

Anthology a belter

AN excerpt from the play *And the Big Men Fly* appears in a revised version of the first anthology of fine football writing, *The Greatest Game*.

The *Manangatang Mystery Man* is playwright **Alan Hopgood's** contribution to *Australia's Game*, compiled by **Ross Fitzgerald** and **Ken Spillman**.

Fitzgerald and Spillman have revised the anthology of stories, essays, verse and drama they first published in 1988 but it still contains many fine works of footy literature.

There are pieces by historians **Manning Clark** and **Geoffrey Blainey**. There's writing by **Barry Oakley** of *The Great McCarthy* fame, **Frank Hardy** on *Footy Fever in Chinkapook* and **Barry**

Dickins in *Royboys*. An excerpt from playwright **David Williamson's** *The Club* appears, as does a political view from Democratic Labor Party stalwart **Bob Santamaria**.

Fitzgerald and Spillman say the book is a celebration of Aussie rules as a form of art through some of the nation's greatest exponents of literature.

New works by crime writer **Peter Corris**, songwriter **Paul Kelly** and comedian **Peter Helliard** also feature.

Australia's Game is published by the Slattery Media Group, whose principal, **Geoff Slattery**, has written one of the best works, *Gentleman Jack*. Slattery tells how he found **Jack Dyer** cleaning potatoes for dinner when he arrived to interview him for an essay on Captain Blood's life.