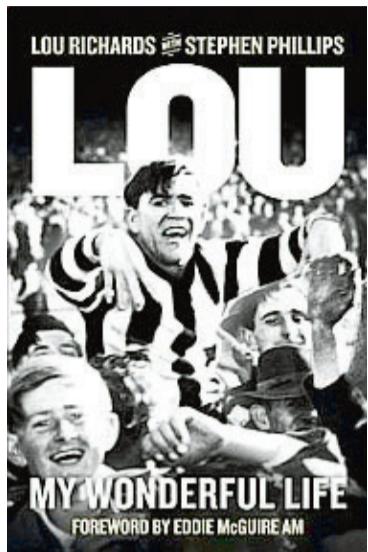


# Big stage, small screen and front bar hit



## LOU: MY WONDERFUL LIFE

Lou Richards with  
Stephen Phillips  
RRP \$32.95  
Slattery Media Group

LOU Richards has achieved the impossible – he is Collingwood through and through, an ex-premiership captain for goodness sake, and yet he is universally loved.



**LEGEND:** Lou Richards is a larger than life figure in Australian Rules football.

While the AFL Hall of Fame selection committee refuse to recognise him as such (sometimes rules need to be broken or at least changed), Lou is a legendary figure in this country.

It's a status that transcends club loyalties and bridges the generation gap.

*Lou: My Wonderful Life* charts Lou's early days in the mean streets of suburban Melbourne during the

Depression years, his family connections to Collingwood and his own mighty influence on that unique sporting institution and his 50-year involvement in the media.

The book is an ever so slightly

updated version of his original biography *The Kiss of Death, Memoirs of a Sporting Legend*. The book is short (no offence intended Louie) on revelation and emotional depth, and the blow by blow description of Lou's football career and the sports night circuit is typical of the genre.

However Lou and his co-writer Stephen Phillips do serve up an engrossing history lesson of working class Melbourne in Lou's formative years. Lou's role in building the foundations of today's football entertainment industry is also fascinating.

But the most entertaining section of the book from my perspective was Lou's reign as publican of the Phoenix Hotel in Flinders St, just a few convenient paces from the headquarters of the Herald and Weekly Times in Exhibition St. This was the golden era of newspapers and pubs, and the characters who frequented the Phoenix were I understand representative of the "gentleman of the press". The Phoenix was a circus with Lou its ringleader.

With Lou due to turn 90 next year, this book is a timely reminder — if we needed any — of the role he has played in making Australian Rules an obsession in this country.

But why is Lou so loved? Probably for the same reason he made it in the pub game.

He started out a cheeky, smart Alec, with comic timing. And he's never changed.

— SEAN STEVENSON

# Improvement is no fiction

BOLD predictions haven't been a part of David Hayes' repertoire in recent times.

But the trainer who has won multiple premierships in two countries is prepared to make an exception in the case of Saturday's Moonee Valley runner Fictional Account.

The Irish import's only appearance in Australia resulted in a last of nine, beaten 10 lengths over 2000m

at Flemington four weeks ago, an effort her trainer believes she won't repeat.

"That was her first run in almost a year and I wasn't expecting a lot," he said. "But I really believe she will improve out of sight on Saturday."

Hayes bases his opinion on a distinct improvement in Fictional Account's work and in her attitude.

Fictional Account takes her

next step towards a Cups start with a step up to the 2500m of the Listed Japan Racing Association Stakes, a race that is more compatible with her best Irish form.

Apart from her maiden win over 1600m as a three-year-old, Fictional Account's other five victories were over distances from 2600m to 3200m.

Fictional Account is one of six Hayes runners at the Val-

ley, and not the only one he expects to make a dramatic improvement.

The first of them is General Rippa who runs in the Sportingbet Handicap (1500m) and is looking to rediscover the form he showed on debut seven months ago when he brilliantly won a Blue Diamond Prelude.

"I'm going to tie his tongue down and I think he'll prefer it

on top of the ground," Hayes said. "I think he's ready to run a much better race."

Hayes saddles Mama's Choice in the Boscombe Plate (1200m), a race he believes will put the filly on track for the Thousand Guineas.

On form, Spacecraft represents the stable's best prospect in the Adapt Australia Handicap (1600m) having produced his best run in a

year at his most recent start. Improvement is also hoped for — rather than anticipated — from Hayes' former high-class sprinter Eagle Falls, who is approaching his last chance in the Chandler Macleod Stakes (1200m).

Hayes said he had schooled Eagle Falls over some jumps since his last start failure at Caulfield two weeks ago.

AAP

## DON'T MISS THE CARSGUIDE IN THE MERCURY SATURDAY

2008 FORD FG FALCON XR6



\$23,888

TILFORD AUTO GROUP USED CARS CNR ARGYLE & BRISBANE STS HOBART

- Sporty work ute
- Practical flat tray
- 18 inch factory alloys
- A low 40,000 kilometres
- Well presented
- Hard to find!

LMCT 3006

2006 HOLDEN VZ MANUAL UTE



\$15,995

MOTORS USED CARS 270 MAIN ROAD GLENORCHY

- 3.6lt manual V6
- Power steering
- Air conditioned
- Hard cover
- Alloy wheels
- Tinted windows
- Don't miss this one

LMCT 3338

PH 6211 0650

2007 NISSAN PATHFINDER ST-L



\$32,990  
DRIVE AWAY  
INCLUDES \$1050.00  
ON ROAD COSTS

DJ QUALITY USED CARS CNR BRISBANE & CAMPBELL STS HOBART

- 2.5 Turbo Diesel Automatic
- 4x4 Dual Range
- 7 seat practicality
- Climate Control Air Conditioning
- Combined Consumption Only 10.2L per 100km
- 3 Tonne Towing Capacity (Braked)
- Duco finished in 'Blue Steel'

LMCT 3382

PH 6213 3300

2007 MAZDA CX7 LUXURY AUTO AWD



\$27,990

CO-OP USED CARS 267 ARGYLE STREET HOBART

- One owner
- Factory Sunroof
- Leather trim
- only 32000 ks
- Presents as new

LMCT 3050

PH 6230 1966