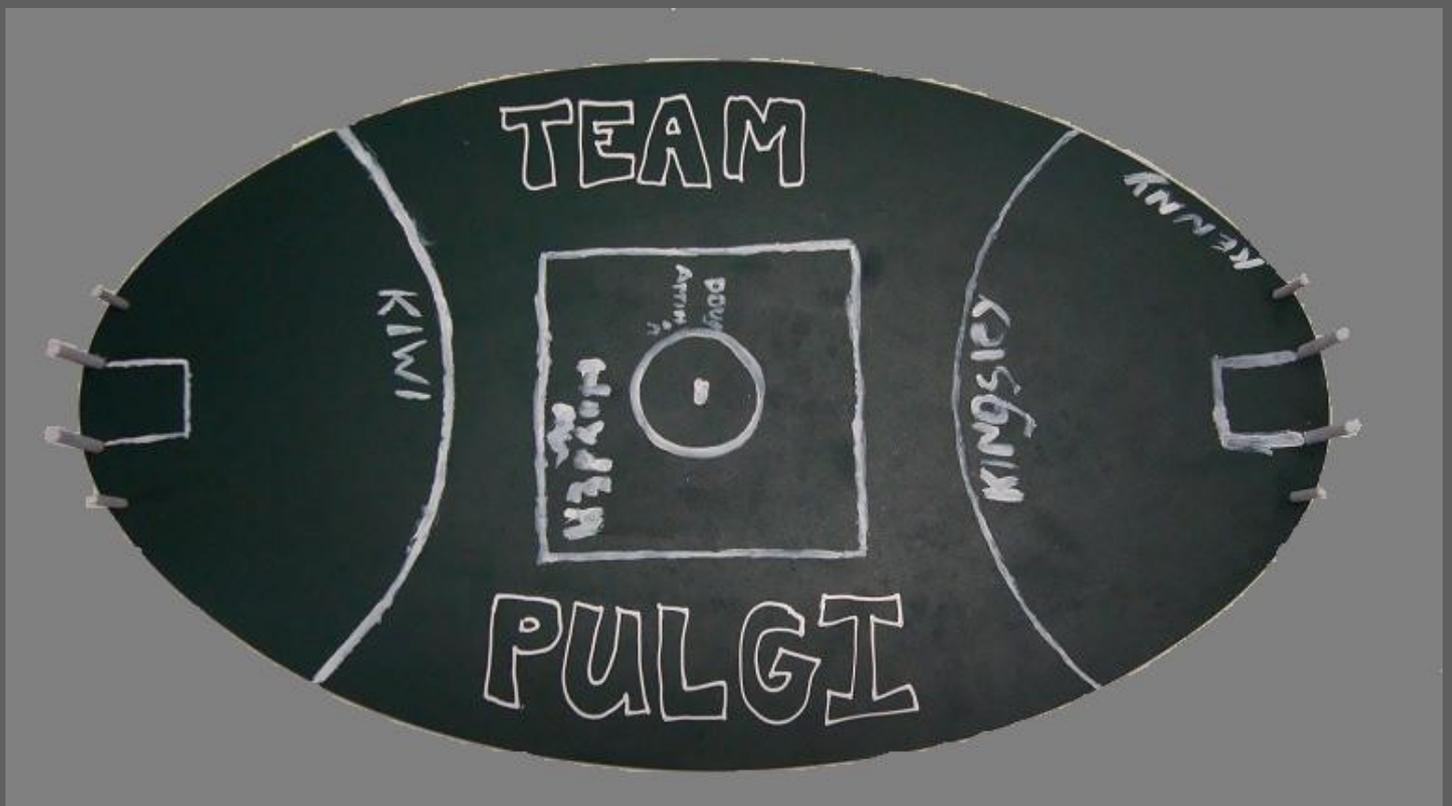


Team Pulgi



Team of Life Collective Document 2010

Our Team

We are a group of five men. We all love football. It inspires and motivates us. We are dedicated to our group, our team. We turn up to our meetings with respect and compassion for others and take ownership of our group with pride.

The following document describes how and why football is important to us. We have analysed the strengths and traits of our favourite players, what these traits mean to us and how we reflect on them and use them in our own lives. We hope others might recognise these strengths in their own lives and share our love of sport.

