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THE GROWL

THE OFFICIAL NIGHTCLIFF CRICKET CLUB NEWSLETTER
4th Edition 2011 – Friday, 30 September 2011
NCC SENIOR PRESENTATION NIGHT EDITION!



“PURE GOLD!!”

MORE GROWL TESTIMONIALS!

“Delicious”

Nigella Lawson

“Smooth”

Jack Daniels

“Sweeeeet”

Willy Wonka

“Totally fat!”

Colonel Sanders

“Just what Australia needs right now...”

Tony Abbott

“Well, it sure beats the alternative!!”

Julia Gillard

NIGHTCLIFFSPORTSCLUB INC.



**NIGHTCLIFF CC WISHES TO THANK
OUR VALUED CLUB SPONSORS FOR 2011!**

NIGHTCLIFFSPORTSCLUB INC.



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AS WELL AS THE FOLLOWING MINOR CLUB SPONSORS



THE PREZ SAYS...

If you are reading this...then it means you have graced us with your presence at the Gala event that is the **Nightcliff Cricket Club Senior Presentation Night** at the Airport Resort and you are marveling at the wonderful decorations and organizational prowess of the multi-talented **Paula Mitchell**...as you furtively monitor the cheeky **Steve 'Golden Tonsils' Leahy**, wondering what he is about to say next!

Thank you to **Paula Mitchell** and **Alexander the Tate** and Team for your considerable efforts in putting together what is an excellent event for the Senior Presentation 2011, to celebrate what has been quite a successful 2011 Season, despite our A-Grade plummeting like a home-brand space shuttle after having held aloft a considerable volume of Cupperly in 2010.

Premierships are never the sole indicator of the success of a Club...but hey, we have won 2 in 2011 so let's celebrate that! Well done to **Sean Kenny's** B-52s and the **D-Generates** for Flagging up in 2011! Congratulations also to **John Tate's** Under 17s on an awesome season, which culminated in a brave Grand Final defeat, and to the Under 15s Red for making the Granny as well.

Promoting and supporting our NCC Club, as well as juniors who will be entering senior ranks from 2012 onwards must remain an absolute priority at Tigerland and will require **your** support and assistance (yeah **you**, I *know* you are reading this!) – otherwise all the hard work put into junior cricket at Tigerland over the last few years will quite simply go to waste!

A massive thank you to my 2011 Committee – including my 'right hand man' the tireless **Alex Tate**, **Georgie Ferguson** (and **Laura Stringer**), **Sam Gibson**, **Naveen Subbiah**, **John Tate**, **Jason Bremner**, **John Fryar**, **Gregory Aldam** and **Manish Bhatnagar** - and also to all of you who have volunteered various services throughout 2011, including junior coaching, scoring, assisting with teams, helping out at *In2Cricket*, Web Mastering, Club event organizing, and regularly communicating on behalf of and with our Club men and women.

Anthony Snell
NCC President



Left - Liz Hurley posing for a photo next to the latest waxwork of **Shane Warne**.
No, wait a second, that's actually him!

'WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!' - CONGRATULATIONS Bs AND Ds!

Congratulations to the **Nightcliff CC B-Grade** and the **D-Grade** ('*Sunday A-Grade*') sides for **winning** their 2011 Grand Finals!

NCC was also well represented in Junior Grand Finals with **John Tate**'s Under 17s narrowly losing their Grand Final (**James Dix** made 84 runs, **Aiden Reisinger** 36, **Joe Sheehan** took 3/29) and the NCC Under 15 Red side, who narrowly lost their Grand Final by 9 runs (**S Fisher** 26 & 2/17, **R York-Morris** 26, **M Rowse** 20 not out).

The B-52s, struggled on Day 1 with only really Club Coach **Nigel Couzens** providing real resistance, with a gritty 43 out of a less-than-par score of 121. However our heroes charged home for a pulsating 24-run win on D2, after some Divine intervention overnight when the heavens opening for a few hours (*a reversal of fortune from the 2010 Grand Final when the Bs had to bat in similar circumstances*), and a belated memory gain from Club Legend **Mark Hatton**, who suddenly remembered he was a champion spinner not a seam bowler, taking a wicket with his very first ball of spin (after bowling a few overs of seam) on his way to a match-winning **5-47**, ably supported by his spinning partner in crime, Bs skipper **Sean Kenny** who took 4-26. And there was great rejoicing, in **Richie Frejah**'s last game in Black and Gold after a distinguished career for the Tigers.

