

## FOOTY'S TRIBUTE

## ANZAC DAY

Joffa and the Collingwood cheer squad are music to a poet's ears



**Pie-eyed:**  
Collingwood fan Joffa shows poet Hilary Elfick the ropes at the Anzac Day clash.

Picture:  
BRUCE MAGILTON

ANZAC DAY  
AT THE 'G 2011

Gallipoli. France. Kokoda. A cold dawn.  
Players among the young who joined up  
for a bit of excitement. Poor exchange for  
the hard-baked earth, the mud they found,  
a jungle's spiteful stings. A world gone mad.

Men who played by Aussie Rules  
came back mad, blind, without their legs  
or hands if they came back at all.  
I was born to the sound of Nazi planes  
and bombs, in darkness now forgotten

in a joy of cheering. For today I marched  
singing with the Magpie Army  
here to this oval field of play, vast and green,  
to mark loss; to remember. Malthouse's last  
Anzac. My first. First Magpie game.

And this year it is Easter. The bugle,  
and the Last Post sounds before Reveille,  
at the Shrine, now at the G.  
And then the soldiers leave. I'm  
Level 1, right by the cheer squad,

waves of voice like breakers on the shore -  
and here they come, bolts of energy  
that twist and duck and leap, stab-kick  
and stretch to send the Sherrin soaring  
high above our heads. Magpies and Bombers

black and white and red, now marking,  
now colliding head to head and hip to hip,  
now side by side, and now confronting,  
feet thudding like steers across a prairie  
stripped of bush and tree; only the eight posts

for target, and the high ranks of spectators  
to scream to the tune of Dolly Grey, Pies'  
words etched in sore throats, a tribal cry  
and tribal fire to make men race, to stretch,  
to power a winning kick, a winning run.

And now it's my voice screaming, YES!  
and NO and Go Harry! Wow Leon!  
- my life is marked; I caught the bug.  
An Anzac game, but like a Final. Just the day  
to march, remember, and, above all, to play.

© Hilary Elfick



# Hilary inspired by first taste of Pies

SIX days off the plane, English poet and BBC broadcaster-turned-musical writer Hilary Elfick gets to try on a jacket they don't sell at Harrods.

Elfick has adapted Shakespeare and written 10 books of poems, but is now crafting a stage musical and a volume of poetry about Collingwood - suburb and club. Yesterday, she made

## Terry Brown

friends with the strangest tribe in town.

Before she could blink, Jeff "Joffa" Corfe had given her the "Game Over" gold jacket and put her in front of the march to the 'G.

It is her first time at the footy and, in less than four hours, she is rocking in her MCG seat nervously,

screaming despite herself, and almost swooning over a Didak goal. "I don't usually shout," she apologises much too politely for anyone in a Ponsford Stand seat close to the Magpies cheer squad.

"That was beautiful," she gushes as Chris Dawes grabs a mark against the post then slots a major.

Elfick is getting used to being asked whether the

musical is a joke, but has three volumes of research done, and several songs.

She says the secret to writing is what you leave out and that Joffa will probably get a guernsey in the musical.

At the 'G, she passes on a pie and a beer because she has to write a poem (right) about the day.

But, as the Pies win, she sings the song with gusto.

## Forgotten heroes are finally saluted

AS THE sun rose over Seoul, 22 Australian veterans listened to the words of an Australian Prime Minister they had been waiting 60 years to hear.

The soldiers of the Korean War finally got the recognition they deserved.

Explaining her decision to mark Anzac Day as the first Australian PM to commemorate a dawn service in the Korean capital, Ms Gillard said the time had come for these men to be honoured.

"The Korean War has often been referred to as the forgotten war," she said.

"They have felt the burden of having their particular efforts not well remembered in Australia. I'd like Australians to remember the her-

## Simon Benson

Seoul

oism our veterans showed in this place 60 years ago."

Ms Gillard was joined by the Australian Army chief Ken Gillespie and about 300 Australian and New Zealand veterans, Korean officials and guests at Seoul's War Memorial.

More than 17,000 Australian troops fought and 340 died in the war.

The battle of Kapyong embodied the Anzac spirit.

On the eve of Anzac Day in 1951, the heroism of a battalion of Australia soldiers earned them a US Presidential citation. But no Australian Government had done the same.



**Honoured:** Korean War veteran Alfred Smith with Julia Gillard. Picture: KYM SMITH

## Crowds defy Gallipoli chill

ABOUT 6500 people braved bitter cold to attend the dawn service at Gallipoli yesterday. The number was well below a projected crowd estimate of 7000-8000.

The weather was so cold and the wind chill factor such several people were treated for hypothermia.

Veteran Affairs minister Warren Snowdon gave the main address, telling the crowd that "the spirit of Anzac lives on to give us strength and hope".

Afterwards, a larger crowd climbed Lone Pine on the heights to attend an Australian service. A New Zealand commemoration was held further away at Chunuk Bair.

Most of those attending were young and waving Australian and New Zealand flags.

- John Hamilton