

Mosquitoes buzzing again

● Papua New Guinea, Ireland and Croatia walked away with the spoils at the AFL International Cup.

Papua New Guinea again proved to be the best men's team outside Australia after beating New Zealand by a point in a thrilling division one Grand Final at the MCG.

The Mosquitoes won bragging rights as the first team in AFL International Cup men's competition to win back-to-back titles in a war of attrition with Oceania neighbours the Hawks.

Ireland wrested back its crown as the best women's team at international level with a scintillating four-point victory over courageous Canada in the women's Grand Final at Etihad Stadium.

The northern hemisphere 'Battle Royale' was a hard but fair-spirited contest.

Ireland, the competition's inaugural champion (in 2011, when the women's competition was introduced), stormed ahead in the final quarter and did not look back.

And Croatia enjoyed victory in its first AFL International Cup, convincingly beating a gallant German team in the men's division two Grand Final.

For many, the 2017 AFL International Cup was a step into the unknown.

For some, the carnival opened the door to Melbourne and its historic football fields for the first time.

For everyone involved, it was an unforgettable two weeks and a monumental win for Australian Football around the world.

Twenty-six male and female teams representing 21 nations descended upon Melbourne, united by a passion and energy for football.

Through colour, smiles, tears, pain and pride – and the city's most unpredictable weather – 65 matches and off-the-field opportunities have left an indelible mark on the lives of those it touched.

TOM POUNTNEY



Cazaly: the man behind the legend

The name Cazaly brings to mind two things: a footy anthem and an iconic photograph.

Mike Brady's 1979 chart-topper *Up There Cazaly* forever immortalised Roy Cazaly as a legend of Australian Football.

For students of the game, the name Cazaly (which originated in France) also conjures one of the most remarkable and debated on-field images ever captured: that of the then South Melbourne ruckman either taking a spectacular one-hand mark or winning a ruck duel in a 1924 game against Essendon.

To these bare bones of public consciousness, author Robert Allen has skilfully added flesh, blood and humanity to produce a refreshingly broad biography, *Cazaly: The Legend*.

Allen, who devoted 10 years of painstaking research to the project, traverses Cazaly's numerous lives, including those of a revered footballer, a well-travelled coach, a fitness fanatic and trainer, a horse trainer, a self-styled physiotherapist who worked wonders with polio patients, and an unsuccessful Liberal Party candidate in Tasmania where Cazaly lived a large chunk of his life.

"Football is what made Roy," Allen told the *AFL Record*, "but he didn't let it define him, because he did so many other worthwhile things in his life.

"He was very well-rounded.

These days we'd probably call him a renaissance man."

Allen's work highlights Cazaly's successes – most notably the playing career with St Kilda, South Melbourne and Tasmanian clubs that led to his official Legend status in the Australian Football Hall of Fame – but also his hardships.

The last-born of 10 children into a working-class family in South Melbourne in the midst of a Depression, Cazaly suffered great tragedy – two of his brothers committed suicide, his first child died from diphtheria and his wife's sister-in-law and her three children were murdered.

There were also football setbacks, despite his greatness as a player.



AHEAD OF HIS TIME: Champion footballer Roy Cazaly was a man of many talents.

"There were times of self-doubt where Roy went to ground when it got a bit much, but he always pulled himself together and went on with his life," Allen said.

"Hec de Lacy, *The Sporting Globe* journo, was a good friend of Roy's and he was amused that Roy could be such a lion on the field but a lamb off it, in that he wasn't afraid to show how he felt in the days when men were told not to.

"He was ahead of his time in so many ways." 🗣️

BEN COLLINS

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