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# An enthralling tale of love war and a football tribe

To a Victorian the name Collingwood means a Football Club a fiercely tribal Club which embraces not only the Club but the whole suburb.

This book, published as Collingwood played in yet another Grand Final is the true story of Collingwood friends Malcolm "Doc" Seddon, Louie Newby and Percy "Paddy" Rowe and covers the late 19th century to the late 1950s.

Author Paul Daley has woven together family tales, newspaper articles, military records, football club histories and archival records to tell the story of the three friends, the football club and Anzac Day.

Doc and Louie were Collingwood originals, having been born in the suburb, and grew up as childhood sweethearts.

Percy or Paddy Rowe as he was known arrived from Victorian scrub country and was an immediate star in the community. He boxed under an assumed name for John Wren – the all-pervasive slum millionaire, community patron and sports promoter – and played for

Collingwood as a star whose dash and panache made him one of the most exiting and revered players of his era.

Doc and Paddy played together for Collingwood. Doc introduced Paddy to Louie and he swept her off her feet and married her.

Shortly thereafter the First World War intervened and Doc and Paddy went off together to fight leaving Louie to raise new born Percy Junior.

In December 1916 Paddy was killed in action in France. Doc continued his war service until the Armistice after which he came home and married Louie.

However, in 1917 he sent two horseshoes to Australia: one went to his mother and the other to Victoria Park the Headquarters of the Collingwood Football Club when Collingwood was about to enter the Finals.

The horseshoe was elaborately patterned and engraved with the words "Good Luck" and "To CFC from Doc 1917 France".

As Daley says "for the remainder of the season it was taken into the

Collingwood change rooms before each match – just as 90 something years later it would be repeatedly brought into the Magpies rooms by the Collingwood President Eddie Maguire to inspire his players and remind them of their Club's rich history".

Daley has woven together a rather lovely story. He followed the story of Doc and Louie and Paddy and travelled to the battlefields of France to see where Paddy died and is buried. He has talked to the relatives and decedents of the Seddons and Newbys.

Interwoven throughout is the story of the Collingwood Football Club. Identities such as John Wren, Archbishop Daniel Mannix and Frank Hardy appear.

One should be a devotee of what is now known as AFL to fully appreciate this tale and for those with these qualifications it is well told and a good read.

**Collingwood – A Love Story. Paul Daley. Victory. \$34.99**

JMH.  
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