

MEDIA RELEASE

Larrikins & Legends

The untold story of Carlton's greatest era

By Dan Eddy

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TITLE DESCRIPTION

They were a bunch of larrikins who became a team of legends. Between 1979 and 1982 the Blues won three premierships, and were rated one of the greatest teams of all time. Yet their remarkable feats have long been overlooked when discussion arises as to the best teams in AFL history. Not anymore.

In *Larrikins & Legends*, characters such as Peter 'Percy' Jones, Wayne 'The Dominator' Johnston, Peter 'The Buzz' Bosustow, Warren 'Wow' Jones, and the king of them all, Alex 'Jezza' Jesaulenko, are brought to life like never before. They mingled with Prime Ministers, were entertained by American-style dancing girls, broke bones, survived political upheaval, and drank plenty of amber liquid. But above all, they were mates, on and off the field, and remain so to this day. They were certainly a ragtag bunch of men and they partied hard. But boy, could they play footy. In fact, over a four-year period, the team fielded by Carlton would win three premierships—winning 76 of 98 matches for a winning percentage of 78 per cent—a feat which should surely rank alongside the achievements of modern-day powerhouses, the Brisbane Lions (2001-2004), Geelong (2007-2011) and Hawthorn (2012-2015).

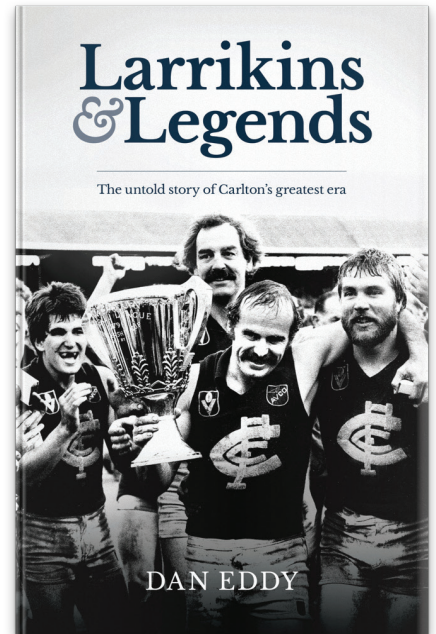
Remarkably, despite such outstanding successes, the Boys in Blue, as coach David Parkin noted with his usual enthusiasm, are seldom mentioned when debate rages over who is the greatest football team in VFL/AFL history. Why is this side, which includes such stars as Mike Fitzpatrick, Rod Ashman, Peter Bosustow, Jim Buckley, Bruce Doull, Wayne Harmes, Ken Hunter, Wayne Johnston, Percy Jones, Mark Maclure, David McKay, Ken Sheldon, Geoff Southby and, of course, Alex Jesaulenko, not included in the debate?

Through one-on-one interviews, exhaustive archival research, and his art as a storyteller, author Dan Eddy has now brought their deeds to life. After reading *Larrikins & Legends*, there is no doubt that those Carlton teams of 1979-82 were among the finest in AFL/VFL history.

Eddy brings their story to life like never before, revealing the inner workings of a football team full of characters who, through hard work and a mateship as strong as any in League history, became legends in the space of four years. Parkin calls them football's forgotten champions. In this wonderful book, Eddy sets the record straight and has recreated that colourful era through the words of those who lived it: Mike Fitzpatrick, captain of the 1981-82 premier teams wrote in his foreword, "Through meticulous research and long interviews with those who wore the navy blue in that period, Dan Eddy has reconstructed the atmosphere of the club, its winning culture, the multitude of personalities, the mutual respect, the commitment to each other, and the tightness of the playing group."

"That Carlton team that I walked into in 1981, and went on to coach in two of the three premierships that they won over a four-year period, have not been recognised for the quality of team that they were; certainly not in comparison to the Brisbanes, Hawthorns and Geelongs. They should go down, but don't go down, as one of the greatest teams over a period of four years, yet no one talks about them. That was the most talented group of footballers I think I've ever seen in one team; they had everything. They were a bunch of wild buggers, but they worked extremely hard."

– David Parkin OAM (Carlton coach 1981-85, 1991-2000), February 2015



Relive Carlton's finest era in AFL/VFL football in history, a must-have for all football fans. *Larrikins and Legends*, is a Slattery Media Publication, under licence from the AFL, will be published at the end of May, at a RRP of \$39.95.

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