a commercial property will pay \$1.35, an industrial premise will pay \$1.60, a residential vacant property will pay \$2 and commercial and industrial vacant properties pay \$3.

"This spread of valuation variation results in a +/- 1.5 per cent rate increase across the different property types and suburbs compared to the previous year."

Whitten Oval vaccine clinic

This weekend, October 2-3, a pop-up vaccination clinic will operate at VU Whitten Oval from 8am-8pm.

There will be 2000 bookings for the Pfizer vaccination for those aged 12-59.

Bookings are essential with no walk-ins available: <https://portal.cvms.vic.gov.au/>

Meanwhile, COVID-19 restrictions have eased as 80 per cent of Victorians received their first vaccination dose.

Victoria recorded 867 new local COVID-19 cases and four deaths in the 24 hours to Tuesday. The four who died were a Whittlesea man in his 80s and woman in her 50s and a Hume man in his 70s and woman in her 80s.

Health Minister Martin Foley said the oldest three were unvaccinated while the status of the younger woman was not yet determined.

He said 375 people with COVID-19 were in hospital - 81 in intensive care and 61 on a ventilator.

Local exposure sites include the Apple store at Highpoint Shopping Centre and Altona Early Years Hub childcare centre.

Premier Daniel Andrews said as the state reached the 80 per cent single-dose vaccination target, some restrictions would ease from 11.59pm Tuesday

The radius for permitted travel has been extended from 10 kilometres to 15 kilometres and outdoor activities like boating, tennis and golf are allowed.

Personal training with up to five people and a trainer is allowed, provided all are fully vaccinated.

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Transgender history preserved

By Goya Dmytryshchak

Yarraville’s Noah Riseman is a finalist in the Victorian Community History Awards for the first overview of the history of trans and gender diverse people in the state.

Presented by Public Record Office Victoria and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, the awards recognise the work of individuals and organisations that preserves and shares Victoria’s history.

Riseman’s report, Victoria’s Transgender History, was published by Transgender Victoria and has been shortlisted in categories including the Victorian Premier’s History Award.

“I’m a historian based at Australian Catholic University and the last few years I’ve been conducting a project on the history of transgender people in Australia since the early 20th century,” he said.

“The project’s been looking at the changing legal, medical, social, media and, most importantly, lived experiences of trans and gender diverse people.

“I’ve been looking at old newspapers, legal cases, lots of stuff in the Australian Queer Archives - but especially oral history interviews, which have been absolutely vital, with members of the community.”

Dr Riseman said he was motivated to do the report after previously researching the history of LGBTI people in the Australian Defence Force.

“Doing that project, I interviewed about a dozen trans members of the defence force, past and present, and one thing that became really clear through that project was you can’t understand the experiences of trans people in one institution like the ADF without knowing the much broader context, the much broader history.”



Jeremy Wiggins and Noah Riseman. (Damjan Janevski) 251530_06

One person interviewed for the report is Kingsville’s Jeremy Wiggins, a transgender community member and co-chair of the Victorian Government Trans and Gender Diverse expert advisory group. The Churchill Fellow in trans health has established award-winning health services for trans people.

“I was assigned female at birth but didn’t feel like that gender identity was congruent with the way that I felt so I when I learnt that it was possible to affirm your gender through gender affirmation processes I affirmed my gender in my early 20s,” he said.

“That was over 15 years ago.

“I think it’s great that someone has dedicated

time and resources to document the history of activism and work in this space because it’s important to know what has occurred and who has been involved to respect their contributions but to also see what policy changes have occurred within a human rights framework for our communities over time.

“A lot of what we have now is because of the hard work of lots of volunteers and individuals and activists over the decades.”

Transgender Victoria chief executive Mama Alto said Dr Riseman’s report redressed many gaps in history.

“As is the case for many marginalised groups of people, the histories of trans and gender diverse individuals and communities

are often erased, silenced or obscured,” she said.

“Dr Noah Riseman’s work ... not only goes a long way towards redressing those ‘gaps’ in histories specific to our communities but in doing so also represents a significant achievement in documenting the social history of this state more broadly.

“As well as the comprehensively researched and detailed report of trans histories, the introductory essay addressing the challenges and nuances of ‘historicising transgender’ is itself an important and landmark contribution to LGBTQIA+ historiography.”

To view the report, visit tg.vic.org.au/victorias-transgender-history-report

Safer local roads in Braybrook, Maidstone and Maribyrnong

To create safer roads, Maribyrnong City Council, in partnership with the Department of Transport, is lowering the speed limit to 40km an hour on council-owned roads in Braybrook, Maidstone and Maribyrnong. This will be the last two of seven areas across the City with reduced speed limits.

We want all members of our community to feel safe when using our roads and by lowering the speed limit, it will reduce the risk of injury or fatality and encourage more people to walk or ride.

For more information please visit www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/saferlocalroads

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Maribyrnong CITY COUNCIL

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Convict seawall saved

By Goya Dmytryshchak

One of Williamstown’s most iconic pieces of convict history, the Point Gellibrand Seawall that Ned Kelly worked on, will be saved.

As reported by Star Weekly, maritime historian Geoff Dougall said the community was calling for the historic seawall to be preserved for future generations.

The Point Gellibrand Seawall was built from the 1850s to 1870s by convict labour from hulks moored offshore, he said.