The D-Generates ventured to picturesque Kahlin Oval for their clash against Tah-Tahs, who they had beaten at the same venue to win the 2007 D-Grade flag. A sense of *De ja vu* was definitely in the air early, as skipper **Jason Hatton** won the toss and gleefully elected to bat first on a quite warm late September afternoon. Our lads cobbled together 8/176 after a solid early partnership between **J.Hatton** (35) and **B.Miles** (35) amidst some tight bowling, before **Mick Best** went totally **Babe Ruth** on Tah-Tahs, bludgeoning 36 runs in the blink of an eye, including 3 towering sixes that had neighbouring residents rushing out and moving their cars and children from the streets! All Tigers bowlers and fielders then consistently 'turned the screws' on the Tah-Tahs bats, led by ageless warrior **Cammo Collins** (3/23), with a metronomic mesmerising spell of bowling, skipper **J.Hatton** and '*Norm Smith Medallist*' **Mick Best**, who each secured 2 scalps on the way to an emphatic 50-run Grand Final win!

And so there was great rejoicing back at the **Nightcliff Sports Club** on the Sunday night by all the Cricket Club, after managing to win two senior Premierships to cap off a successful 2011 season. We wish to sincerely thank **Rob** and **Sue** and all staff and Committee of the Nightcliff Sports Club for all their assistance in 2011, including with respect to various events hosted at the Nightcliff Sports Club in 2011 and applying for an extended trading license for Sunday celebrations last weekend! **Happy days!**



A B-Dazzling weekend! Nightcliff B-Grade Premiers (left) and D-Grade Premiers (right) for the 2011 Season!

“THEY SAID IT” - QUOTABLE QUOTES

<p><i>“But he did not take to my bowling at all...well, he wasn't batting when I was brought on!”</i></p>	<p>Turf wizard and part-time lover singer spin bowler Robert Saunders, reflecting on the Lord Taverner's XI game, in which former & recently retired Shield player Michael Dighton was playing against him!</p>
<p><i>“So, he was pretty much the Melbourne Storm of the NCC Quiz Night yeah?!”</i></p>	<p>A bemused bystander in reference to the befallen NRL Rugby side's disqualification in 2010 after listening to a report on the 2011 NCC Annual Quiz Night and how Team Huw Spring was sensationally demoted from 1st Place after seriously opening up a packet of Cheetoes on the night. Well done to the Velvet Auction hammer Steve Leahy for delivering a just result for all quizzers who attended and thoroughly enjoyed the NCC event. You do the crime...you don't win this (or any) time!</p> <div data-bbox="820 697 1339 955" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Huw Spring – not even his Phone-a-Friend pictured here or his trusty Assistant Mr Google could help him steal the NCC Quiz!</p>
<p><i>“Bugger. It's a boy!”</i></p>	<p>The collective sigh of disappointment from 16 other AFL Clubs (well 15 - West Coast might actually harbor father-son claims) when it was announced that Carlton ball magnet Chris Judd's ridiculously beautiful wife Rebecca Twigley had just given birth to their first son.</p> <div data-bbox="857 1186 1312 1474" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Judd...Carlton fans will easily forgive his spooky Lord Voldemort likeness if he continues to breed future stars for them!</p>
<p><i>“Yeah, he burnt him good!”</i></p>	<p>NT Cricket Umpire Tony ‘The McGovernator’ McGovern, upon discreet inquiry being made into D-Grade pocket rocket Manish Bhatnagar's role in the tragic run out of the usually fleet-footed Bryan ‘Thousand’ Miles in the Tigers' exciting semi final win over PINTS of Beer. Scorched him like Joan of Arc was the official report!</p>
<p><i>“Thanks, I don't usually get to hear that!”</i></p>	<p>Tigers D-Grade tail-ender Snell after hearing the words, “<i>well batted?</i>” from a gallant PINTS player as he left the Oval following the Tigers' exciting finals win. “<i>Bastard!</i>” was the next word uttered by the recently conquered foe. “<i>Yep thanks, that one I <u>do</u> hear a little more often!</i>” he replied!</p>

"I was going for the football...but his head was there instead!"

