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# The Spec "BLOG"

with RICHARD BEKS

Scrolling through the channels on Fox last week I came across a NEAFL game between the Swans and NT Thunder.

The game included Darren Ewing, still a commanding figure at full-forward though maybe a yard slower than a decade plus ago when playing with Penshurst.

Last season he received his fifth NEAFL Leading Goal-kicker Award, finishing the season with 64 goals.

In earlier years he had notched up as high as 99 and 94 goals.

Ewing, or "Boof" as he is known up north, is the only player to be named in the NEAFL Team of the Year every season since that competition started in 2011.

The NEAFL is a 10-team competition which includes Gold Coast and Giants reserve sides as well. In recent years, in the off-season, Ewing has also played with St Mary's in the Northern Territory Football League.

He has booted more than 1000 majors at NEAFL and NTFL level since moving to the top end in 2007.

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In today's fast changing world, if you haven't been paying full attention, you probably don't know what crowd funding is.

It's financing a project or venture by raising money from a large number of people who each contribute a relatively small amount, typically via the Internet.

The concept often appeals to investors who want to support left-field start-ups that could benefit the environment or maybe help struggling musicians, filmmakers or artists.

Former Dunkeld woman, Rachel Huf, daughter of Anne and Peter Gilbert, falls into the last category. She now lives in Flemington with husband James Huf, also originally from Cavendish.

Rachel is hoping to raise money to promote a contemporary dance show she and fellow VCA graduate, Tahlia Klugman, are choreographing and performing in.

This is set to premiere in September at Dancehouse, in Carlton, as part of the 2018 Melbourne Fringe Festival.

She is crowd funding through Pozible to try to raise money to cover venue hire, insurance and so forth. The link is <https://pozible.com/project/unconscious-volcanoes>

Rachel (right) was born in Hamilton and raised in Dunkeld. She attended Dunkeld Consolidated Primary School before completing VCE at Baimbridge College in Hamilton.

From five to 18 years she attended and taught at Hamilton's Cameron Dance School.

Rachel later completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance at the Victorian College of the Arts/University of Melbourne.

She is currently choreographing and performing in Melbourne while also studying a Masters in Primary Teaching at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education.





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This month marks 25 years since former Casterton girl and Monivae College student, Debbie Fream, was brutally murdered by serial killer, Paul Denyer.

The killing was part of a shocking four early 1990s murders linking past Hamilton residents.

In 1991 the bodies of former Hamilton hairdresser, Claire Acocks and Portland resident, Margaret Penny, were found with multiple stab wounds.

In 1992 we learned of the execution-style murders of Hamilton woman, Kerryn Henstridge, and two others.

That same year former Hamilton man, William Jolly, went on a shooting rampage in Melbourne killing one woman.

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Some weeks back I was asked by some students studying multi-media did I have a profile for any locals whose life story could leave an important legacy.

I suggested a couple, one of who was our former WW2 Italian prisoner of war, little known Guido Canapini.

Unfortunately he passed away in 2002, aged 89, so now capturing his story, personally told on film, was an opportunity past its use-by date.

Pity, with western society now again flirting with socialism and fascism, his experience could have been a timely warning.

Canapini was a conscript in the Italian merchant navy. In 1940 his ship was taken near Thailand.

The crew was transferred to Australia and held in a camp near Tatura.

Like many prisoners he was offered a choice of work on farms. He opted for "The Wilderness" at Coleraine.

After the disastrous bushfires of 1944 he moved to McIntyre's property at Croxton East, where he stayed until 1946 working on crutching, dagging, fencing and rabbiting.

After a brief spell in Melbourne working as a cook he returned to McIntyre's and took out Australian citizenship as soon as it was possible.

He later married Norma, the daughter of the family he worked for, and farmed there for another 30 years.

In the 1970s the family moved to Chatsworth Rd.

Canapini stood out like a beacon, set against today, when so many newcomers to this country refuse to integrate or accept Aussie values.

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Last Saturday it was off to Port Fairy to support a grand-daughter playing for the Seagulls.

The club there now has electronic scoreboards on each netball court.

The boards are basically a large TV monitor on a portable stand. The scorers operate the consoles from the comfort of a courtside shelter.

This is a bold advance to what is still common in some places – some poor sod standing in all weathers constantly changing numbered sheets of tin held in place by a nail – or something similar.

**Brief comments: Text 0418 328 199**

**Long comments: Letters to PO Box 416 or [specnews@spec.com.au](mailto:specnews@spec.com.au)**