“We believe, and we can virtually say with 100 per cent surety, that Ned Kelly did work on it as a labourer,” Mr Dougall said.

“The wall protected one of the colony’s first roads, named aptly Battery Road, which ran between the two main colonial batteries set up to protect us from invasion, and the southerly gales which lash the beachfront.

“The bluestone was quarried from the convict quarry close by and had distinctive tally marks chiseled into a single bluestone when a certain quota was met.”

Cross marks on the bluestone are still visible to this day.

The road has since been renamed Bracks Boulevard and most of the retaining wall is no longer visible due to sand and overgrowth from bushes.

The state government last week announced consultants SMEC had been appointed to assess how to make the structure safe and functional.

Parks Victoria will work with Heritage Victoria to either repair or fully reconstruct the seawall, while SMEC will provide options and design concepts after geotechnical and structural investigations.

Williamstown MP Melissa Horne said the seawall’s preservation was a big win for Williamstown.



Geoff Dougall at the deteriorating Williamstown seawall. (Damjan Janevski) 210114

“Walking along the seawall has become a rite of passage for locals and visitors all year, especially on sunny days as they grab an ice cream or a coffee to enjoy the views,” she said.

“Bringing SMEC on board brings us one step closer to starting works on this project,

which will ensure visitors to the park can enjoy the area for years to come.

“This project to renovate the seawall and protect its heritage values is a big win for the Williamstown community.”

Work is expected to start next year.

Learning asset for students

An online event early next month will focus on the challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects on the daily life of students.

EdConnect Australia, which provides support in classrooms, has teamed up with Hume council to run the event which is aimed to help students as they negotiate this difficult period.

Experienced teacher, journalist, educational writer and producer Simon Garner is the main speaker.

EdConnect east coast manager Danie McNeil said it was an important topic that needed to be acknowledged.

“Being a student in the 2020’s is tough,” she said. “Young people may already be experiencing a rough time as they explore who they are, their friendships, discover what they enjoy and what they can contribute to the world.

“Add COVID-19 to the mix and it presents further difficulties that can make it hard to cope. The challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic have had a huge impact on daily life. It has particularly affected school students. Young people nowadays are facing obstacles that have never happened on this scale before.”

Mr Garner said young people needed to be exposed to, and interact with older people more than ever.

The online session is on October 7 at 11am.

To register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/75824991428>

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Cannabis a key to rates relief

Cr Michael Clarke

I know many of you have questions around council's proposal to establish a business to cultivate, produce and manufacture medicinal cannabis to reduce the burden on ratepayers.

We believe there is a potential opportunity for council to partner with government and private industry - the scientists and experts - to establish a business that promises benefits to our ratepayers in a number of areas: employment, rates relief and their health and wellbeing.

We know, for example, the cost of imported medicinal cannabis is prohibitive for many looking for relief from pain or side effects of treatments and an enterprise like this would benefit those in our community for whom conventional treatments may not work. As well as jobs, there will likely also be flow on impacts also in relation to research and development initiatives in the region.

To be honest, we do not have all the answers and that is in part because we have yet to undertake any detailed investigations. This is because we want to understand the community appetite for such a venture first before embarking on the necessary feasibility study or risk assessment, which would be the next steps, were we to proceed further.

Having said that, my fellow councillors and I would be pleased to talk with you more on this and tell you what we can, and I warmly invite you to join us in an on-line community forum tomorrow, Thursday, September 30, at 6pm to discuss the proposal further. You will need to register and can do that here.



Cr Michael Clarke. (Supplied)

https://maribyrnong-vic-gov.au.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WLoRaMZjSKiGdFCSMhL98w

I must say it has been heartening to receive the level of support we have to date, at least in principle, for the idea. While council is committed to seeking alternate revenue streams and external funding opportunities to reduce the reliance on rates, we have very clearly said that we will not proceed on this proposal, without it.

You can let us know your thoughts on the proposal via council's online digital engagement platform, Medicinal cannabis, Your City Your Voice by October 15, 2021.

Briefs

Cannabis forum

Maribyrnong council is inviting the community to discuss a proposal to establish a medicinal cannabis business to reduce the burden on ratepayers. The online forum is on Thursday, September 30, at 6pm. The council has resolved to seek community views on establishing a business to cultivate, produce and manufacture medicinal cannabis. Visit the council website to register. Feedback can also be provided via the council's online digital engagement platform by October 15.

Disability action

Parks Victoria is running community consultation on its Disability Action Plan, which will help guide priorities and actions needed to welcome all people to the state's open spaces. Parks Victoria will host a series of online focus groups and a survey for community feedback. For more visit engage.vic.gov.au/parks-disability-action-plan or call 13 19 63.

Tourism recovery

Victoria University is working on a project to support the recovery of tourism in Melbourne's west following the pandemic. Business operators are being asked to participate in an anonymous survey. See bit.ly/melbwest-tourism-survey

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Probus Day 2021 will be unlike the celebrations of past years, with probus members across metro Melbourne under strict COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. However, as Romsey/Lancefield Probus Club newsletter editor and member Vicki Wilkinson tells Michaela Meade, that will not stop the probus family commemorating the day.

Ms Wilkinson said probus clubs allowed for connectivity among older Australians.