Well a major Nightcliff Cricketing catastrophe was narrowly avoided a week ago, when NCC Under 17s (and 2011 A-Grade Debutant) pint-sized star **James Tate** survived a vicious attack from the ultra-competitive **Dani Daly** whilst kicking a footy around in the back yard.

Fortunately for **Tate Jr**, his face and shin trumped Daly's fingernails and foot, but **Daly** was not so fortunate, breaking a toe on her right foot! Match-hardened by this physical encounter, Tate scored his maiden ton in the Under 17s Semi Final, posting a magnificent 101 not out. The incident however did adversely impact upon a netball Grand Final, with the **Hoggies** Div III side going down in a thriller by a mere 2 goals, with the lovely Dani agonisingly consigned to the sidelines!



Left – Dani ‘Putting up with Alex’ Daly looking worse for wear with a broken toe and **Right, young prodigy James “Shins of Steel” Tate**, looking scratched up (see left of eye) like Wolverine’s girlfriend after the sickening collision!

“I don’t want us getting ahead of ourselves just now...but we’re gonna win the Flag!”

D-Generates Skipper **Jason Hatton** on the eve of the final game of the home & away season at the Death Star against TV Dinners.
We didn’t want to get ahead of ourselves either by publishing this quote before now! The lid is well and truly off now however!



Well done Tigers! Some people would seriously kill for one Premiership, let alone two!
A big **hello** to all our good friends out at the **Death Star** incidentally, who are now at least one week ahead of most Tigers with their gardening preparations for the pending Wet Season and Christmas shopping...

LONDON BURNING

“The Web of Life - Man did not weave the web of life; He is merely a strand within it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.”

Ted Perry (circa 1970)

I remember sitting in the Southern Stand at the MCG on **25 April 2001**, watching the almighty **Essendon Bombers** dismantle **Collingwood** like a BMW parked overnight at the Karama Shops – *oh those were indeed the days!*

Early in the first quarter, a large flock of **Collingwood fans** (*what's the collective noun for evil monkeys?*) started roundly and loudly ‘booing’ Essendon great **Michael Long** when he took possession of the ball. I was quite surprised at this, as by that stage the game had really only just started, and Long had surely not done anything yet to offend your average Collingwood fan (*unless without my knowing he had refrained from smoking until he had completed Primary School, and/ or had tied up his own shoelaces in public?*).

So I turned to the nearest Collingwood fan and approaching ‘him’ very carefully, I asked what had so passionately taken the offence of him and his Collingwood ~~vermin~~ brethren. He indignantly informed me that it was because of the large ‘hip and shoulder’ (bump) that **Michael Long** had given to a player called **Troy Simmonds** in the AFL Grand Final.

“But that was back in 2000”, I said. ‘Yeh’ he grunted as he helped his five-year-old crack open a VB. *“Which was played in September last year.”* “Yeh” he grunted again. *“Which was played against Melbourne, who is one of Collingwood’s arch-rivals?”* I continued, not entirely sure whether I was on ‘candid camera’ and the whole of the Collingwood Army was actually in on the joke.

“Well that is, without fail, one of the worst reasons I have ever heard for doing anything!” I finally said and left the man and his kind to wallow in their own collective nonsense.

Well those words pretty much continued to ring true until the news of the recent spate of **London ‘mob’ violence** hit our news stands (social networks) in August 2011. (*continued over page*).



Dumb & Dumber...sometimes one fears for the wellbeing of our Human Race in times like these!

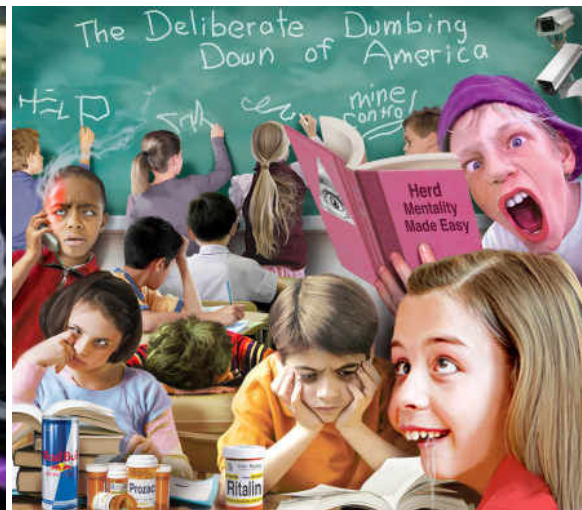
Continued...

