



# DISCOVER THE RAAAF MUSEUM

Just 25 minutes from Melbourne, discover the RAAF Museum. The Museum brings aviation history to life. Our airworthy fleet conducts regular interactive displays and the heritage gallery transports visitors from the RAAF's beginnings in World War I through to today's modern fighting force. The RAAF Museum is one of Melbourne's most popular visitor destinations.

Visitors can view our carefully preserved aircraft including the Maurice Farman and Supermarine Walrus amphibian and the restoration work in progress on a World War II Mosquito aircraft.

Disabled parking, toilets and access to most parts of the Museum complex.

Admission is free, and there's plenty of parking.

Group and school tours by appointment.

## RAAF Williams

Point Cook Road,  
Point Cook VIC 3027

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RAAF MUSEUM  
POINT COOK



www.raafmuseum.com.au

### Opening hours:

Tues-Fri 10am-3pm

Weekends & public holidays 10am-5pm

Closed Good Friday and Christmas Day

Victoria map ref: L14

Melway map ref: 198 J4

# GET ON YOUR BIKE

Once the AFL season is over, all footballers love to have a holiday and forget about exercise. Almost all that is. Last summer, a group of past and present players spent 11 days cycling through Vietnam to raise money and awareness of the work CARE Australia does in the region.

Former Saint

**Mark McGough**

gave *Squad* the inside story about the special journey.



Phil Raymond, Leigh Fisher and Ed McDonnell take a much needed drinks break after a tough climb.



to be a good introduction to the 26km hills we would tackle later in the trip.

The first day of riding saw the first crash. That honour went to Dlicko. Carrying a video camera in one hand while riding uphill was a great effort but, not long into the downhill ride, Dlicko fell into a concrete drain.

**"Our legs were aching and we struggled to sit down at night."**

When we came down the mountains, we were forced into sharing the road with trucks, buses, motorbikes, cars, buffaloes, ladies carrying fruit and even young boys herding cattle!

The ride from Phong Tho to Lai Chau proved to be a tough day. We woke up at 5:45am and rode until 6pm, and were all desperate for bed by the end. After three days of riding, our legs were aching and we struggled to sit down at night, but the scenery and the friendly people made our hard work worthwhile.

If we thought that was difficult, the fourth day of riding from Lai Chau to Dien Bien Phu was even tougher. No one wanted to get up at the 5:45am wake-up call. It was a hot day and, halfway up one hill, my water ran out, which is not great when you still have 9km to climb! For the climax of the trip, we travelled to Hanoi, where we faced the Hanoi Swans in a game of football. Our opponents were



The CARE Australia team prepares to take on the Hanoi Swans. Game on!

40-year-old men who were as keen as mustard. Considering they play just two games of footy a year and train the rest of the time, you couldn't blame them.

The ground was a dirt soccer pitch with soccer goals and witches hats as goalposts, and the houses surrounding the pitch and a few lights on top of the change rooms acted as the game's floodlights.

**"The total distance cycled was 410km."**

The game itself was played in good spirits. The Swans, whose jumpers were donated by the Sydney Swans, lacked the height of the CARE Australia team, but it was a great contest. The new Sherrin, bought specially for the game, was lost when a Vietnamese man on a motorcycle vanished with it after it was kicked over a fence!



Leigh Fisher does some business with a local Vietnamese market seller.

In the end, Dylan McLaren kicked the winning goal after the umpire (wearing a white jacket and Vietnamese hat) decided it was 'next goal wins'. The total distance cycled was 410km. The trip was very challenging and climbing mountains for three hours straight at times required a lot of willpower, but pride and the help of other riders kept us all going to the end.



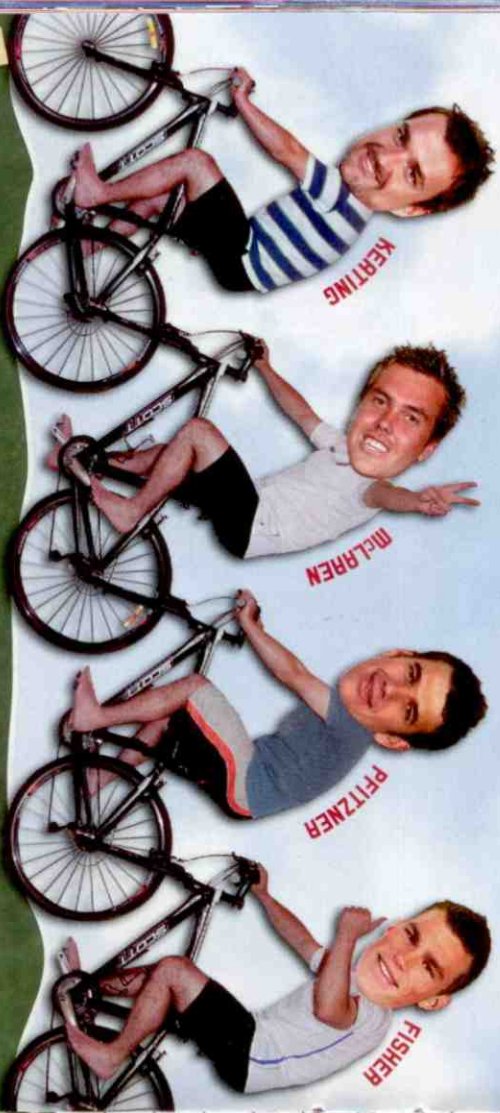
Dylan McLaren gives a handball lesson to some students - or is it the other way round?

Stepping out of the airport in Hanoi, we were instantly smacked in the face by the Vietnamese heat. The CARE Australia AFL Challenge had begun.

Our group included Blues ruckman Dylan McLaren, former Brisbane triple-premiership ruckman Clark Keating, six current and ex-Saints - Leigh Fisher, Sam Gilbert, Dylan Pfitzner, Phil Raymond, Ed McDonnell and myself - and former Hawthorn and Brisbane footballer Robert 'Dicker' Dickson, who won the TV show Australian Survivor.

After a quick lesson on how to speak Vietnamese, we headed on the overnight train to Sapa. Sleeping in small beds built for Vietnamese was always going to be an issue for the oversized westerners!

After little sleep and breakfast, we had an introductory ride. The 12km uphill ride proved



\*Photos courtesy of Laura McKay/CARE Australia