“It’s retired or semi-retired folks who like to get together with like-minded people to enjoy conversations about a range of different things,” Ms Wilkinson said.

“Every time we have a meeting, we have a morning tea and we stop for about 30 minutes and have a good old chat, before we have a speaker... it’s unbelievable, fantastic.”

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns throughout Victoria have impacted the ability of probus clubs from around the state to get together for consistent meetings and celebrations. Ms Wilkinson said that despite metro Melbourne’s numerous lockdowns and the restrictions that come with them, she will still be making an effort to commemorate Probus Day.

“I’ll be sending out an email to all of our members,” she said.

“The email will wish them a happy Probus Day, and wish them all the best, and hopefully give them some good news to look at as well.

“We’re hoping that we can have a meeting soon, we haven’t had one in quite some time.

“Hopefully we can have one where we’re all there to celebrate sometime soon.

“We’ve even changed venues to accommodate for more people and social distancing.

“Being the age group that we are, we’re all fully vaccinated, so when we can catch up. It’ll feel almost normal.

“It’s still very hard to get out, and it makes it so difficult for a lot of people to stay connected, but we’re trying.”

Now in her third year with the Romsey/Lancefield Probus Club, Ms Wilkinson said the club has been a positive social experience for her.

“We’re like a family, a very big family,” she said “Our motto is family, friends and fellowship. That’s really what we’re all about.

“One of the reasons I joined was to get to know people in a similar position in their lives that I am, to have conversations with them and



Romsey/Lancefield Probus Club members at Nooie Estate Nagambie in 2019 (top left); at Kangaroo Island (above); and on a trip to Ballarat which included a visit to the Ballarat Flower Festival in 2018. (Pictures: Supplied)

to meet new friends.

“We go out, have coffees, have meals on occasion... it’s just great to get together.”

Reflecting on the pre-COVID world and lockdowns, Ms Wilkinson said apart from the social connection with others, her favourite aspect of being a part of a probus club was listening to interesting speakers.

Ms Wilkinson said the speakers invited to the Romsey/Lancefield Probus Club have ranged from a lawyer, a park planner, a world traveller, a speaker from the Kyneton Treehouse, and a local fire brigade officer.

“We have speakers on a large variety of things,” Ms Wilkinson explained.

“Different people about different things is, I think, the key.

“I’ve got something out of all of them [the talks].



“Every time we have a speaker, we learn something new.

“It’s about everyday things, that you might not have known were around.

“They’ve never been boring.”

Ms Wilkinson said the 52 members of the Romsey/Lancefield Probus Club are trying to keep up their connections with one another, despite restrictions, via the newsletter.

“We ring each other [and] I try to get every member involved in the newsletter in some way,” she said.

“Last year, because we didn’t have meetings [due to COVID-19 lockdowns] I’d get people to send in photos of their projects, photos of people working.

“They all sent different things - gardening, tinkering about with machines and things.

“We have quite a few members - men - who

are also part of the men’s shed, so they send in photos of what they were working on.

“It’s been very hard to keep in contact with everyone.

“We usually take two big trips each year. We have a lunch every couple of months and coffee mornings each week.

“Coffee mornings had 25 people attend each week before COVID hit - they keep people happy... it’s not the same with all the restrictions, but it’s still good.”

Ms Wilkinson said she would encourage others to join their local probus club and discover the connectivity and happiness that goes along with it, just like she did.

“The day I joined the probus club was the day I became the newsletter editor,” she said.

“I’ve enjoyed it ever since.

“There’s so many different people. We have members in their 90s, so there’s a wide age range represented.

“A big thing for us every meeting is to make it fun and enjoyable.

“We’re a chatty bunch, we listen, we learn, we get along really well and there aren’t any cliques - we all mingle.

“We’re open for discussion on anything.

“Every time we meet, we ‘fix the problems of the world’.

“You’ve got a vast range of ideas, and so if anyone’s got a problem, we’ll have a conversation and we’ll fix it.

“If someone’s having a problem, we work it out... we help each other.

“It’s amazing what talking does.”

According to Probus South Pacific Limited, a probus club provides members with an opportunity to join together for social interaction and activities with retirees in your community.

Probus Day, celebrated on Friday, October 1, is held in line with the United Nations Day of Older Persons.. The 2020 celebration was the inaugural commemoration of Probus Day for Australia and New Zealand.

To find your nearest probus club visit www.probusaustralia.org.au

Restoration of shellfish reefs in Port Phillip Bay

The Nature Conservancy Australia

This restoration is being led by The Nature Conservancy in partnership with The Australian Government.

This reef will be made up of 5 ha of shellfish reef which will help attract more marine life and improve water quality. Rebuilding this ecosystem will not only benefit the environment but also the local economy, by creating local jobs, boost important fish stocks, establish new fishing and dive tourism in Port Phillip Bay.

To find out more information on our shellfish reefs and their benefits please visit www.natureaustralia.org.au/reefbuilder.

Works will commence on 5 October 2021 and will continue until 5 November 2021. For any enquires please contact 03 8346 8600 or email andrew.dunlop@tnc.org.



MY PLACE

Australian Multicultural Community Services chief executive Elizabeth Drozd recently celebrated 30 years working in community services and has been living in Maidstone since she moved from Poland. She speaks with Goya Dmytryshchak.