If anyone has both the time and inclination to try convince me that the actions of those committing these mass acts of violence are anything other than the manifestation of the boredom and destructive tendencies of a bunch of underwhelmingly unintelligent thugs and gutter-dwelling opportunists bereft of any legitimate cause, protest or reason, then I would be most delighted to hear them on that.

And for those out there who were putting the ‘twit’ in ‘twitter’ (putting plastic fantastic **Shane Warne** out of a job for a few days) and like social networks by inciting others to join in such activities, shame on you - you truly belong in a Zoo!

Thankfully there are enough strong-minded and strong-willed people left on the Planet to see that sanity has prevailed and that a community (yes, even in London, the largest city in Europe) will be able to collectively mend itself and bring an abrupt end to a Chapter of her story that was as destructive as it was been senseless.

Incidentally, the above **Ted Perry** quote was written prior to the advent of the Internet, but it seems to be equally applicable in these modern times!



Burning questions...the London riots of August 2011...seemed about as pointless as a **Collingwood school!**

'WHAT'S COOKING' AT THE DEN

"There is no sincerer love, than the love for food."
George Bernard Shaw

With Finals just around the corner and the 2011 Club Championships well within Nightcliff CC's grasp, it will be all the more important that all Tigers are eating well, and what better way to eat well than with a home-cooked meal!

So delete Domino's Pizza from that speed dial (except perhaps for you **Kyle MacKenzie**, or you might lose your job!) and wrap your laughing gear around some traditional middle Eastern cooking, with all the wondrous accompanying smells and colors of a fantastic favourite that is also relatively easy to make – **Butter Chicken**.

TOP-5 REASONS WHY COOKING AT HOME IS A SURE WINNER!

1. Cooking at home is a fantastic ability to express yourself – it's like finger painting with food, you are the artist and the dinner plate is your blank canvass.
2. It makes great economic sense – and any leftovers can be properly stored away, including frozen in portions so you can relive that majestic culinary masterpiece once again.
3. Cooking is quite therapeutic and relaxing – from the aromas of those natural ingredients wafting through your house to the sensual pleasure of creating a meal, whether it is a gourmet five-course meal or a BBQ spread that you have nailed, it will give you a tremendously fulfilling sense of pleasure and pride.
4. If you cop food poisoning, there's not too far to go before you can lie down in the sanctuary of your own bed. Or the toilet floor.
5. If you get lucky on a dinner-date....well hey, **see 4/ above**. Except for maybe the toilet part...well, up to you really, we're not here to tell you how to live your life.

BUTTER CHICKEN

Ingredients + Method - Serves 6

40g butter
 2 tablespoons (40ml) vegetable oil
 4 large skinless, boneless chicken thighs, cut into bite-sized pieces
 1 onion, diced 3 cloves garlic, minced
 2 teaspoons curry powder
 1 tablespoon Indian curry paste
 2 teaspoons tandoori masala
 1 teaspoon garam masala
 140g tomato paste 15 green cardamom pods
 1 (400ml) tin coconut milk 1 cup plain yoghurt
 pinch salt to taste

MMM, BUTTER CHICKEN! - CONTINUED

We'll leave yourself plenty of time to let this one cook in a **slow cooker/crock pot** – preparation time will take about **15 minutes**, and allow **6 hours** for this baby to cook. Every nanosecond these wonderful ingredients spent together will be worth it!

METHOD

Melt the butter and vegetable oil in a large fry pan over medium heat. Stir in the chicken, onion and garlic. Cook and stir until the onion has softened and turned translucent, about 10 minutes. Stir in the curry powder, curry paste, tandoori masala, garam masala and tomato paste until no lumps of tomato paste remain. Pour into a slow cooker, and stir in the cardamom pods, coconut milk and yoghurt. Season to taste with salt.

Cook on High 4 to 6 hours, or on Low 6 to 8 hours until the chicken is tender and the sauce has reduced to your desired consistency. **Remove and discard the cardamom pods** before serving.

Some Extra Tips...

Take a needle and thread and pierce the needle through the top of the **cardamom pod**. Continue with all the cardamom pods and then tie the ends together in a knot so it looks like a ring (you don't have to do this if you don't want the extra step...it just makes it easy to remove and nobody crunches down on a big bitter cardimon pod).

