



# Inside a young outsider

**F**ORMER Horsham resident Patrick Mangan has always felt like an outsider.

Mangan and his family migrated to western Victoria from England in the late 1960s.

While his father worked as a general practitioner, Mangan, then a young boy, went about learning the ways of his new country.

But one part of his English life stayed with him throughout, his love of soccer and in particular English club Arsenal.

Mangan has written a memoir about his formative years as a soccer-mad migrant growing up in Swan Hill, Horsham and Ballarat.

The book is titled *Offsider* — A Memoir and will be in stores on Saturday.

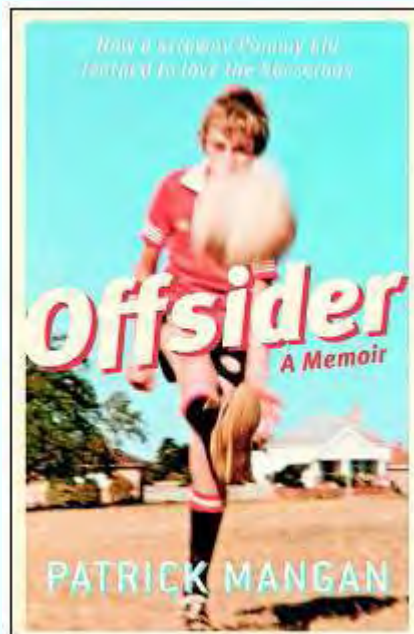
Mangan covers his early years in Swan Hill, his childhood and early school years at St Michael and St John's Primary School and St Brigid's College in Horsham and his later years in Ballarat while dispensing the story with his haphazard rise to becoming the Sunday Age soccer writer in the late 1990s, highlighted by covering the Socceroos' heart-breaking loss to Iran in a World Cup qualifier at the MCG in 1997.

The author speaks with great affection about his childhood and the values he learnt growing up in Horsham along with his determination to continue his love of the round-ball game despite it being almost non-existent in his new home.

Mangan captures his inner child as he retells the enormous culture shock of moving from leafy North London to Victoria's wheat belt.

Wimmera readers will appreciate his depictions of the region in the 1970s along with his references to his rite of passage moments such as school swimming sports, high school and junior soccer matches.

His description of Haven resident Kel Duncan as the 'Pele of under-12 school



swimming' should bring a few laughs to Horsham locals.

But Mangan's memoir also has a heavy dose of his experiences following his beloved Arsenal from a great distance waiting for the soccer scores in *The Age* newspaper on Mondays.

Mangan also covers his early work writing a soccer fan magazine at school and his friendship along with his work at Soccer Australia magazine in Melbourne which included a memorable photo shoot of Steve Waugh wearing a Socceroos uniform.

Overall Mangan's memoir mixes the serious with the irreverent, the ups and downs of Arsenal with his own life in the Wimmera, and comes out with a story round-ball fans and Wimmera residents could both take plenty of joy in.

**Roy Ward**