Could you please tell me a bit about yourself and your connection to the city of Maribyrnong?
For the last 24 years, I have lived in the city of Maribyrnong and worked in Melbourne's western region all of my professional career (30 years). I am the CEO of Australian Multicultural Community Services (AMCS), a not-for-profit community organisation with the head office in Maidstone. We support older adults in Melbourne and Geelong to safely live at home through personal care, home care, transport to medical appointments and companionship: www.amcservices.org.au
My passion is gardening and the environment. Through Friends of the Suffolk Triangle, I have planted trees in my local park and have a veggie patch in one of the

community gardens. Almost 40 years ago, I arrived in Australia as part of the Special Humanitarian Program.
What do you like about Maidstone?
The closeness to the CBD, Maribyrnong River, Western Highway, Princess Freeway, airport and Highpoint. An unknown and quiet suburb with a nice neighbourhood.
What would you change or what could be improved?
For our municipality, to plant more fruit trees including avocados, walnut and fig trees.
What's your favourite local cafe/restaurant?
Myrtle Wine Cafe and Thai Angels.

Could you please tell me about your books?
I have authored and co-published several books. Two of them were about Polish migrants who came to Australia as refugees (Displaced Persons). Many settled in Melbourne's western region and built Melbourne's first Polish community centre, Millennium House. AMCS was gifted Millennium House to hold workshops, education and training, information sessions and cultural celebrations for diverse communities.
That generation of migrants experienced a lot of trauma, including forced deportations and slave labour in Germany and Russia. A privilege to document their stories of resilience and hope.
What's something people would be surprised

to know about you?
I would like to speak Italian fluently. I hope to go to Italy for an extended period to learn the language while living among Italians.
How has your life has changed during the COVID-19 pandemic?
I have coped well during the pandemic. Other than movement restrictions, the impact on me has been small compared to others who have lost jobs or businesses.
As an essential service, AMCS was fortunate enough to continue supporting the most vulnerable in our community through Home Care Packages and other initiatives. We initiated online games and activities, and helped multicultural seniors learn digital skills to reduce the risk of social isolation.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WANT YOUR EVENT LISTED? Community Calendar is made available free of charge to not-for-profit organisations to keep the public informed of special events and activities. Send item details to Star Weekly Community Calendar, Corner Thomsons Road and Keilor Park Drive, Keilor Park, 3042, or email to westeditorial@starweekly.com.au by 9am Wednesday the week prior to publication

John Safran
Join writer John Safran and host Tony Wilson for this special digital event where John and Tony will take a look into the tobacco and vaping industry. The event will be run online in partnership with the Wheeler Centre on Wednesday, October 13 from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. Tickets \$10.
■ www.wheelercentre.com

MS volunteers
The Multiple Sclerosis Community Visitors Scheme is seeking female Maltese and Italian volunteers to make a weekly visit to aged care residents in Altona Meadows and Point Cook.
■ Sue, 9845 2744 or volunteer@ms.org.au

Additional needs support
MyTime at Tweddle Newport is a peer support group for parents and carers of children with additional needs. The group meets each Friday at 10am during term three in the community room at Newport Gardens Early Years Centre, 51 Maddox Road, Newport.
■ kim.mace@tweddle.org.au

Diabetes support group
The Westgate diabetes support group meets on the first Tuesday of every month at the Altona Bowling Club at 10am.
■ Elaine, 0415 030 996

Free computer workshops
Williamstown Community and Education Centre is running free computer workshops on internet banking (October 6) and setting up a MyGov account (November



Melbourne's skyline in the distance amid dark clouds, while the canola fields on the outskirts shine bright yellow under the sun. A perfect metaphor for the times in which we live. (Damjan Janevski) 251035

7). Workshops are at Joan Kirner House, 14 Thompson Street, Williamstown.
■ Renee, 9397 6168
Altona North combined probus
The Altona North combined probus club meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Altona Sports Club. Includes a speaker, organised trips and outings, and a friendly atmosphere.
■ Lesley, 9369 1785
Women's choir
The Willin Wimmin choir meets Wednesdays during school terms at

Church of Christ hall, corner John Street and Douglas Parade, Williamstown, from 7.30-9.30pm. There are no auditions and you don't need to be able to read music.
■ willin.wimmin@gmail.com
Hobsons Bay band
Do you play trumpet, flute or lower brass instruments? The Hobsons Bay City Band is seeking musicians to join the community band. Rehearsals are held every Monday evening from 7.30pm at Newport Lakes Primary School, Elizabeth Street, Newport.
■ Roger Lewis, hbcityband@gmail.com

Friendship Group
Altona Day View Club (Voice Interest Education of Women) meets at 11am on the third Wednesday of the month at Altona RSL.
■ Janet, 9394 6522 or 0412 010 176
Guided walk
Enjoy a leisurely 90 minute walk with guide, John, starting at the Williamstown Visitor Information Centre in Nelson Place, each Tuesday starting at 9.20am. Each week covers a different route in the local area.
■ John, 0418 377 336
Laverton Community Choir
All welcome for a friendly singing get-together, suitable for all ages and abilities on Thursday nights from 7pm during school term at the Laverton P-12 College, 91 Bladin Street, Laverton.
■ Ada, 0419 116 013

