

City's flood of interest as Cazaly hits heights

CAZALY - THE LEGEND
BY ROBERT ALLEN
(SLATTERY MEDIA
GROUP, \$39.95)

BY ROB SHAW

IN EARLY 1928, Ron Tyson made a trip that would change Launceston football.

The secretary of Northern Tasmanian Football Association's City Football Club, Tyson traveled to Melbourne "with an open cheque" to find the best man to coach the under-performing side.

Tyson opted for Roy Cazaly, between them they settled on £12 a week and soon afterwards Roy, Aggie and their five children arrived in Launceston aboard the steamship Nairana and moved into a house in Stone Street.

Cazaly had made his name across 17 VFL seasons with St Kilda and South Melbourne and his future would take in Hawthorn, North Hobart, New Town and a certain Mike Brady song.

But his three eventful seasons operating out of York Park were destined to leave a huge footprint on the North of the state.

Author Robert Allen spent a decade researching this biography and colourfully details his Tasmanian impact.

"Cazaly was not the first Victorian to coach in Launceston but players of his calibre were rare and his arrival excited great interest," Allen writes.

A relentless self-improver whose methods were way ahead of their time, Cazaly swiftly ingratiated himself to the region by inspiring a Northern team to defeat its Southern counterparts.

Meanwhile City defeated North Launceston to claim

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Robert Allen on Roy Cazaly

the NTFA premiership and then North Hobart to become the first NTFA club in 20 years to claim a state flag.

"The City club may have been paying for Cazaly's services, but the whole of Northern Tasmania was reaping the benefits," Allen adds.

A talented cricketer all-rounder, Cazaly also helped South Launceston to its first NTCA premiership but the honeymoon period ended abruptly in his second season with City.

Losing more than half of the team's playing group to either retirement or departure combined with the infamous 1929 floods swamping York Park saw the reigning premiers win just one match for the season.

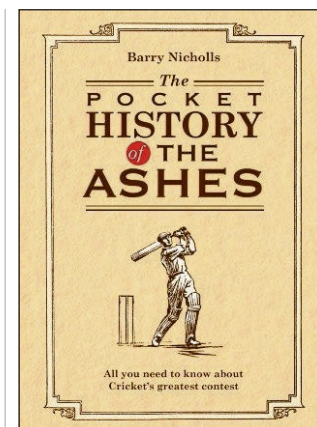
However, aided by fearless star recruit Laurie Nash and his goal-kicking brother Robert, sons of Collingwood captain Bob, City bounced back with Northern and state premierships to cap the club's 50th anniversary year.

"Cazaly was once again the toast of Northern Tasmania but his thoughts were returning to Victorian football," Allen concludes.

Containing extensive playing and coaching stats, this is a definitive biography of one of the 12 inaugural legends of the Australian Football Hall of Fame.



IN THE FRAME: Author Robert Allen sifts through files on Roy Cazaly with Launceston's Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery reference officer Ross Smith in 2007.



Pocket history out of Ashes

POCKET HISTORY OF THE ASHES
BY BARRY NICHOLLS
(NEW HOLLAND PUBLISHERS, \$25)

IT MAY be a pocket history in need of big pockets, but this is a comprehensive Ashes anthology in pocket form.

It summarises each series with an analysis, scoreboards, stats, newspaper headline and even a "Facebook moment" and "Twitter fact" for matches pre-dating social media by a century.

But it is full of handy facts that fans may want to remember, or indeed forget, such as when Stuart Broad was compiling his figures of 8-15 in the 2015 Fourth Test in Trent Bridge, Australia's top scorer was the ever-reliable "Extras" with a handy innings of 14.

Alternatively, the origins of Bodyline date back to 1930, a couple of years before the infamous series Down Under, when England captain Douglas Jardine watched footage of Don Bradman looking uncomfortable against short-pitched bowling and pronounced: "I've got it. He's yellow."

— ROB SHAW

Colourful history not all black and white



BIG ED: Eddie McGuire has been the public face of Collingwood since taking over the presidency on his 34th birthday. Picture: The Age.

IN BLACK AND WHITE
BY GLENN MCFARLANE AND MICHAEL ROBERTS
(NERO BOOKS, \$30)

MIDWAY through a miserable 1998 AFL campaign that would yield just seven wins, Eddie McGuire witnessed a Collingwood fan storm out with a four-lettered farewell for his beloved club.

The radio commentator sympathised but opted to stay and tackle the problem.

McGuire assumed the presidency on his 34th birthday and remains there to this day.

Such is the purpose of this book which pledges to trace the evolution of "the most loved and loathed football club in Australia" by focusing on one key event for each season.

It is even happy to turn the seasonal spotlight on its own performance, such as the 1993 chapter "Nicky makes a stand" which recalls the infamous gesture of St Kilda's Nicky Winmar in response to racial taunts from the Victoria Park home crowd.

"It became a seminal moment not just for Australian football, but for race rela-

tions in this country," the book says.

"Winmar's act shone a light on racism in sport and helped to bring about overdue change on both sides of the fence."

The following season marked a defining change of eras, the sad farewell of the much loved Peter Daicos coinciding with the arrival of Nathan Buckley (who "shone from the moment he put on a black-and-white jumper") both marked by Mick McGuane's magical seven-bounce goal of a lifetime.

— ROB SHAW