

LACHIE NEALE STUDENT OF THE GAME » SEAN HURLEY LIFE IN FREO

DOCKERS

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF
THE FREMANTLE DOCKERS

JUNE 2015 VOLUME 11.2
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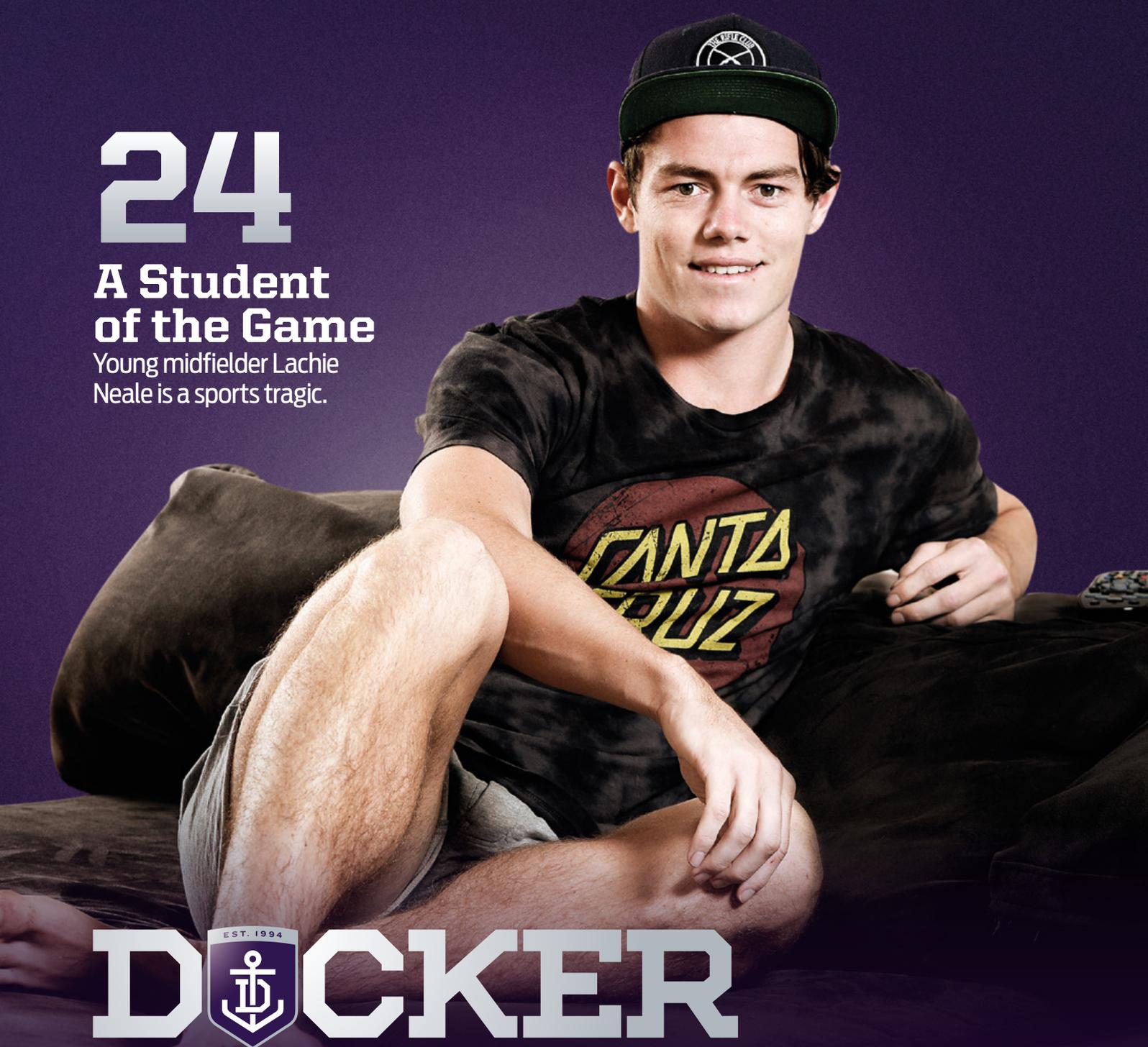


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A Student of the Game

Young midfielder Lachie Neale is a sports tragic.



DOCKERS

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JUNE 2015

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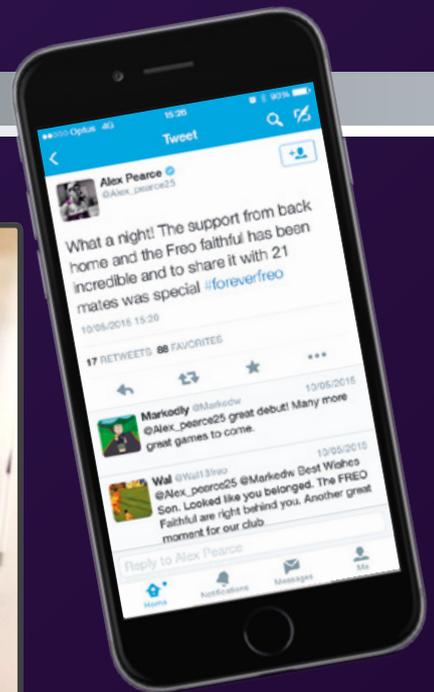
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@eddylangdon
Fine Dining



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Things you've gotta do! "@7NewsPerth: Nice work @mattpav29 -biggest name to use the @SevenPerth iron since #RickArdon



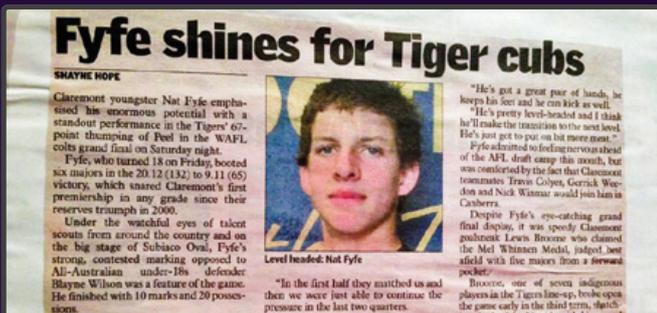
Alex Pearce
@alexpearce25



Dave Mundy
@davemundy16
Morning dog walk with my "calm down" music

insta-space + twitter-sphere #foreverfreo

A look at what's been happening in the #foreverfreo world.



cmfs
@dockerstorm89
Going through my old scrapbooks and found this #foreverfreo



Michael Barlow
@mbarlow21
Spraying them on and off the field



Haylie Dowson
@dockerhousefamily
What a beautiful evening!! #winners



Stevie Green
@ste_vie
That winning feeling
#foreverfreo



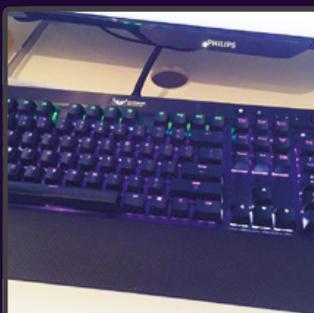
Daniel Mooney
@moondogg18
Harmonys 21st 'h or b'
theme... ballantyne!



Steve Philpot
stevephilpot
Fresh from a four goal haul #foreverfreo @mav_29



Michael Barlow
@mbarlow21
Pretty much sums you
up... @clakkasclarke



Chris Jermyn
@cjermyn
All hail the #FreoKeyboard
#GoFreo #ForeverFreo



Fremantle Dockers
@freodockers
Here you go @onedirection fans. Just to clarify, that is
@Harry_Styles and not @LachieNeale27 #foreverfreo