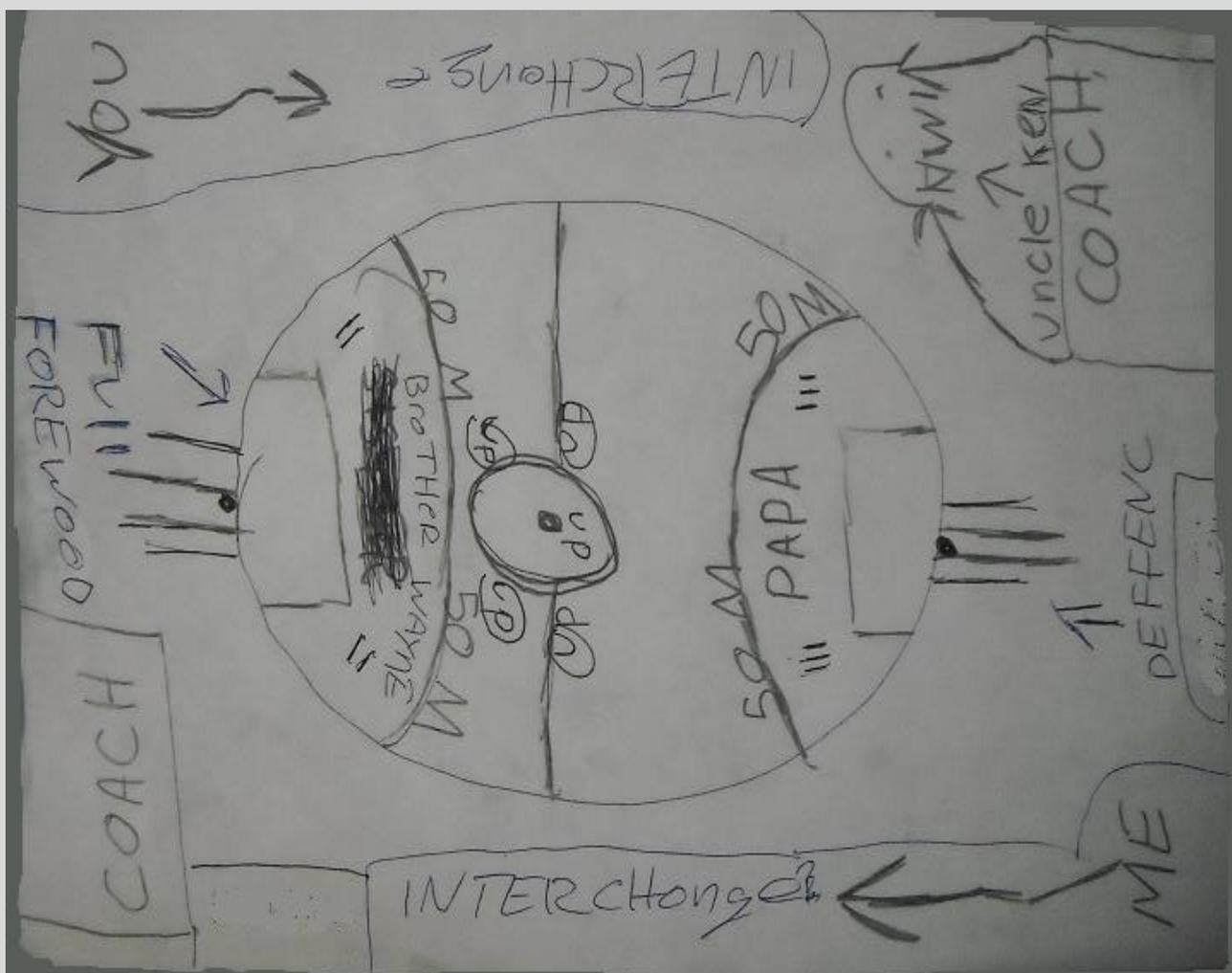
We have used the knowledge passed onto us from our cultures and families to survive some pretty tough times and score goals in our teams of life. We would love to hear from others about the skills they have used to survive hard times.

Please contact us via Matt, mcannon@anglicare-sa.org.au

Team Pulgi wants to acknowledge that this land that we live on is Kurna land and that the Kurna people are the traditional owners. We acknowledge that the Kurna people have social, spiritual and historical connections to this land and their connections are as strong today, as they have always been.

