**AFL Coaches Association’s Next Coach Program** **2017**

The AFLCA’s Next Coach Program commenced in 2009.  Since then more than 60 aspiring coaches have participated in the Program including the first participant, West Coast Coach Adam Simpson. New Melbourne Coach Simon Goodwin has also a graduate along with another 34 coaches who are currently employed by AFL clubs.

The Next Coach Program has established a wonderful reputation, however, it has previously only been offered to current AFL coaches or players. The program is now a partnership between the AFL Players’ Association and the AFL Coaches Association. It is open to suitably credentialed coaches at Community and State League clubs, perhaps aspiring to a career as a Coach at an AFL Club and wishing to learn about coaching alongside current and aspiring coaches from the AFL ranks.

There will be two intakes for the program in 2017. The first commences on 29th March 2017 and the second in June/July. Details of the Next Coach Program are set out below.

Information about the Next Coach Program.

In 2017 for the first time, coaches outside the AFL system will be able to gain valuable learnings from a lifetime coach and Next Coach Coordinator, David Wheadon. David imparts an insight into his knowledge and experience which has been gained from more than 30 years at the top level, under 11 Senior Coaches.

The success of the Next Coach Program lies in David’s ability to create stimulating conversations and assist students to understand themselves as a coach. He has a great ability to highlight the impact coaches have on players and the team.

Critical elements of the Next Coach syllabus include:

* The art of coaching
* Coaching the team and coaching individuals
* Philosophy of coaching
* Teaching and learning styles
* Emotional Intelligence and coaching
* Presentations and meetings
* Teaching the game – decision making/skill acquisition/game sense
* The role and skills of the coach/assistant coach/development coach
* Strategy and tactics
* Key Performance Indicators for success
* Game plan

There are 6 criteria for participation:

1. A genuine desire to pursue a career in coaching;
2. A Level 2 Coaching qualification would be favourably considered;
3. An intellectual capacity to understand coaching concepts and ideas;
4. A willingness to research coaching by reading documents, articles and books and watching selected videos;
5. Enthusiasm to commit to the course involving 10 interactive sessions on Wednesday evenings, which may be attended in person in Melbourne or on a Video Conferencing meeting link which will allow you to join from any location in the world; and
6. Commitment … students will be expected to submit all written assignments.

Next Coach Students will need to submit a written application to be considered to participate in the program, which will address:

1. How you meet the Participant Criteria outlined above;
2. Details of a Referee from your Club who will confirm your suitability; and
3. Any other study commitments you will be undertaking in 2017.

The cost of the Next Coach Program is $3,000 +GST and payable prior to beginning the program.

To receive a Next Coach Certificate and a written testimonial from David Wheadon, participants must meet the following standards:

1. Submit each of the written assignments; and
2. Participate in at least 70% of group sessions in real time (sessions will be available on the occasions you are not able to join live).

 Applications for the 2017 Next Coach Program close on Wednesday March 22.  Coaches wishing to participate in the 2017 program need to:

* Register via the following link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUzq4Rz6IqV9ly4heySkiTYH3vnYNVnQ-dwqUh7OMdevL0OA/viewform> and
* Submit a written application in reference to the criteria above **-** **ron.watt@aflca.com.au**

\*For more information about the Next Coach Program contact Ron Watt ron.watt@aflca.com.au (0418 390 648) or David Wheadon (0418 524 741).