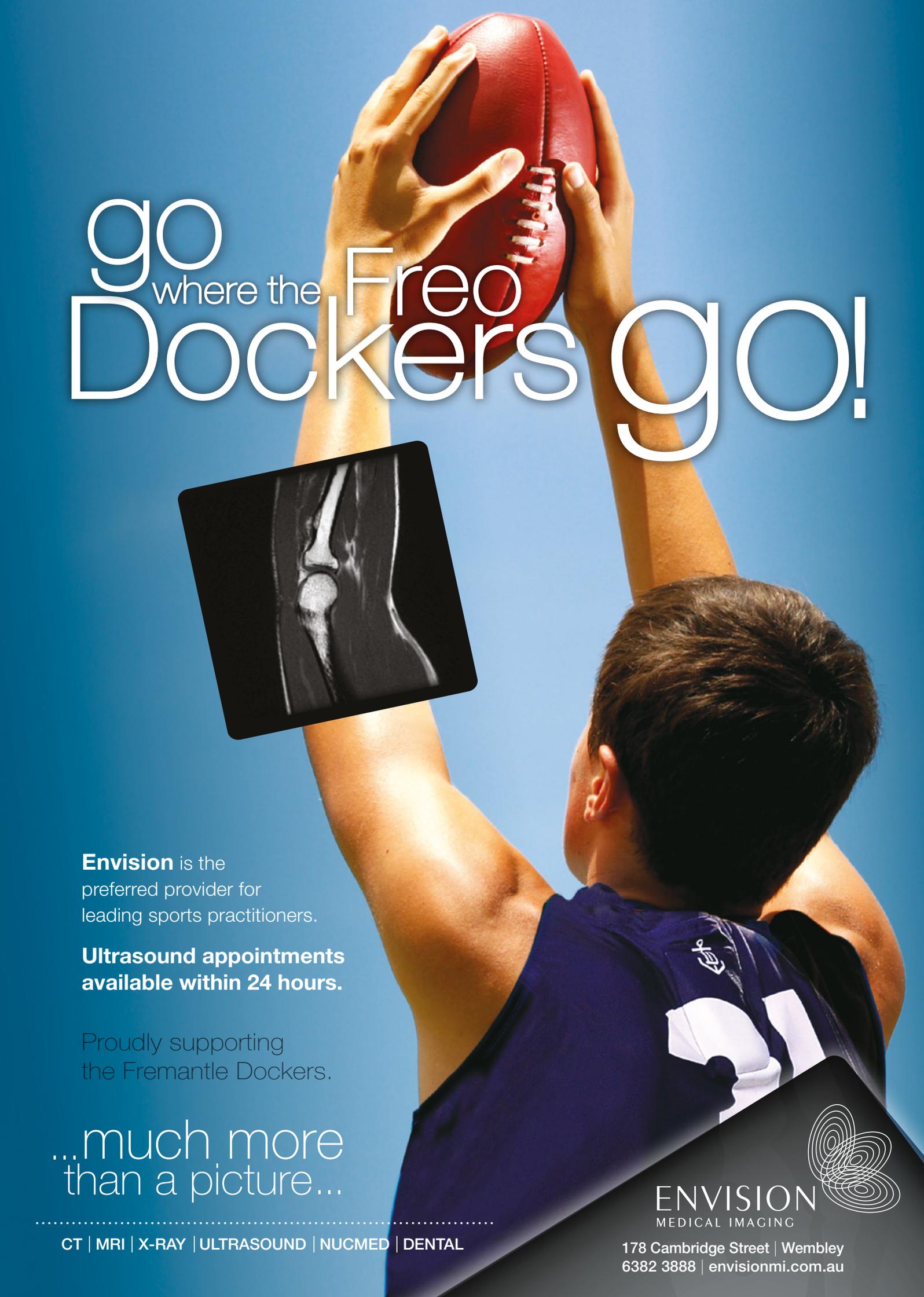
Scott Thompson
@scott_thompson1
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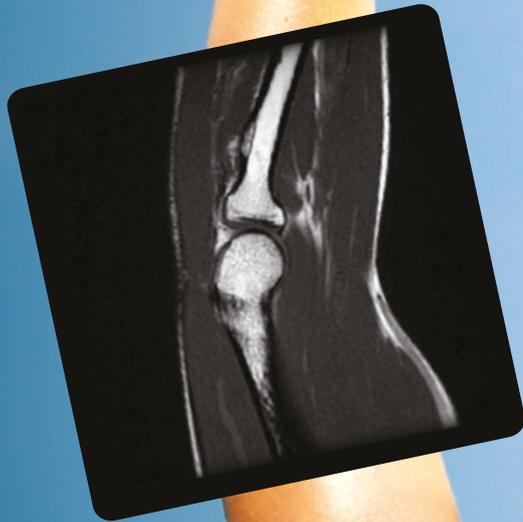
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Michael Barlow
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GAME ON FOR FREO PAIR

Freo teammates and close friends Matt de Boer and Tendai Mzungu can now add 'game developers' to their CVs. The dynamic duo have helped build the 'Footy Prodigy' game, where you can get drafted and live the life of a professional Aussie Rules player. The idea came about when the two were travelling on the plane on an away trip. All Freo players are encouraged to study, work and engage themselves off the field and the game was built with the assistance of their management company. Their Freo teammates have acted as the first to test out the game and have given their seal of approval! Check out 'Footy Prodigy' on the App Store.



POSTER BOY

Michael Barlow may have found a new career after footy after trying his hand at modelling for the cover of the AFL Record. The Freo star graced the prestigious cover for round 6 and in the feature he discussed the setbacks of his rollercoaster career, as Barlow never gave up on his dream of playing at the highest level. The story's headline was 'Setting the bar high' (do you get the joke?).

PURPLE POCKET

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE FREMANTLE DOCKERS

MULTITASKING FREO YOUNGSTERS

It was a sports lover's dream. Fremantle taking on Melbourne at the MCG and the Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao boxing match in Las Vegas. Both events were on at the same time, but that didn't bother some young Freo stars. Tenants of 'The White House'; Alex Pearce, Brady Grey and Jacob Ballard invited

teammates Tommy Sheridan, Craig Moller, Tom Vandeleur, Max Duffy, Ethan Hughes, Sean Hurley and Tanner Smith over to watch the action on two massive TV screens! 'Property tycoon' Michael Barlow owns the house, so we hope they didn't leave it too messy for the next rent inspection.



“

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COMMUNITY
AND EDUCATION
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COCKBURN
CENTRAL WEST
TO BECOME THE
FUTURE HOME OF
THE FREMANTLE
DOCKERS.**



A NEW CHAPTER

READY TO BE WRITTEN

The Fremantle Dockers Foundation has been
launched to help secure the club's future

STORY » JOHN DOBSON

AMBASSADOR:
Stephen Hill will
join Peter Bell as an
ambassador for the
Fremantle Dockers
Foundation.



The opening of the Fremantle Dockers' new elite training and administration facility (ETAF) at Cockburn Central West will be a significant event in the club's history, the beginning of an exciting new era for our club.

We are calling on all Fremantle Football Club members and supporters to be a part of this special moment.

After all, our history is only as good as the people who help make it.

To help fund the club's current and future strategic and community projects, including the ETAF, the club has established the Fremantle Dockers Foundation.

For more than two decades the Fremantle Football Club has proudly represented WA in the AFL competition.

In recent times we have enjoyed strong on-field results and consistent finals appearances by competing hard for our loyal members and supporters.

Outside of football, we are proud and active community members, continuously looking for ways to positively impact the lives of those within WA through football, utilising the game we love to deliver positive and healthy messages about life.

In partnership with the City of Cockburn, the State and Federal Governments and Curtin University, we have committed to a new major world-class sporting, community and education precinct at Cockburn Central West to become the future home of the Fremantle Dockers.

The facility will provide a new home for the operations



FUTURE: A look at the team store at the ETAF at Cockburn Central West.



of the football club, integrated with regional sporting, leisure and educational facilities for the community.

It will also help put the club in the best possible position to achieve sustained success and to continue to contribute to the community in a meaningful way.

Members and supporters will be able to see major work starting on the site in July, following completion of work by Landcorp on base-infrastructure.

The City of Cockburn, the club and preferred building contractor

Brookfield Multiplex have been finalising the design in the first half of this year.

It is hoped the club will be able to move into the facility in early 2017.

With state-of-the-art sporting, community and educational facilities, the ETAF will be a new benchmark, both in Australia and internationally and will incorporate the following components into one integrated regional facility:

- » Administration offices for the FFC.
- » Professional permanent training facilities for the FFC and other elite athletes in the region.

- » AFL standard oval.
- » FFC retail shop and sports store.
- » Fully accessible hydrotherapy pool and aquatic recovery pools.
- » 50 metre, 10 lane, outdoor multi-purpose competition swimming and water polo pool.
- » 25 metre indoor swimming pool.
- » Regional multipurpose indoor sporting centre/indoor training centre, inclusive of six highball courts and integrated show court.
- » Program and learn-to-swim pool.
- » Children's aquatic play area and splash pad.
- » Multi-purpose community oval/pitch.
- » Community café.
- » Wellness and fitness studios including gymnasium, program rooms and rehabilitation facilities.
- » Sports medicine facilities.
- » Education facilities including lecture theatre, health and wellness laboratories, community classrooms, multimedia facility and interactive education room.
- » Community office and meeting spaces.