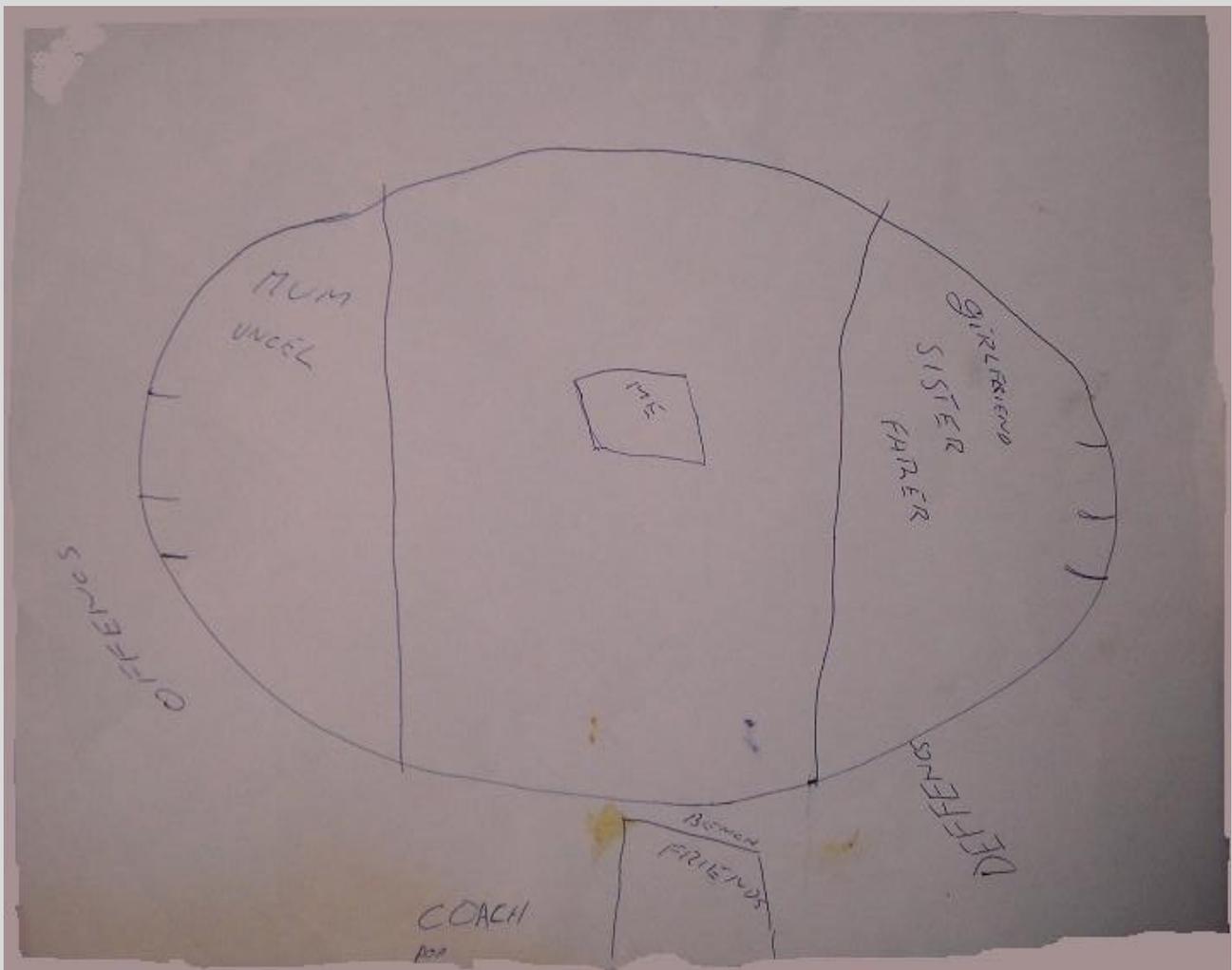
Don't stop till the final siren rings

I love all games. I really like football the best. AFL. I've loved this game for five or six years. I love Port Adelaide, they are the best team in the world. They have shown me great skills, energy, goal kicking, goals, out of bounds on the full. I like the Corne's brothers because they have taught me about good skills, strong training, health and friendships. These are all important to me. In my life I be like the Corne's brothers by playing hard, keep going, kick heaps of goals and don't stop till the final siren rings. I've also learned these skills from my brother, god and Jesus. God and Jesus taught me to love the game and Port Adelaide.