Rotary club
Rotary Club of Point Gellibrand meets at Customs House Hotel, 161 Nelson Place, Williamstown, on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 6pm for a 6.30pm dinner meeting. Visitors welcome.
■ Pam, 0418 347 691or rotarypointgellibrand@gmail.com
Mouth organ band
The Yarraville Mouth Organ Band meets Friday evenings at 203 Williamstown Road, Yarraville. Great music, friendly atmosphere. New members, players or beginners welcome.
■ Heather, 9399 2190

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2021 AFL PREMIE



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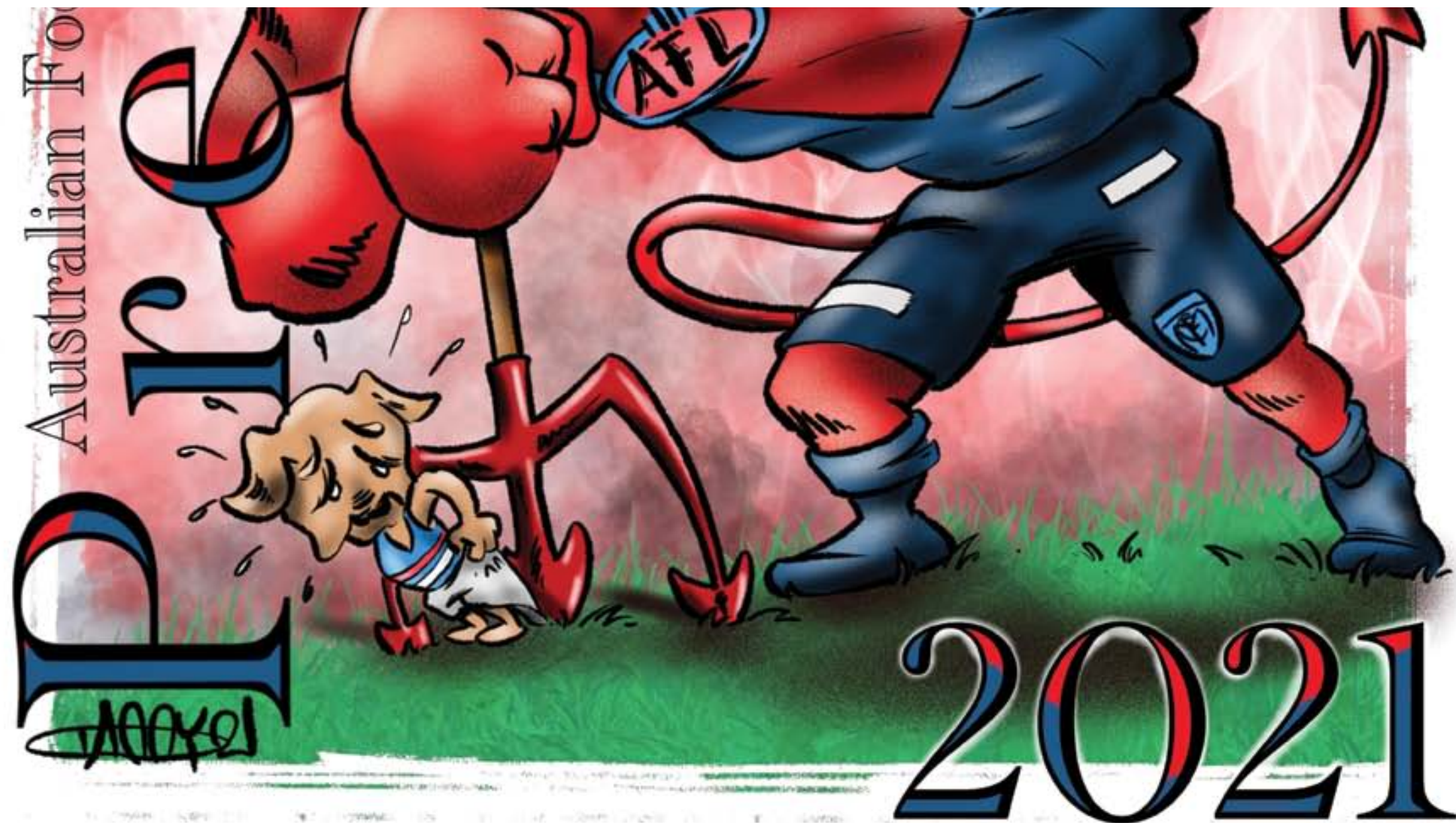


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Kelly Cowlshaw's home showed her passion for the Dees. (supplied)



Cass Geerling's house decorated for grand final day. (supplied)

Demons rain on Dogs' parade

By Tara Murray

Thousands of people in the western suburbs were left shattered on Saturday night as the Western Bulldogs' AFL premiership dreams came crashing down.

A dominant second half performance from Melbourne ended the longest premiership drought in the VFL/AFL competition.

The Demons piled on the goals in the last two quarters to seal the 21.14 (140)-10.6 (66) win.

Hours earlier fans from both teams were eagerly awaiting the biggest game of the year, which was held at night for a second straight year.

Many people had started preparations two weeks beforehand, with fences painted, banners made and houses became red, white and blue, while a few red and navy popped up as well.