Fremantle Dockers Foundation ambassador Stephen Hill said the move to Cockburn Central West would help the club continue to grow on and off the field.

"To have those kind of training facilities for us to use on a daily basis will be incredibly beneficial to players," he said.

"It will help us achieve sustained success both on and off the field."



FREMANTLE DOCKERS FOUNDATION

To help fund the club's current and future strategic projects, including the elite training and administration facility (ETAF), the club has established the Fremantle Dockers Foundation.

It will focus on elite performance, including the club's move to Cockburn Central West, pathway and development programs and community engagement.

The ambassadors of the foundation are current player Stephen Hill and former captain Peter Bell.

"The club has established the Fremantle Dockers Foundation to support our many community programs and also raise funds for special projects," Bell said.

"The foundation's initial focus is funding the establishment of a new elite training and administration facility being established in conjunction with a new regional sport, recreation and education precinct at Cockburn Central West."

The Fremantle Dockers Foundation is registered with the Australian Sports Foundation (ASF), which was established by the Australian Government to assist the development of sport in Australia.

Unconditional donations of \$2 or more to the ASF are tax deductible.

Please visit fremantlefc.com.au for more information.

EXAMPLES OF HOW YOUR DONATION WILL HELP

\$100

Enables a team of school-aged girls to participate in the Dockers Cup and/or contribute to the purchase of specialist training equipment for the football department at the new facility.

\$250

Enables 10 classes to participate in a skills for schools program and/or contribute to the construction of aquatic recovery facilities at the new facility.

\$500

Allows us to develop and disseminate a community based health program through the facility and/or contribute to medical facilities at the new facility.

BE PART OF OUR FUTURE

BY » PETER BELL

I want to give back to the club that gave me so much and that's why, along with Stephen Hill, I am proud to be an ambassador for the Fremantle Dockers Foundation, which has been established to help secure our future.

Like everyone else, I've been thrilled with how we've been performing on and off the field over the past few years.

When the opportunity came to be involved with the club, I jumped at the chance, because it is vital to Fremantle's long-term success.

The foundation's first project is the club's new elite training and administration facility (ETAF) at Cockburn Central West, which will be integrated with the City of Cockburn's new regional physical activity and education centre.

It's enormously exciting and I can't wait to see the facility once work is complete.

The size and scale will enable the players to pursue elite standards and remain competitive in the always-evolving AFL.

It will provide current and next generation players with state-of-the-art infrastructure while creating a genuine link with the community.

We've slipped behind when it comes to facilities and we've done extremely well to maintain our success despite having among the poorest facilities in the AFL.

The best clubs in the AFL have large-scale training facilities.

It is a reality that we are leaving our base at Freo but we cannot create the facilities we need at Fremantle Oval.

The move to Cockburn Central West is imperative for our success, on and off the field.

We have achieved so much with what we have but the time is right to grow.

The club has committed to maintaining a presence in Fremantle thereby ensuring it retains a link to its Fremantle heritage.

It will not just be a stand-alone facility at Cockburn Central West for Fremantle to use.

There will be massive community involvement, with more than 800,000 visitors expected to visit the City of Cockburn facility each year.

That will help us generate more supporters and engage with our fans.

There will be two training surfaces, shared with the community.

I can see a huge number of community members coming to the site to use its world-class facilities.

Football moves so quickly and inevitably we'll need to grow and at Cockburn Central West we have room for that.

On a week-by-week basis, we will be able to alter the main training ground size to suit the ground we are preparing to play on that round.

There will be world-class aquatic recovery pools, two competition standard lap swimming pools, a children's aquatic play area, a multi-purpose indoor sports centre, café, picnic areas and community meeting spaces.

We want new players to be excited about coming to the Fremantle Football Club, to the best training ground and to be a part of our culture with the aim of achieving sustained success.

It is about the next generation of players.

The next Nat Fyfe or Stephen Hill, we want to attract them and retain them.

We hear it from Ross Lyon each week, that effort is the key.

The effort of our players and staff is unquestionable but our facilities need to match that effort so we can continue to succeed in a tough AFL environment.

We want all of our supporters to join in the effort for the future of our club.

The call is out to all Fremantle members and supporters to donate what they can.

Every little bit counts.

I know our members and supporters want to ensure the longevity of Freo and we desperately need this facility.

You can really make a difference to the long-term future, sustainability and, most importantly, success of the Fremantle Football Club. 

CLUB GREAT:
Former captain Peter Bell joins Stephen Hill as a foundation ambassador.



DONATE NOW
Scan the QR code to be directed to our Australian Sports Foundation donation page.



DONATION FORM



YES! I want to help write a new chapter in the history of the Fremantle Dockers

STEP 1

Complete and sign the donation form below or visit us online and donate by clicking on the Fremantle Dockers Foundation *Donate Now* button.

STEP 2

If completing this form return it to the club with your credit card details or a cheque payable to the Australian Sports Foundation.

STEP 3

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**Your receipt will be emailed to you.*

The Fremantle Dockers Foundation is run in partnership with the Australian Sports Foundation. All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

I would like my gift to benefit the Fremantle Dockers Foundation and I understand that my donation is made unconditionally to the Australian Sports Foundation. By making this donation I accept the ASF's privacy policy and terms and conditions. To the best of my knowledge, I and my relatives and associates will not benefit in any material way from this donation.

MY DONATION:

\$100 \$250 \$500 Other: _____

*For donations over \$500, the club will contact you personally to discuss your donation and recognition options. Donations over \$3,000 by 30 June 2015 will get priority access to two tickets to the 2015 Toyota AFL Grand Final.**

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PO Box 381, Fremantle WA 6959

EMAIL:

foundation@fremantlefc.com.au

RECOGNISE AND REWARD A WA CHILD SAFETY HERO



The Freo Dockers are proud to support one of WA's best-loved charities, Constable Care Child Safety Foundation via the Constable Care Child Safety Awards. The annual Child Safety Awards Gala Dinner will be held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre on Saturday 1 August, 2015.

This is the fourth year of the independent awards and there are seven Child Safety Awards in which to nominate. Each award has been designed to

celebrate the achievements of individuals, communities, corporate organisations, emergency services professionals, local government or State Government agencies and education programs, which protect children and young people from harm, and promote a safer Western Australia for our youngsters.

Constable Care Child Safety Foundation CEO David Gribble said: "The awards are a perfect demonstration of Constable Care Child Safety Foundation's commitment to

helping as many children and young people as possible. By raising awareness of the safety issues our children face, we aim to highlight the continued need for child safety programs and recognise the initiatives by those who work tirelessly to protect our children."

The award winners will receive a child safety service medal and honour certificate. Thanks to the program partners, cash prizes of \$1000 will be provided to each of the individual award category winners and \$2000 will be awarded to the recipient of the 2015 Child Safety Award of the Year.

To buy tickets to the gala dinner and awards ceremony please book at childsafetyawards.org.au/bookings.



HAPPY 19TH BIRTHDAY MANNA INC!



One of Fremantle's 2015 community event partners, Manna Inc, celebrated its 19th birthday in May and Jon Griffin was on

hand to help with the celebrations. Griffin helped serve close to 250 homeless people a three-course meal, which included a chocolate birthday cake as dessert.

Griffin helped served close to 250 homeless people a three-course meal, which included a chocolate birthday cake as dessert.

Providing meals for more than 6000 people a week, Manna's mission is to alleviate

the impact of poverty and hunger, change attitudes and create a safer community.

"It's been a huge eye opener," he said.

"They are incredible people for what they've done over the past 19 years."

Bev and John Lowe started the charity after the couple spotted a group of homeless people in Perth.

"We were driving down Newcastle Street and it was raining. I noticed a group of people sitting under these trees," Bev said.

"We came back five hours later and they were still there.

"I said John let's go home and make soup, that's how Manna Inc started."

Now with about 200 volunteers, Manna has become a critical lifeline for many across the city.

As well as serving up food, Griffin also used his time to help hand out clothing as part of the group's soup van.

"We're here giving out some food and gear, some beanies and scarves," he said on the night.

"I'm really proud and honoured to be part of what they're doing here.

"It's amazing what it has turned out to be today." 



