



The Pulse

with **DARYL TIMMS**

DON'T QUOTE ME

Sydney Swans officials are confident their supporters will outnumber Melbourne's at Telstra Dome tomorrow night. The Swans say the snow season guarantees a lot of Demons fans won't show up.



Dees hot property

MELBOURNE captain **David Neitz** and teammate **Cameron Bruce** fetched \$3350 at auction at Wednesday's Women of Melbourne lunch at the Grand Hyatt.

A group of women on table 20 made the winning bid and scored an evening with the pair.

One of the lucky ladies said Neitz and Bruce would be invited to her home for a curry.

Neitz accused master of ceremonies **David Schwarz** of putting him up for auction without his knowledge. "I didn't even know I was on the list," he said. "I think Schwarzer added me."

The lunch also featured a players' revue in which the enthusiasm of the participants more than compensated for their lack of theatrical skills.

Two players who took to the stage with relish were **Cameron Hunter** (above) as a distressed damsel and **Steven Armstrong** as her erstwhile rescuer, Spider-Man.

Crock cracked

RICHMOND assistant coach **Darren Crocker** might think twice the next time his mate, **Elsternwick** coach **Denis Grace**, asks him to take training.

Crocker took a session recently and brought along a couple of the Tigers' bumping pads.

The session was going OK but Crocker was less than impressed with the intensity of a handball drill when he produced the pads.

He decided to show the players how it was done but didn't see reserves goalsneak Andrew "Punter" Lewis coming. Lewis not only flattened Crocker but left him bruised and moaning. Crocker admitted he wasn't happy with the drill and had started bowling a few blokes over.

"One of their little blokes blindsided me and cleaned me up," he said.



Crocker

No-ball call rocks Warne

SHANE Warne has been clean bowled.

He hasn't fallen victim to a **Muthiah Muralidaran** doosra. It's much worse.

A Melbourne man who successfully bid \$42,700 for the ball Warne used to equal the record of 527 Test wickets has reneged on the deal.

David Walls bought the ball on e-Bay and planned to add it to his sporting memorabilia collection.

But he pulled out of the deal, claiming the bidding was a sham.

Walls refused last night to discuss why he wouldn't pay for the ball.

Originally he told *The Pulse* by e-mail that he would talk about the issue today, but later said he was considering legal action.

It's claimed that Walls had placed a \$41,000 bid on the ball on the opening night of the online auction.

He successfully bid \$42,700 but reneged, claiming the auction was a sham and questioning the



No sale: Shane Warne holds up the ball with which he equalled the Test wicket-taking record.

authenticity of the first and second under-bidders.

All proceeds from the sale of the ball were to go to the Shane Warne Foundation for seriously ill and underprivileged children.

A shattered Warne has decided not to put the ball up for auction again, although he is still keen to sell it.

The foundation's chief executive **Brad Grapsas** said last night offers of interest for the ball would be taken on 9553 8696.

He said the foundation had decided not to pursue legal action.

As for the two under-bidders, he said they had both been contacted but said they had since invested their money in other areas.

Shaw to be good read

ESSENDON assistant coach **Robert Shaw** has turned author to produce a great read titled *Heart and Soul — A Tribute to The Game and its People*.

The cover of the book is a story in itself.

Horrie McEwan is pictured in front of his North Melbourne butcher shop before the 1950 Grand Final. McEwan, grandfather of Shaw's wife Gayle, has wrapped white ribbons around shinbones.

Shaw has been writing the book, which will be launched at Windy Hill on August 24, since the late 1990s. He described it as "a labour of love".

Born in Tasmania, Shaw played for Essendon before coaching Fitzroy and Adelaide. He said the book was a passionate tribute not only to the stars but also the unsung heroes of the game.



Cat gets cream

MELBOURNE'S *Man What A Fuss* salon has been faced with some big makeover jobs, with several of its biggest challenges provided by AFL footballers.

Rugged Cat **Cameron Mooney** provided salon owner **Kate Allen** with one of the challenges. But she reckons he's been one of the makeover's biggest success stories. She said he left the salon looking like a model from Milan.

The Mooney makeover will soon be seen on Fox Footy's Living With Footballers.

“Personally, I don't have a bone (to pick) with Graham Cornes, not that I listen to the program very often because I haven't got a radio in my car.”

Crows coach **NEIL CRAIG** responds to criticism from the ex-Adelaide coach and Radio 5AA personality

MYSTERY RAY OF HOPE

WE ARE reliably informed the mediator for talks between Hawthorn president **Ian Dicker** and **Don Scott's** rebel group is a bloke called **Ray Wilson**.

Putting two and two together, *The Pulse* contacted former Hawk player **Ray Wilson**, but he denied being the man in the middle.

Would the right Ray Wilson please stand up.

'MULGA' OMEN DELIVERS

VAFA club **Ivanhoe Assumption** recently mourned the passing of one its most colourful characters, bookmaker **Reg "Mulga" Miles**.

The Miles family has been synonymous with Ivanhoe Football Club since the 1920s and Mulga played in the 1954 (B Grade) and 1956 (A Grade) premierships teams, and represented the VAFA in 1955.

About 300 people attended his wake at the Ivanhoe Park clubrooms and several punters got quite excited when they noticed an outsider in the last race at Mildura by the name of **Mulga Boy**.

The horse opened at 13s, came into 11s and a lot of the mourners had bets on the nose. **Mulga Boy** got home by a length and a half.

IN WITH THE NEW

THE clash between **Richmond** and **Adelaide** at AAMI Stadium on Sunday has put a different spin on the theory that teams, more often than not, win for new coaches.

Although **Neil Craig** has been caretaker coach of the Crows since Round 14, he was named the next full-time coach yesterday. **Richmond** announced on Wednesday that **Terry Wallace** would replace **Danny Frawley**.

Given that information, what chance of a draw?

TRY CHEWING TOBACCO

NERVOUS soccer coaches will have to resort to chewing gum, or tobacco, after the French League banned smoking on the bench.

Fun and Games

The Pulse will be taking a break for the duration of the Olympic Games



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