



6 July 2009

Dr Rob Hess
School of Sport and Exercise Science
Victoria University
PO Box 14428
Melbourne Victoria 8001
AUSTRALIA

Dear Rob

ASSH BOOK AWARD 2009

The Honours and Awards Committee of the Australian Society for Sport History (ASSH) is delighted to advise you that your book, *A National Game: The History of Australian Rules Football* (2008) written with Matthew Nicholson, Bob Stewart and Gregory De Moore, and published by Penguin, has been awarded joint winner (with Andrew Lemon's *The History of Australian Thoroughbred Racing in our Time*) of the ASSH Book Award for 2009.

Commenting on *A National Game*, the Honours and Awards Committee noted that "Hess, Nicholson, Stewart and De Moore present an impressive history of the Victorian game of football and its attempt to win over all Australians. *A National Game* is the most complete coverage of the Victorian game produced. Above all, *A National Game* sets Australian football in its national context. Its narrative is interspersed with insightful analysis and includes the darker sides of the game. *A National Game* is based on a wide range of primary and secondary sources, and the four contributors have accomplished an amazing feat, writing a book as though there was only one author."

Congratulations again on your outstanding book.

Yours sincerely

Professor Douglas Booth
Honours and Awards Committee
Australian Society for Sport History

cc Dr Tara Magdalinski (President, ASSH); Anne Rogan (Penguin)

School of Physical Education - Te Kura Akoraka Whakakori – Office of the Dean

PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054, New Zealand
Tel 64 3 479 8991 • Fax 64 3 479 8309 • Email physical-education@otago.ac.nz
<http://physed.otago.ac.nz>