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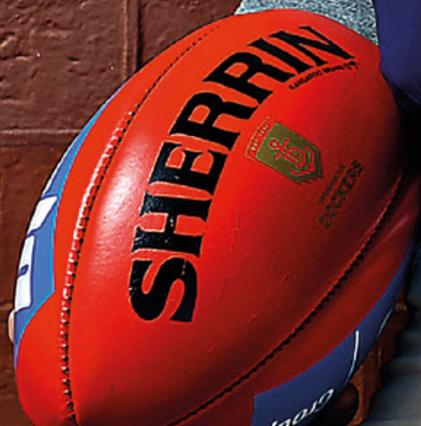
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IRISH RECRUIT'S LONG ROAD IRELAND TO AUSTRALIA FREED

Sean Hurley never thought he would play AFL football, until a phone call one night.

STORY » JOHN DOBSON





Fremantle is a long way from the rolling, green pastures of rural Ireland. For Freo's Irish recruit Sean Hurley, the move from the small rural village of Johnstownbridge to suburban South Fremantle marked the start of a dream of one day playing an AFL match.

It's a dream that has brought the 23-year-old thousands of kilometres around the world, away from family and friends.

Hurley's move to Australia nearly didn't happen, if not for a last minute phone call from Gaelic and AFL champion Tadhg Kennelly.

"I was about 19 and Tadhg Kennelly rang my dad and told him he was interested in getting me to a draft camp," he said.

"I had a Gaelic game the next day for Kildare and I told Tadhg that I couldn't do it because I had an important game.

"He urged me to come along anyway and he picked about 20 from 50 that day and I got through.

"That really opened my eyes to the whole AFL system, before that I didn't really understand what it was all about."

Hurley joins a growing list of Irish recruits trying to break into the AFL, following in the footsteps of trailblazers such as Jim Stynes and Kennelly.

He was initially trialled by Carlton when he was 17 but was not drafted.

The Blues opted for fellow Irishman Zach Tuohy before Hurley trialled with Fremantle in 2013.

In late 2014, his hard work paid off and he was offered a rookie contract with Fremantle.

"I was disappointed I couldn't get drafted after my trial, I waited a year and now I'm in Australia," he said.

"When I was younger, I never thought I'd be playing Aussie Rules in Australia.

"I liked Freo, I like the place, I liked the lads and what they stood for."

It was no small decision to come to Australia for Hurley.

It meant leaving his promising Gaelic career, plus his family and friends.

However, the chance at a professional sports career was too big a chance to ignore.

"It's been a breath of fresh air coming over here to focus on my football and then having time to fit in university," he said.

Hurley is currently completing a Bachelor of Commerce degree at Curtin University.

In Ireland, Gaelic players must balance a sports career with a regular full-time job and it can be a difficult task.

"Gaelic is pretty much professional as you sacrifice a lot in your life," he said.

"You do recovery and training like AFL but you don't get paid for it.

"We didn't have all the benefits of a professional but you're trying to replicate that.

"If I took time off work, work would be upset with me, if I didn't train then the team would be upset with me."

Moving from the self-described "small country village" of Johnstownbridge, about 40km east of Dublin, to bustling Fremantle has been a dramatic change.

"Everything here seems to surround coffee, when are you going to have your next coffee?" he joked.

"At home it would be a cup of tea."

Hurley comes from a family of farmers and he still owns about 10 cattle on the 36-hectare farm.

The last time he visited his family was at Christmas.

"My mum was sending me pictures of calves last night," he said.



WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE PLAYING AUSSIE RULES IN AUSTRALIA.

SEAN HURLEY



"It's really enjoyable when I get out on the farm with my dad.

"Working on the farm is a great break from everything, getting away, getting your own space."

There is an amusing story about when Hurley first arrived at the club in 2014 relating to his beloved cows.

Hurley was finalising his paperwork with Fremantle office staff and was asked whether he needed an advance to cover initial expenses.

He quickly replied that he had sold some cows before moving to Australia so was sorted financially.

"Owning cattle is better than putting savings in the bank or shares," he said.

Hurley's love affair with farm animals started when he was very young.

He says the fresh milk from his grandfather's dairy helped him reach his height of 196cm.

"My grandad had a small dairy farm," he said.

"If anyone asked me how I grew so tall or don't get sick, I tell them it's the unpasteurised milk my dad used to bring straight from the cows.

"It's not the wisest thing to do these days, drink unpasteurised milk, but it helped me grow up tall, fit and healthy."

Whatever the method that got him here, Hurley is already making a mark and has become a popular figure at the club.

But he admits adapting to the AFL system and skills set, especially the oval ball, is a work in progress.

"I'm getting better every game and learning new things every game," he said.

"The flight of the ball is different, the oval ball comes in motions, the round ball comes into my hands easier."

The best advice he has received, so far, came from a reliable source in two-time Doig Medallist Nat Fyfe.

"Fyfe told me that any time you have the chance to have a ball in your hand is a good chance," he said.

"If you see Fyfe during a warm up or before training, he always has a ball in his hands.

"It's good advice from a superstar."

The tackling and roughness of the AFL is renowned around the world, including Ireland, and adapting to the physicality has been a bumpy ride.

"You tackle the ball rather than the man in Gaelic, here you just go for the man," he said.

"Taking a mark at home, I jumped around guys to take the mark.

"Here you're meant to jump through them.

"You don't know if you're going to get a knee in the head."

Hurley has impressed with his fitness, setting the third fastest time in the 3km pre-season time trial.

"Fitness is one of my strengths," he said.

"Though I've had some stress reactions to the training load."

It was a shock to his system taking part in his first few trainings sessions.

However, Hurley said he was surprised by how well the Freo staff manage player workloads.

"My body had to adapt a little bit to the workload," he said.

"They manage training so well, they don't burn you out and it's really structured.

"At home our training would go for two and a half hours, you'd run as hard as you can until you couldn't run anymore."

Hurley is being groomed to be a key position defender and has been learning the ropes of the back line, initially playing for Peel Thunder reserves and then progressing into the league team.

Adapting to life as a defender has been hard for the Gaelic forward, who loved nothing more than kicking a goal.

"My new satisfaction is to get a spoil, or take a mark and give a good spread of the ball," he said.

"At home, the satisfaction would have been sell a dummy on a lad and kick a score."

Hurley is learning the defensive craft under the wing of experienced defender Zac Dawson.

"Zac takes me aside and goes through my vision with me and that's helped me," he said.

Hurley said the whole playing group and coaching staff had been extremely supportive and encouraging as he grasped learning a new sport.

"Sometimes I'll make an error at training and get down, one of the lads will always invite me over for dinner if I'm a bit down," he said.

"The lads have been good over here, I've never been pushed to the point of being homesick."

While most young adults in their early-twenties are still living at home, Hurley has moved across the world, away from his childhood home.

He concedes it has been tough, but it did not take long to feel at home at Fremantle.

"Of course I miss my family and friends, especially when times are tough," he said.

"I have a good group of friends since I've come over here and that



BACK HOME: A younger Sean Hurley and his beloved cows.

makes it easy to settle in, there's always a friend there to call if you want to go the beach or cinema."

Hurley said it was a long road for international recruits in the AFL, but he wanted to be treated like any rookie, whether Australian-born or not.

"We're not here to just be the Irish guy trying to learn the game," he said.

"We've been kicking the ball since we were young as well.

"Sometimes I don't like the way, if I do something wrong and get upset with myself, coaches might say you've only been playing the game for four months.

"I want to be as good as or better than the person next to me, I don't want any excuses."

Hurley said his dream is to replicate Kennelly's remarkable feat of winning an AFL premiership and an All Ireland Championship.

"That would be something I'd love to do," he said.

"Maybe one day I can break the line and put it into Matthew Pavlich, maybe in a couple of years.

"For now I keep on dreaming and see how we go." 



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★ WA's Drisana Levitzke-Gray, 2015 Young Australian of the Year.