On game day, platters were made, Norm Smith sweeps were created and guernseys were on display.

Lockdown meant that families had to watch alone, so Zoom and video chats were also going on in many houses before, during and after the game.

Once the pre-game entertainment ended, the game got underway. It was all the Demons early on and as they got out to the ideal start.

There were multiple goals to Bailey Fritsch, while Christan Petracca and Clayton Oliver were getting plenty of the ball.

The second quarter would see the Bulldogs finally get into the game. The deficit was quickly gone and the Bulldogs hit the front.

They would lead by eight points at half time.

Jason Johannisen, one of the stars of the 2016 premiership win, and Marcus Bontempelli kicked the first two goals of the third quarter to extend the lead to 19 points and early thoughts of maybe this was the Dogs' day started to creep in.

The game again turned on its head. The Demons would take control of the game with the next seven goals in the third quarter.

It would be much the same in the last quarter. An Adam Treloar goal at the 21 minute mark in the last quarter was a rare highlight for the Bulldogs in the second half.

Petracca was clearly best on field with 40 possessions and two goals, winning the Norm Smith Medal. Fritsch would finish with six goals and finished second in the Norm Smith voting.

For the Bulldogs, Caleb Daniel battled hard all day and got plenty of the ball with 37 possessions, while Treloar had one of his best games for the club with 27 possessions and three goals.

Bulldogs coach Luke Beveridge said his team gave Melbourne full credit for the performance they put out.

"To think we were 19 points up during that third quarter and for the scoreline to end up like it was, was a considerable show of power and strength out of the middle," Beveridge said in his post game press conference.

"We couldn't stem the tide and we couldn't get a clearance, couldn't get into our half. It



Ben Hopper's dog checks out the family's freshly painted front fence in Seddon. (supplied)



Muhtari from St Albans Football Club. (Supplied)



'Go dogs' was the clear sentiment in this household pre-game. (Simone Williams)



Passionate Doggie supporters show their love of the red, white and blue. (Leanne Sutton)



Young Bulldogs supporters prepare for the game. (Kristen Egan)

happened so quickly and to think in the blink of an eye, the game is almost gone.

"All you can do is credit them. I couldn't be more grateful in what our players have done to get us to that stage. When you look at the scoreline I don't think it's a great reflection on our year."

Beveridge said he was proud of the group and what they had achieved this year.

"Our guys showed a lot of heart to fight their way back and get up but in these games when there is no tomorrow.

"We had a period of uncertainty key personal going down at different times, players played critical roles in doing everything they could to get us to the biggest stage.

"I would rather be here then not, but obviously they're all hurting. We know we are capable of more than that."

Bulldogs skipper Marcus Bontempelli said the group was pretty disappointed and felt like it was a missed opportunity.

He said the result was a hard one to swallow after getting themselves into a strong position.

While Western Bulldogs supporters were left disappointed, there were some good feel stories to come out of the Demons side.

Ben Brown wasn't sure what his footballing future held 12 months ago. On the outer at North Melbourne, Brown chose to head to Melbourne.

It wasn't all smooth sailing, with Brown spending time in the VFL early in the season. He would get back into the senior side and hold his spot. He kicked three goals in the win.

A premiership is a long way from when he arrived in Victoria to play in the VFL with Werribee in 2013.

It would be at Werribee he would be turned from a ruckman into a key forward. The rest is history.

"Absolutely surreal," Brown told the AFL website.

"I've had a very up and down 12- 18 months...

WTo cap it off with this, I'm so thankful for where I am now.

"I definitely had some mental battles, some mental hurdles to get over. It probably could have gone two ways to be honest. Thoughts am I up to it? Can I get back to that level?"

Former Romsey star Jake Lever entered the grand final as the only Demons player to have grand final experience.

He played a key role for the Demons in defence.

"The last one didn't go to plan," he told Fox Footy after the game. "Half way through the second quarter I thought it was going to go the same way, but to everyone's credit, the way the midfield, the forwards and even the backs turned it around."

Another key player in the Demons run was former Werribee coach Mark Williams. The 2004 premiership coach joined the Demons at the start of the year and was able to provide plenty of experience.



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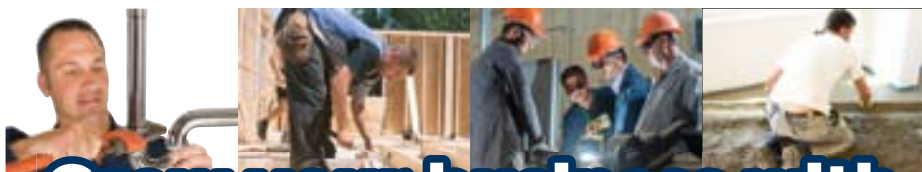
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Rocci’s Opals dream comes true

By Tara Murray

Maddison Rocci’s dream of becoming an Australian Opal is now a reality.

Having been part of a larger squad ahead of the Olympics, the Werribee-product will get her opportunity with the Opals team for the Asia Cup.

“It’s always super exciting to represent your country,” Rocci said before the team headed off.

“It’s an honour and I’m super excited to play for the Opals.

“We had the squad list come out and then we got an email when the team was announced.

“We leave for Jordan on the 23rd and the tournament starts on the 27th. We were meant to have a camp and play against New Zealand in the lead up but obviously with COVID-19 and the border stuff it didn’t happen.