Also, you may even like to crush about 30 – 50g of **macadamia nuts** and add into the mix.



Mmmm, home cooked **butter chicken!**

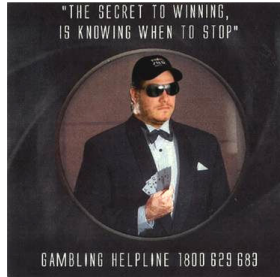
“And do as adversaries do in law (and cricket!), strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends.”

William Shakespeare (The Taming of the Shrew)

ODD SOCKS

THE NCC HEALTH & WELFARE TIP OF THE WEEK

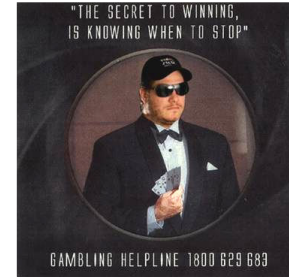
Never purchase take-away food from an outlet within two shop fronts of a Vet surgery!



ON THE REX HUNT

"I Punt therefore I Am"

(*Conditions apply and **GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY** kids! If you have to sell other people's stuff to place a bet, then find another hobby!)



\$200.00 on Geelong to win by 1-39 points at \$2.40 = \$480.00 return

Danger Will Robinson, Danger! Well this Section is very much like the boy pushing the barrow – the job is in front of us! A massive \$150.00 down for the Season, after the plucky **Swans** got within 7 of the invincible unminceable **Pies** and the West Coast Coolers upset the Blues way back in Round whatever!

We need a hero! If we do not strike (**Nightcliff**) gold soon, our only return for 2011 may well be **Sammy 'Down for 40 50' Gibson's** dough for tipping the Bombers would finish 11th or worse in 2011! So we are going to raid the 'cookie jar' and cobble together a massive **\$200.00 this month** from a few months savings where the slackers here have not churned out a *Growl*...and whack it all straight on the Pies to be Pussy-whipped by a well-coached **Geelong** outfit that is primed to the minute and has had a far smoother journey into the Grand Final! A big thanks to those **Hawks** for seriously roughing up the Pies last week!

This will be the **last AFL Grand Final played in October** for a while, and thus the protective charm preventing **Collingwood** from winning on the last Saturday in September (safely in place since 1958!) will ensure the Pies hopefully **never** win the AFL flag again. Unless there is another fricken tie! And let's face it Pies fans, outgoing coach **Mick Malthouse** (and **Sean Kenny**) will be crying whatever the result is!

So get on board the purring Cats in the Big One...they won't totally destroy them and the Pies will be reasonably competitive, so we are more than happy with this as our final punting Act for 2011!



Samuel Gibson...the only punter travelling worse than the *Growl* at the minute!

JOKE

MUD CRAB & SAND CRAB

Mud Crab and **Sand Crab** were the very best of friends. Every single day they would play together on the beach, swimming in the water, playing on the rocks, frolicking in the sand. But sadly one day, Sand Crab died.

Mud Crab was beside himself with grief. He moped around for a few years by himself kicking pebbles along the beach, living as a loner...until he too dies and off he goes up to Heaven.

Mud Crab was so excited that he would be seeing his life-long friend once again! But when he got there, **St Peter** checked his list and said *“Nup sorry, he’s not here. He must have gone down to the other place.”*

Well Mud Crab was inconsolable again and wailed like a **Port Adelaide** fan. Had Sand Crab been leading a double life? So he asks St Peter, *“I have to see him, he was my life-long friend, is there anything you can do?”* St Peter could see Mud Crab was in a bad way. *“Look, we don’t usually do this, but you’ve led an exemplary life, so I will give you a 3-day leave pass to go down and see your mate one last time.”* he said. *“But take this Harp with you. It is crucial you bring it back with you otherwise you will be left stranded between Heaven and Hell.”*



Mud Crab’s sprits soared high once again and off he went down a separate escalator straight to **Hell**. Well when he got there, it was dead-set like walking down **Mitchell Street!** Bars, brothels, casinos, alcohol, fights, burning fires, drug dealers, ex-CLP politicians, Tracy Village players...the works! On one corner he saw a **massive multi-storied Disco**, with a gigantic neon picture of **Sand Crab** on the front. Sand Crab owned his own Disco here!