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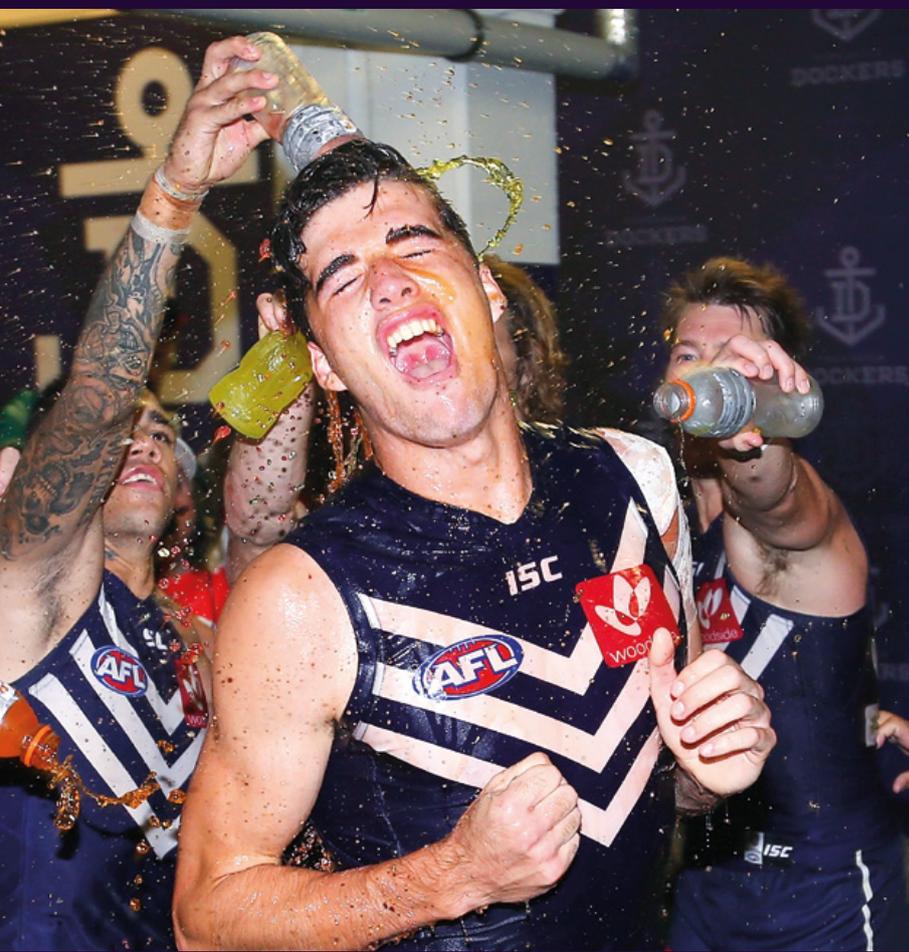
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ONLINE AUCTION RETURNS WITH AMAZING EXPERIENCES

It was an unforgettable 15th birthday for Jackson Bowen. His mum Lara Gandini wanted to surprise the die-hard Freo fan with an amazing experience with an AFL great.

One of the items in last year's Fremantle Dockers Online Auction was a 30-minute goal kicking session with assistant coach Peter Sumich.

'Suma' is a seven-time leading goal kicker from his playing days at West Coast and Lara couldn't think of a better way to reward her footy-mad son.

Lara said the experience was "so much more than we expected".

Sumich and club biomechanist Damian Shannon gave Jackson the time of his life and Lara was quick to contact the club after the experience to explain how her son was still over the moon.

"Peter was so lovely and nurturing, and Damian gave him so much detail for his kicking technique in such a positive and encouraging way," she said.

"And to top it all off he saw so many of the players in the gym who shook his hand and said hello to him.

"He was a tad star struck and he is so inspired by the whole experience.

"Now my only problem is working out what to get him next year! How can I surpass that?"

The 2015 Fremantle Dockers Online Auction will contain plenty more rare and exciting experiences, including being part of next year's team photo and the opportunity to toss the coin at Freo's round 22 game against Melbourne at Domain Stadium!

Other items available to bid on include a Hyundai i20 thanks to DVG Hyundai, Sherrin footballs painted by Indigenous artists thanks to Woodside,



UNFORGETTABLE: Jackson Bowen during his goal kicking session with Freo assistant coach Peter Sumich.

a Hoyts LUX screening for 50 people, a Willie Creek Pearls necklace, 2016 West Coast Blues n' Roots VIP tickets and much more.

Our annual Online Auction will help raise valuable proceeds for the Fremantle Dockers Foundation, which has been established to support the development of key strategic projects and our many community programs. For more information, please refer to page 8.

The auction delivers extensive exposure for all donated items, with more than 150,000 page views and an average of 8.75 bids per item (2014).

If you or your company can assist with our 2015 fundraising efforts with items to donate, we encourage you to contact the corporate team on (08) 9433 7182 or email sales@fremantlefc.com.au.

For more details visit fremantlefc.com.au/onlineauction from July 18-24.

“NOW MY ONLY PROBLEM IS WORKING OUT WHAT TO GET HIM NEXT YEAR!”

LARA GANDINI

Some of the items you can bid on...

Be a part of next year's Freo team photo



Toss the coin at Freo's round 22 game against Melbourne



Hyundai i20 thanks to DVG Hyundai



Sherrin footballs painted by Indigenous artists thanks to Woodside

Check out www.fremantlefc.com.au/onlineauction from July 18-24.

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VERSATILE:
Adam McPhee in
action in 2011.

WHERE HAVE THEY DOCKED?

ADAM MCPHEE

The versatile Adam McPhee began his AFL career with Fremantle in 2001 before moving to Essendon two years later. He returned to Freo in 2010 to finish out his playing days where he began.

Where are you living these days?

I'm living on the surf coast of Geelong.

Tell us about your family

I am a father of three; Taj (six years old), Cove (four years old) and Bodhi (10 months old). I have been married to my wife Bree for seven years.



What do you do for work?

I work for a company called Breon Defence Systems as a law enforcement business development manager. The role consists of supplying equipment to police agencies across Australasia and parts of South East Asia.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I'm playing local football. I had a year off but I decided to put the boots back on and play for a club called St Mary's in the Geelong Football League. Now that I am living on the coastline of Geelong I do a lot of surfing and skating.

What made you want to join a local footy team?

It's a bit of fun and I still felt like my body had a bit of time left in it. We have moved to a new area and at times you miss the camaraderie of being in a team, so I thought I would join up.

So you must keep yourself pretty fit then?

Yes, certainly with the surfing and I have just started to get back into skating. I am not going through a midlife crisis...my kids are doing the same things, it's like reliving my childhood. It's enjoyable.

Do you watch the current Freo team?

I do, I still have a lot of interest in what Freo are doing given that I was part of the initial stages where they were coming into an era of success. Having that one year under Ross Lyon was really beneficial for me. I hope they have sustained success and are going to be successful in the future.

Do you have a favourite player?

I love the way Nat Fyfe goes about his business, it's pretty hard to ignore the way he plays.

Do you have a favourite memory from your time at the club?

One that sticks out the most would be our Qualifying Final win against Geelong in 2012. It was the best win I reckon. Even though we were in Melbourne, the noise the crowd was able to make was that day showed there was a lot of Fremantle support out there. 🏈

“
I LOVE THE
WAY NAT
FYFE GOES
ABOUT HIS
BUSINESS.

ADAM MCPHEE

★ LACHIE NEALE ★
Student
of the
Game
★ A SPORTS TRAGIC ★

STORY » JOHN DOBSON

It is safe to say, if Lachie Neale wasn't playing AFL footy for Fremantle, he'd be doing something involving sport.

The sports-mad midfielder has been put in the spotlight this season after an impressive start to the year, including a game-high of 42 touches against West Coast, that earned him his second Ross Glendinning Medal.

If he is not at the club training, he's likely to be playing a leisurely round of golf or watching soccer or basketball on television.

But nothing comes close to his passion for footy.

As it does with many fans, the love of the game started at a young age for Neale.

Growing up in rural Kybybolite in South Australia, he was a die-hard Port Adelaide fan.

He remembers turning his toy room into a make-believe football stadium and playing out Port's entire fixture, including finals.

"Mum has a few stories about me around the house, back in Naracoorte," he said.

"I setup my toy room as a field, with the doors at either end being goals.

"I pretended I was Port Adelaide, running around playing the games.

"I'd write out the full fixture and then play every game as Port.

"I think I started that when I was about four or five and kept going until I was about 10, which is embarrassing."

Neale said his life had been focused on fulfilling his dream of playing AFL.

"Playing footy is something I always dreamed of growing up and everything through my life has been footy focused," he said.

Neale said both his parents had supported his footy since he was a junior.

"Dad was playing at a pretty high level in the country and was always playing games," he said.

"He'd kick the ball with me all the time when I visited when I was younger."

Incredibly, Neale was playing under-14s when he was just 10.

"I was always the smallest in the team, I played in the forward pocket," he said.

"When I grew up and got a bit bigger I started playing in the midfield and have stayed there since."