“I think we’re going to go straight to Jordan and maybe get one or two training sessions in before we will play our first game.”

Rocci said the opportunity to train with some of the senior Australian players in the lead up to the Olympics would help her at the tournament.

The 23-year-old said she learnt so much in a short period of time.

“I think we only had three camps, but just those camps I went to, I learnt so much from those older girls and what they did on and off the court.

“ playing with experienced players has really helped me ”
- Maddison Rocci

“I think I learned the style the Opals like to play as well.

Rocci isn’t a stranger to representing her country, having played in both the under-17, under-19 and emerging Opals teams.

She said while those times were special, this Opals experience would be something completely different.

Rocci will head into the tournament with some strong form behind her.

Her team, Southern Districts Spartans in NBL1 North in Queensland, just finished up their season, where they finished runners-up.

Rocci was named in the all-star 5 team averaging more than 18 points, nearly five assists and more than six rebounds a game.

Rocci has spent the last few Women’s National Basketball League off-seasons up north.

“My boyfriend lives in Queensland and plays with the Brisbane Lions, so I think that was a massive factor for me,” she said. “Being in Queensland it’s given me a really good opportunity to keep playing basketball and be in a training environment every single day.

“I’ve really enjoyed playing in the Queensland competition, I think it’s at a standard where we have a few WNBL players in it now.”

Rocci won’t have much rest when she returns to Australia from Opals duty, with the WNBL season fast approaching.

No date has been announced for the competition, or whether it will be played in a hub like last year.

Rocci will be pulling on some new colours this season, having signed with the Victorian-based South Side Flyers.

The guard said it was a difficult decision to leave the Canberra Capitals where she had played the last four years.

In that time, Rocci has been part of back-to-back premierships with the Capitals. With no imports last season, Rocci took on a bigger role averaging 16 points a game.

She finished top five in the Suzy Batkovic Medal for the league’s most valuable player, top three in the youth player of the year and was named in the all-WNBL second team.

“Leaving Canberra was a really hard decision as I really enjoyed playing there for my past four seasons,” she said.

“I never really imagined my life in Canberra for six years [having spent two years at the AIS] but I look back on the last six years as a really



Maddison Rocci at an Opals camp.
(Pictures: Basketball Australia)



good experience and it’s something that really helped me moving forward into the next part of my basketball journey.

“For me I came in there [the Capitals] so young as an 18-year-old. I was learning from the veterans. I played with such amazing leaders in front of me Leilani Mitchell, Kelly Wilson, Kelsey Griffin and Marianna Tolo ... and Kia Nurse playing with experienced players has really helped me.”

The desire to return to her home state played a major factor in her decision.

Rocci said her parents were already getting her room ready at home in Werribee for when she moves back. She said she was excited to play in front of her family again, who haven’t seen many of her WNBL games.

“I’m excited, the team we have at Southside is pretty special and I think playing with those Opals players will be really good for me and I’m really excited to learn off Jenna O’Hea. Just being with her in those camps, I can see how good she is as a leader and now I get to learn off someone like that.”

Rocci said her aim was to make next year’s Australian World Cup side, with the Olympics firmly in her sights as well.



Maddison Rocci during her time at the Canberra Capitals. (Siththixay Dittthavong)

Masina is a rugby rebel with a sporting cause

By Peter Howe

Antonio Sipa Masina is one of the lucky ones with his post-year 12 career already mapped out.

The year 12 student at Werribee’s Grange P-12 College is about to embark on every young person’s dream, a professional sporting career having signed a three year contract with Super Rugby side Melbourne Rebels.

Having progressed through the junior ranks, Masina has his eyes on the big time. He has followed his dream for as long he can remember.

“I played volleyball alongside my father, but my real passion is rugby union,” he said.

“I eat, sleep and breathe it.”

Sport runs in the family for Masina with the family supportive of all members’ different sporting achievements.

Masina played rugby league, rugby union and volleyball at junior state level.

“My father, Venu, was an international volleyball player for Samoa and New Zealand. My older sister played rugby in the Super W League with the Melbourne Rebels and my three younger siblings are all into their sports.

“My mother, Malia, is the backbone of our family.”

Masina really started to focus on rugby union in 2017 when he was hand-picked to join the Rebels Academy for 2018.

It would be a big year in the sport for Masina as he toured Europe as part of the Victorian state schools team.

After the highs of 2018, it was a much tougher 2019 when Masina suffered a setback to his sporting dream when he broke his ankle playing for the Brimbank Rugby Club.

An operation to reconstruct his ankle and a two-year battle to return to playing certainly made Masina more resilient.

“Recovery was critical and I spent many hours in recovery mode. I was never sure I was

going to be able to play at the level again.”

With last season shut down due to COVID-19, Masina had more time to get himself right and returned to the field earlier this year for the Rebels Academy under-18 team.

Masina, who plays as the number seven or open side flanker, had been attending the Rebels Academy training three times a week.

Masina was chosen in July to become part of the Rebels’ elite player program.

“I am looking forward to 2022 as I embark on my professional sporting journey,” he said.

“My immediate aim is to press for an under-20 Australian selection next year.

“From there, to become a Melbourne Rebels core player in their senior squad. My ultimate aim is to represent Australia.”