Well **Mud Crab** had a ball partying with **Sand Crab** for 3 whole days, even though he did not approve of what went down in his Club! And as their time together came to an end, he left contentedly ready for a Heavenly future, having said a final ‘good bye’ to his great friend.

But as he was heading up the escalators back up to the **Pearly Gates**, a sudden thought hit Mud Crab. He started sobbing uncontrollably. A man behind him tapped him on his little crabby shoulder and asked him, *“What’s wrong mate...aren’t you on your way up to Heaven?”*

Mud Crab replied as he continued to sob...wait for it...*“I left my harp in Sand Crab’s Disco!”*



FESTIVAL OF THE HOOF 2011!

Well now that Your cricket whites have begun the off season molding process, and with the Pies about to be well cooked in the AFL Big One, our attention turns to the **Spring Carnival 2011** - the '*Festival of the Hoof*'.

Just when we thought we were facing a Spring Carnival bereft of champions like dual Cox Plate winner **So You Think**, after he was sold for a Chinese Census amount to **Aiden O'Brien** and his northern hemisphere cohorts, we have suddenly encountered an exhilarating crop of 3-year old colts and fillies, who threaten to take on some of the more seasoned types, particularly in the Cox Plate.

Atlantic Jewel has stamped herself as a massive future star and appears to have the **Thousand Guineas** at her mercy after crunching her opposition like a T-Rex running through a Tokyo shopping mall, running faster closing sectionals even than spruik 3-year old super colts **Helmet** and **Smart Missile** at Caulfield last weekend in winning the Guineas Prelude for the fillies. She won't run in the Cox Plate but she will surely romp home in the Guineas before she spells.

Helmet and **Smart Missile** are poised to run and tipped to run well in the Cox Plate after contesting the Caulfield Guineas for 3-year olds. But despite the boom on the pair, they will face tough opposition in NZ middle distance star **Jimmy Choux**, who will relish the 2040m of the Cox Plate and **Rekindled Interest**, who has graduated to Weight-for-Age ranks in 2011 and seems well placed in both the **Turnbull Stakes** (2000m at Flemington at Sunday) as well as in the Cox Plate. **Rekindled Interest** has won well twice at the Moonee Valley track, beating up on WFA star **Whobegotyou** over his optimum track & distance last time out.

We will happily 'pot' current Melbourne Cup favourite **December Draw**, who has not only not run further than 2000m in his equine existence, but he also does not look like he will stay the grueling two miles of the Cup. We are much happier to place our faith in imported horse **Midas Touch**, who will run in both Cups, both of which he is in up to his eyeballs and looks to have more run in his legs than **Salman Rushdie** leaving a book launch and is sure to go very close to landing one or both Cups.

And in the **Caulfield Cup**, one mare who is progressing nicely in her lead-up races is AJC Oaks winner **Absolutely**, who should also run well in the Turnbull on her way to the Caulfield Cup, where we reckon she is a live chance, particularly if there is some precipitation falling to the Earth before the starter's gun is fired!

The *Growl's Stable of Glory & Fame!* **Jimmy Choux** (Cox Plate), **Rekindled Interest** (Cox Plate, Turnbull Stkes), **Midas Touch** (both Cups), **Atlantic Jewel** (Thousand Guineas), **Absolutely** (Caulfield Cup).

Omen Tip: **Jukebox Jury** for the Melbourne Cup! Current odds about \$41.00.



Left/Middle – **Jimmy Choux** & **Rekindled Interest** – we reckon we have the **Cox Plate** covered right here.
Right – **Nathan Jury** at least will surely be riding “**Jukebox Jury**” all the way to the first Tuesday in November!

LOOK-ALIKES

Can you spot the difference?



Wing men. Tiger's own **Wing Ho Tam** and NSW cricketing wannabe **Richard Chee-quee**. Probably a 2011 winner right there, particularly with Winger's sudden batting resurgence!



Rising stars! Queenslander and Tigers' star **Josh Connelly** and AFL 2011 Rising Star **Dyson Heppell**.



Tigers 2011 run machine **Michael Pearson** cooling off at the Wave Pool...and **Moto Moto!**

THE END. SIX LEGITIMATE DELIVERIES (OVER).