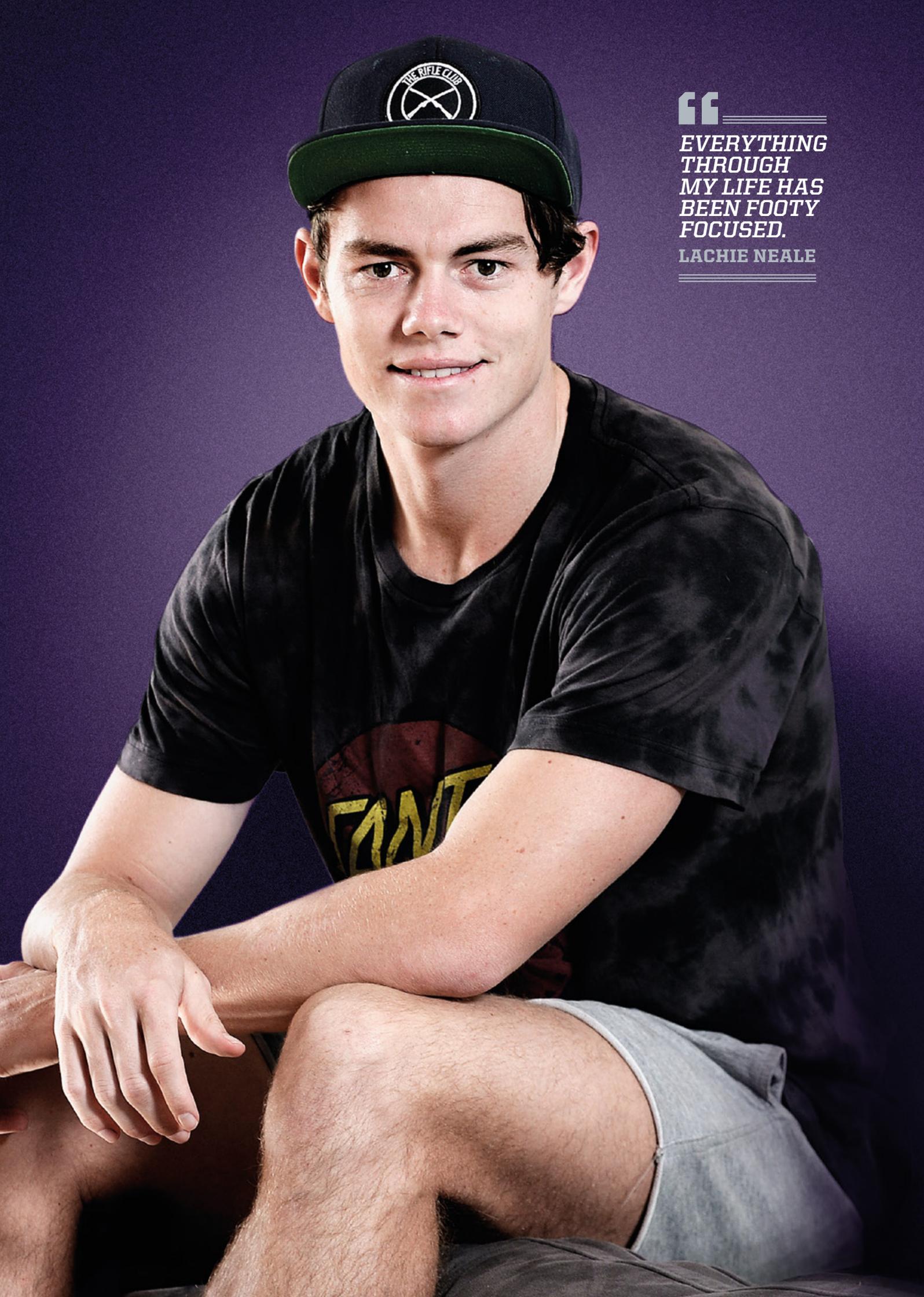
Neale's life was destined to involve sport, he was not just a talented footy player but a promising basketballer.

"I loved basketball when I was younger and played a lot," he said.

"But obviously I was too short." Neale was not even certain he would be drafted into the AFL.

"Even a couple of years out of the draft, I was an ok player, never a standout, but it didn't look like it was going to happen, but luckily it did," he said.

He has proved a valuable pickup for Fremantle, and surely left other clubs



“
EVERYTHING
THROUGH
MY LIFE HAS
BEEN FOOTY
FOCUSED.
LACHIE NEALE

wondering how he slipped through to pick 58.

Neale was recruited from Glenelg in 2011 and debuted the following year in Round 4 against St Kilda.

While he was sad to leave home, Neale said he hoped to be drafted to a club outside of South Australia and Freo was his first choice.

"There were probably only five or six teams that showed interest," he said.

"I wanted to get away from Adelaide and start fresh and really concentrate on my footy."

"Coming over here and really just concentrating on my footy gave me the best opportunity."

Neale moved to Perth and lived with a host family, the Cowalds.

"The club is fantastic how it runs the host families, it made the transition very easy," he said.

"My family get over here and support me and I still speak with mum and dad on the phone, once or twice a week.

Now living in Hamilton Hill, he said Perth is feeling much more like home.

The walls and shelves of his home are an insight into his attitude to life.

Proudly hung on his lounge room wall is his first Ross Glendinning Medal.

Below that is a table with photos of his family and books.

While he has developed a hard edge on field, Neale is modest and measured off, enjoying time away from the game.

Among his favourite pleasures is picking up a good book.

"I love reading as well, I've always got a book that I'm reading at any given time," he said.

"I'm reading Jim Stynes' book at the moment, it's a really good one.

"I love autobiographies and dad always gets me one for my birthday or Christmas."

Sport is never far away though.

"I love soccer and the NBA," he said.

"I'm a Manchester United supporter. My grandad got me onto them from a very early age, so I didn't really have a choice.



COLLECTION: Neale now has two Ross Glendinning Medals.

"I've been to England, my grandad has taken me to Old Trafford a few times and watched the Red Devils in action."

NBA is also a must-watch, including his much-loved Golden State Warriors.

"When I was in year 11 at school, I didn't have a team and I was watching a college game," he said.

"I saw a bloke named Steph Curry playing for Davidson Wildcats and he scored about 40-odd points.

"I thought he's going to get drafted and whatever team he goes to, that's who I'm going to support.

"He went at pick seven to the Warriors, so I said rightio, that's my team."

It was a good choice, with Curry named the NBA's Most Valuable Player this season.

"A few of the boys give me grief, saying that I'm jumping on the bandwagon but I've been following them for seven years," he said.

Neale has drawn praise from plenty of football pundits including Hawthorn legend Dermott Brereton, who said Neale was the most underestimated player in the AFL.

"I think Derm was a bit off the mark with his comments, I'm sure there are plenty of other players who that fits better," he said.

Neale said his focus has been on tackling this year, working with assistant coach Brett Kirk in the pre-season.

"I've been more focused on my tackling and body work," he said.

"I'm certainly sticking a few more this year.

"The last few years I was letting a few go and it was turn-style type tackling."

Neale passed his 50 games milestone earlier this season, with Freo hoping for many more, but said he still gets a few butterflies before each game.

"I'm pretty relaxed," he said.

"The only time I really get nervous is when I start on the bench, I get a little bit of a sick feeling in my stomach.

"But that goes away as soon as the ball is bounced pretty much and I'm standing up, waiting to go on."

He keeps busy on and off the field this season, studying economics at Notre Dame on his day off.

"Hayden Crozier and I are actually in the same class at the moment doing economics," he said.

"We get up and go to the beach in the morning for recovery and then get some breakfast, then head into university."

The WA lifestyle suits Neale's laid-back attitude and the transition from South Australia was a breeze.

"I was excited to come to WA when I was drafted," he said.

"I have some family over here on dad's side and I had talked to them before the Draft and told them I may be heading over."

But nothing is better than heading back to South Australia and spending some time on the family farm in Naracoorte.

"I love getting back home and seeing my family and friends," he said.

"Especially going back to the farm where I spent most of my years growing up.

"Seeing all the dogs, little brothers and sisters, mum and my step-dad.

"It's a sanctuary to go back there and spend a few days or few weeks, especially in the off-season.

"It's a really good place to just unwind and spend some quality time with the family." 

“ I’VE BEEN TO ENGLAND, MY GRANDAD HAS TAKEN ME TO OLD TRAFFORD A FEW TIMES AND WATCHED THE RED DEVILS IN ACTION.

LACHIE NEALE

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A review of Freo's incredible unbeaten start to the first eight rounds of the season.