Masina is the Sunshine Western Region Sports Club September Don Deeble Sports Star Award winner. His award is sponsored by the Yarraville Club Cricket Club, Strathmore Community Bank and the Deer Park Club.



Antonio Sipa Masina. (Rugby Victoria)



Leo Lacroix (in blue) has joined Western United. Picture supplied [Getty]

Swiss star joins United

Swiss star Leo Lacroix couldn’t turn down the chance to play in Australia when the opportunity arose.

The centre-back, who made a name for himself in Europe, has signed a one-year deal with Western United.

Speaking while in quarantine, Lacroix said he had heard so much about Australia that he had to come experience it for himself.

“When you live in Europe, you say ‘I want to go to Australia for a visit for a holiday’, but you always say it’s a long trip and that you need maybe a one month holiday,” he said.

“When I received this offer I spoke with my lawyer, with my wife and family and some friends, who came to holiday in Australia, they told me ‘Leo if you can do this, do it, because Australia is a very nice country’.

“I was speaking with my family and said ‘yes, why not?’ I spoke with Alessandro Diamanti and I spoke with the coach [John Aloisi] and

they gave me confidence, they explained about the team and the club.”

Lacroix, who played for Switzerland once, said he hadn’t had the opportunity to watch much of the A-League previously, but he had heard good things.

His former Sion teammate Dario Vidosic spent several years in the A-League.

“We spoke together when I was in Switzerland and Europe, but it was difficult to watch some Australian games.

“In Europe when you speak about the A-League they think it’s like a little bit like MLS [Major Soccer League] in the USA.

“They look to bring in some players from Europe with some experience and good career, to bring this experience for the players to the Australian players.

“It will be a good adventure. I’m looking forward to start this experience.”

Lacroix will join his teammates in the

coming weeks after completing quarantine in Sydney. He said it had been interesting quarantining with his wife and two small kids who, like all kids, just want to go outside and play.”

Lacroix said he had some good conversations with new United coach John Aloisi and was excited to get started.

“I like playing well and beautiful from behind and if I can score and help my teammates I will do.

“When I come in on the pitch, I change my mindset. I’ll give my best all the time and try and do my best on the pitch, for my teammates, fans and club.

“This is the objective. The club is young and they want to win something. We want to give something to the fans, the club and our families.”

Tara Murray

Lind caps off big week

City West Falcons star Maggie Lind has capped off a stunning week by sharing the Victorian Netball League’s top award.

The midcourt star and Geelong Cougars shooter Julia Woolley were named the championship division’s joint best and fairest on Thursday night.

The two players tied on 20 votes across the 11 games that were played before the season was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It’s the second time the former teammates have claimed the award, with Lind winning the award in 2016 and Woolley going back-to-back after winning it in 2019.

Both were also named in the championship team of the year. The Falcons, lead by Lind who was captain, finished the shortened season on top of the ladder undefeated.

Lind’s strong form over a number of years was rewarded earlier in the week, signing with Collingwood’s Super Netball League side.

Lind was a training partner for the side this year, making her Super Netball debut in round two and playing in two matches.

Collingwood coach Nicole Richardson said the team is delighted to have Lind on board.

Richardson had seen much of Lind’s development, having been a coach at the Falcons for a number of years.

“Maggie’s call up is a huge credit to her constant effort and commitment. We’re looking forward to seeing where she can take her game at the next level.”

In other VNL awards, star shooter Jane Cook won the hot shot award for the most goals in the championship division.

She joined Lind in team of the year along with young defender Melissa Oloamanu, who made the team in her first season in championship division.

In the under-19 division, Charli Nicol was named in the team of the year.



CONGRATULATIONS

on making Grand Final



APOLOGY

APOLOGY made to: LUKE BEVERIDGE
Coach of WESTERN BULLDOGS

APOLOGY made by: RUSSELL COCKS
FOOTSRAY TRAGIC

I wish to unreservedly apologise to LUKE BEVERIDGE for having ever doubted his SUPERB football knowledge, leadership skills and coaching ability. Embarrassment prevents the listing of many of the harebrained ideas that have been floated by the THE TRAGIC during the course of the 2021 season but the idea of moving Aaron Naughton to fullback to replace Alex Keath in the Preliminary Final illustrates the desperation of THE TRAGIC.

CONGRATULATIONS

To LUKE, the Messiah of 2016, for turning ADVERSITY into ADVANTAGE;
To all 41 players who made up the TEAM to take us back to those glory days of 2016;
To everyone associated with WESTERN BULLDOGS who have battled long and hard in 2021;
To all those rusted-on SUPPORTERS who have stuck thick during a difficult year;
To all those people who regard the WESTERN BULLDOGS as their 'second' team.

RUSSELL COCKS Director GELLIBRAND LEGAL PRACTICE P/L trading as LOCAL LAWYERS

LOCAL LAWYERS



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LOCAL PEOPLE LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

LOCAL LAWYERS incorporating:		
Clements Hutchins	Altona	2008
Peter Boyle & Assoc.	Williamstown	2008
Perillo Adami & Frank	Footscray & Hoppers Crossing	2011
Victor Borg & Co	Sunshine & CBD	2015
Sievers Lee	Sunshine	2020
Graham Legal	North Essendon	2021