2015 SEASON SO FAR



ROUND 1

v PORT ADELAIDE

Sunday 5 April 4.40pm

Domain Stadium

 34,099

FREMANTLE

2.1 5.3 7.5 11.9 (75)

PORT ADELAIDE

2.5 5.5 7.8 10.8 (68)

OVERVIEW

Freo opened its 2015 campaign with an impressive win over last year's Preliminary Finalist Port Adelaide at Domain Stadium, set up by a four-goal final term.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Pavlich 4
DISPOSALS: Fyfe 31
MARKS: Barlow 9
TACKLES: de Boer, Mayne 5
SUBBED IN: de Boer
SUBBED OUT: Mayne



ROUND 2

v GEELONG

Sunday 12 April, 1.10pm

Simonds Stadium

 23,723

FREMANTLE

3.3 7.8 14.9 15.14 (104)

GEELONG

2.2 6.2 8.4 9.6 (60)

OVERVIEW

Fremantle sent a message to the rest of the competition with an emphatic win over the Cats at their Simonds Stadium fortress, including a seven-goal third term blitz.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Fyfe, Barlow 3
DISPOSALS: Mundy 39
MARKS: Barlow 13
TACKLES: Mundy 9
SUBBED IN: de Boer
SUBBED OUT: Taberner



**ROUND 3**

v WEST COAST

Sunday 19 April, 2.40pm

Domain Stadium

39,138

FREMANTLE

9.2 14.5 16.7 17.9 (111)

WEST COAST

0.4 3.5 6.7 12.9 (81)

OVERVIEW

It was six Carlton Draught Derby wins in a row for Freo, with Lachie Neale winning his second Ross Glendinning Medal with 42 touches.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Hill, Neale, Taberner, Walters 3
DISPOSALS: Neale 42
MARKS: C. Pearce 11
TACKLES: Suban 8
SUBBED IN: Crozier
SUBBED OUT: de Boer

**ROUND 4**

v SYDNEY

Saturday 25 April, 6.45pm

Domain Stadium

39,009

FREMANTLE

4.2 9.3 9.4 11.8 (74)

SYDNEY SWANS

1.1 1.3 5.8 8.12 (60)

OVERVIEW

It was another close game between these two recent rivals. Fremantle burst out of the gates to lead by eight goals at half time before the Swans fought back. Some Garrick Ibbotson and Chris Mayne magic in the final moments sealed the win.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Pavlich 3
DISPOSALS: Fyfe 27
MARKS: Spurr 11
TACKLES: de Boer 7
SUBBED IN: Mzungu
SUBBED OUT: Taberner

**ROUND 5**

v MELBOURNE

Sunday 3 May, 1.10pm

MCG

22,892

FREMANTLE

5.3 8.6 11.8 18.10 (118)

MELBOURNE

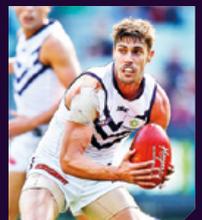
2.2 5.4 6.8 6.14 (50)

OVERVIEW

Freo dominated in its first trip to the MCG in 2015. Chris Mayne booted four goals in the 68-point win at the home of footy.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Mayne 4
DISPOSALS: Barlow 32
MARKS: C. Pearce, McPharlin, Johnson 10
TACKLES: Mayne 12
SUBBED IN: de Boer
SUBBED OUT: Walters





ROUND 6

v ESSENDON

Saturday 9 May, 6.10pm

Domain Stadium

 37,535

FREMANTLE

4.3 9.4 12.6 12.8 (80)

ESSENDON

2.1 3.3 3.6 7.10 (52)

OVERVIEW

Freo kept its unbeaten start to the year on track with an impressive win against Essendon. Skipper Matthew Pavlich kicked four goals while Lachie Neale was again classy with 33 touches.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Pavlich 4
DISPOSALS: Neale 33
MARKS: Clarke 9
TACKLES: Mayne 8
SUBBED IN: de Boer
SUBBED OUT: Taberner



ROUND 7

v WESTERN BULLDOGS

Sunday 17 May, 1.10pm

Etihad Stadium

 18,170

FREMANTLE

5.3 7.6 11.8 15.11 (101)

WESTERN BULLDOGS

1.0 4.3 8.4 14.4 (88)

OVERVIEW

Freo maintained its good away record in a nail-biting game at Etihad Stadium. It took some composure from Michael Walters and Matthew Pavlich, who nailed five goals, to seal the victory in the final minutes.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Pavlich 5
DISPOSALS: Fyfe 30
MARKS: Johnson 14
TACKLES: Mayne 10
SUBBED IN: Duffield
SUBBED OUT: Suban



ROUND 8

v NORTH MELBOURNE

Sat, 23 May, 5.40pm

Domain Stadium

 35,836

FREMANTLE

5.3 9.8 13.11 17.13 (115)

NORTH MELBOURNE

1.1 4.4 5.6 5.12 (42)

OVERVIEW

Another fast start from Freo set the team up for a big win in Nat Fyfe's 100th game. Fyfe was the star of the show, amassing a career-high 37 disposals in his milestone match.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Walters 4
DISPOSALS: Fyfe 37
MARKS: C. Pearce 9
TACKLES: Neale 8
SUBBED IN: Sheridan
SUBBED OUT: Pavlich





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Welcome to the
PURPLE PATCH
 Fantastic photos from Fremantle fans!

PRIDE ON THE LINE

I thought I would share how my husband and I announced our pregnancy to our family. We strung up a washing line on our favourite running track in Kings Park and hung our jumpers out with a little sign stating our newest little Freo supporter will be arriving in June!
CASSANDRA WRIGHT
 TUART HILL

DOCKERLAND

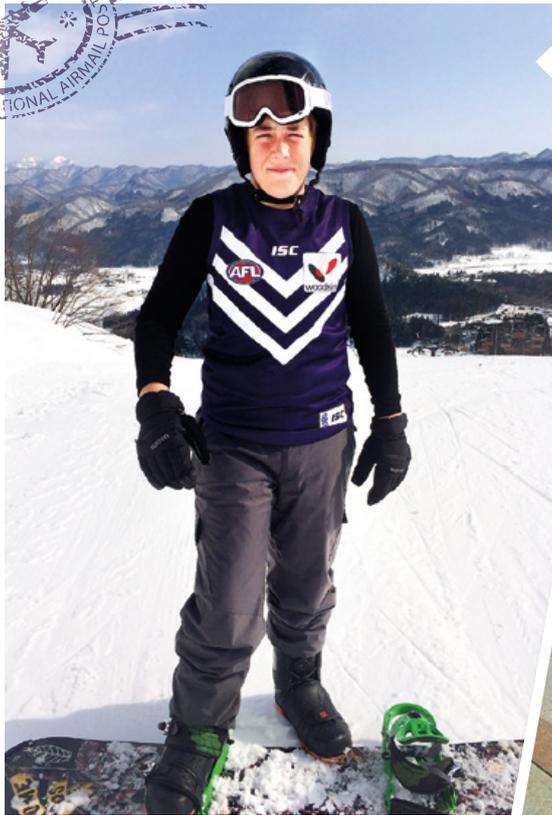
My brother Leigh and I have been proud Freo members for 21 years. Here we are sharing our passion for Freo with Mickey Mouse at Tokyo Disneyland!
FREYA SODING
 KARDINYA



CREATIVE CAKE

My son Jacob turned 5 on May 14 and all he wanted was a Fremantle Dockers cake. The cake was a tribute to the Anzac Day clash against the Sydney Swans which he was lucky enough to attend. It also commemorated the 20th annual Len Hall Tribute Game. Come on Freo!
IRENA ROBB
 BEELIAR





PURPLE POWDER

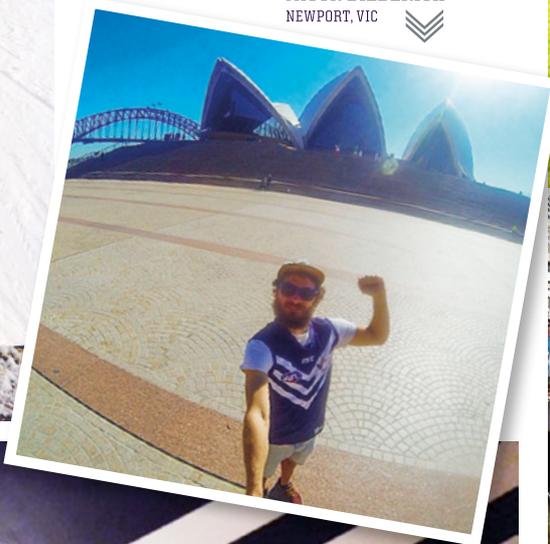
While on holiday in Hakuba, Japan, we tried to introduce the locals to the Purple Power. Here's my son, Oscar, getting his chevrons out.

GUY BAILEY
CLAREMONT

POURPRE PASSION

We have converted several French exchange students who have stayed with us over the past year to become avid Freo supporters. One of them, Léo Cavan, bravely ventured to Sydney after Freo's victory against the Swans on Anzac Day. He was so proud he sent us this photo.

JASON DIEDERICH
NEWPORT, VIC



DAYTONA DOCKER

I travelled to America in February and decided to combine my two sporting passions, the Freo Dockers and Daytona!

SHARYN LYNCH
EATON



FREO FORT

My son, Luke, is an avid Freo fan, so I took it upon myself to paint his room as a surprise. Needless to say, he was pretty happy with the result!

TONY MONAGHAN
ROLEYSTONE

BRAVING IT OUT IN PURPLE

My family and I did a cruise from Fremantle at Easter time. I was dared by my 12-year-old son to have a go on the flying fox. So, for comfort I proudly wore my Freo scarf. It helped me get through it!

SARAH BURGESS
COOLONGUP



Wish you were here! Send your photos to purplepatch@fremantlefc.com.au





hi kids,

The footy season is well and truly underway and it has been great seeing a lot of our junior fans at Freo home games at Domain Stadium.

It was fantastic to see so many of you at the HBF School Holiday Program. I spoke to the players after the clinic and they all had a great day and plenty of fun!

If you are playing in your own local footy team, I hope you are kicking plenty of goals and making some new friends. Football is a great way to meet new kids and have a lot of fun at the same time!

Catch you on the flip side,

JOHNNY
'THE DOC'

KID ZONE AT GATE 8



THERE HAS BEEN PLENTY OF ACTION AT KIDZONE AT GATE 8 BEFORE OUR HOME GAMES AT DOMAIN STADIUM THIS YEAR.

We've had some players head along to say hello and fun activities like face painting, handball targets and even a maze to try and get through!

On Mother's Day junior fans also went along and made their own cards for their mums, of course there was lots of purple on the cards!

KidZone at gate 8 is open two hours before bounce down at every home game, so make sure you head along and check it out.



matthew pavlich's favourite pancakes!

You will need to use a frypan, so make sure you have an adult helping you when you cook these.



INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup (150g) self-raising flour
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 3/4 cup (180ml) milk
- 50g butter

PROCESS

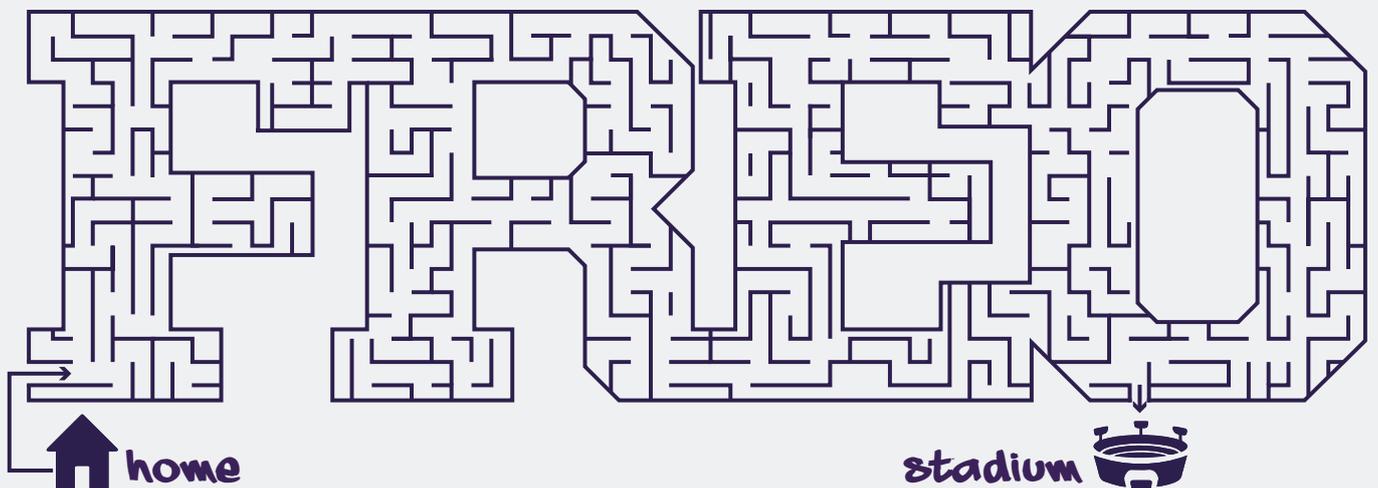
- 1 Mix flour and sugar in a bowl.
- 2 Beat in the egg and then add a little milk until batter is smooth and lump-free.
- 3 In a hot pan brush some butter over the cooking surface and pour 1/4 cup measures for each pancake.
- 4 When large bubbles form on the surface, flip them over and cook until lightly golden on the other side.

HINT! You can also add your favourite fruits, like berries or bananas onto your pancakes to make them taste EXTRA delicious!

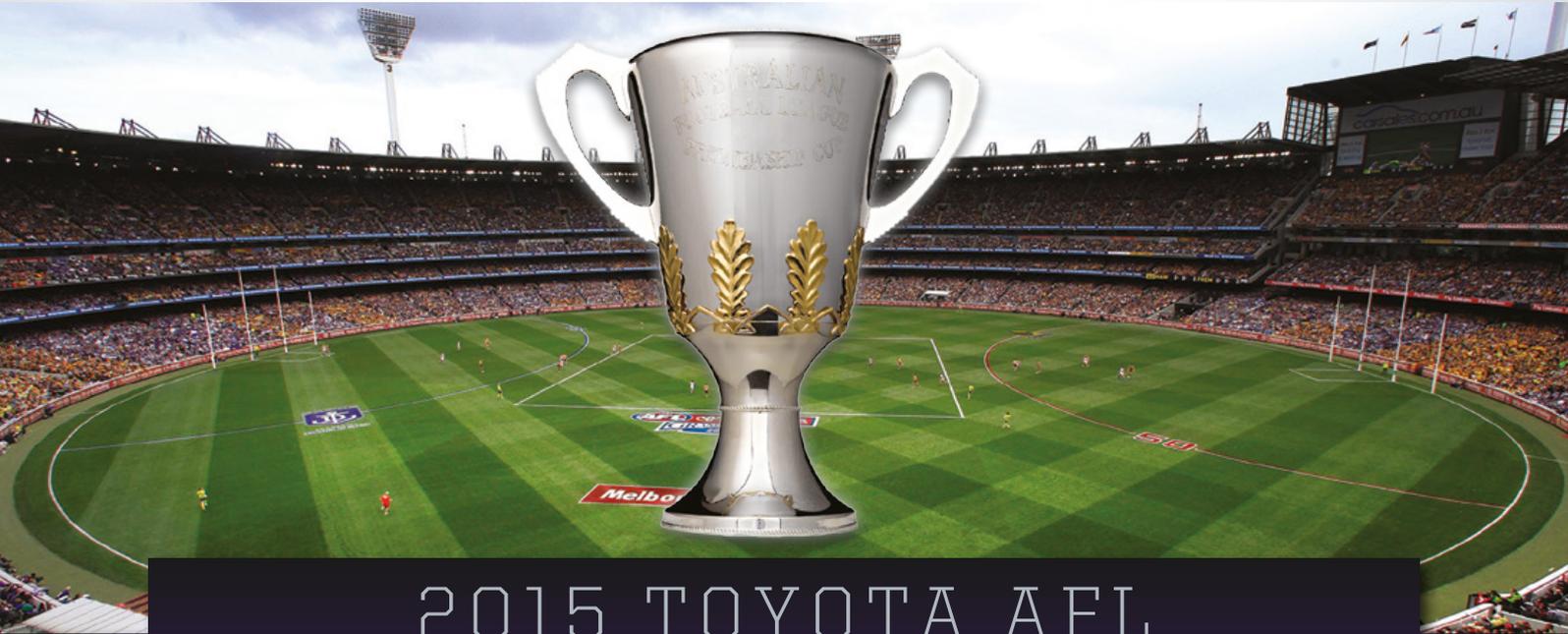


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