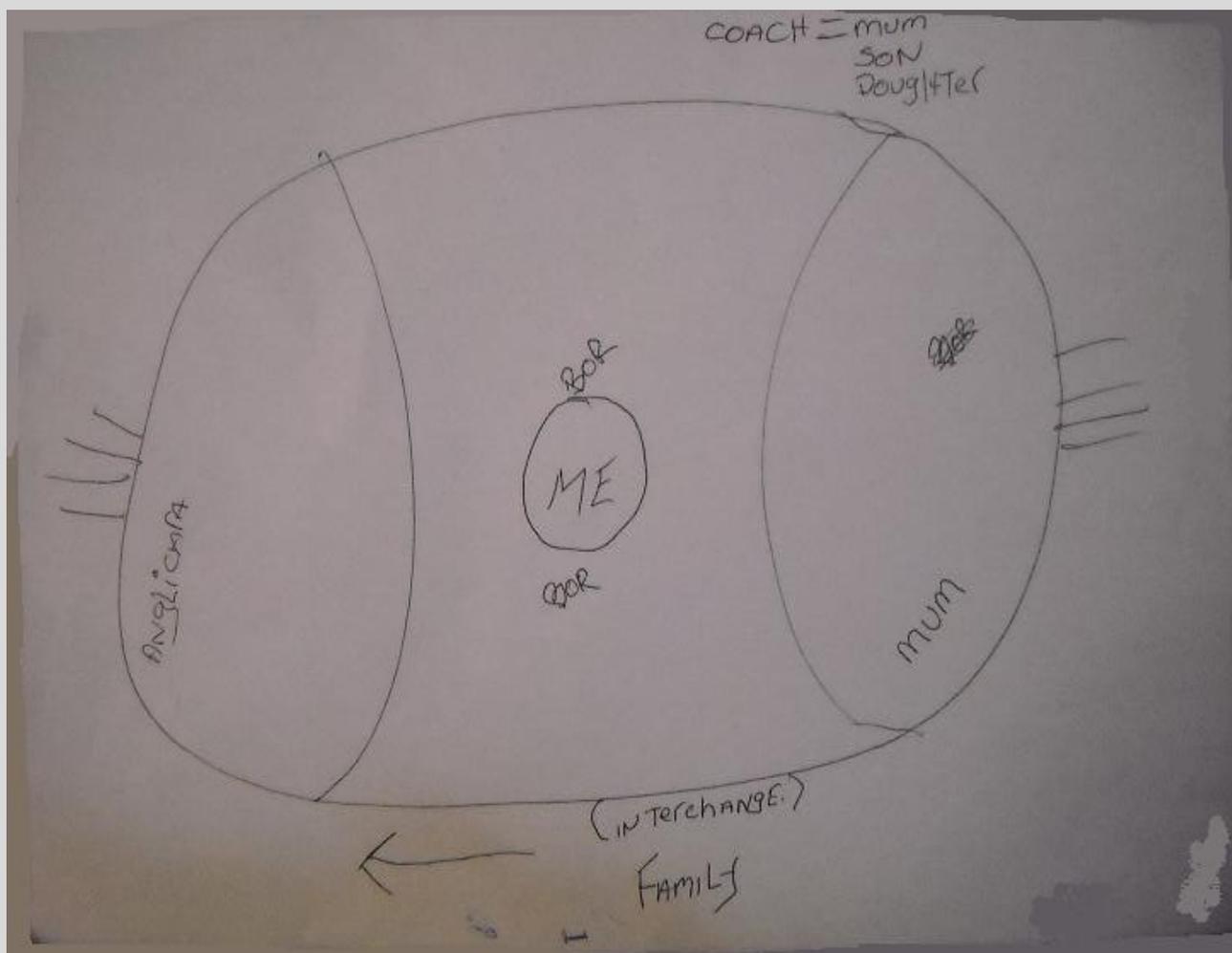
Courage and Determination

My game is NRL. I look up to Billy Slater from the storm. He gets right in there and does what he has to do and doesn't worry about getting hurt. He shows courage and determination. I also like teamwork, when I was in Melbourne I used to play in a team and we had a lot of fun. My father and uncle taught me to love all types of footy. My father used to play for Essendon and my uncle for the Tigers. I've enjoyed sports for twenty five years, The skills I've learned have always been there, I've just bottled them up. Lately I've come out of my shell and people are surprised because they're not used to seeing that side of me. I try to show my strengths, sometimes it's hard. I know if people get to know me, they'll see my courage and determination.



Watching and Listening

I am a rugby man, a union man. I have loved AFL for zero years. My mates taught me to love the game. As for footy, I go for Collingwood. I like to watch them play but don't totally understand the game. I like the coordination they show. They have great skills, I like goal kicking and the skills in the ruck. My favourite players are Barry Hall and Tony Lockett. They are strong fella's who kick the goals and don't take any crap. They give everything the best go they can like I try to do. I've learned this by watching and listening. I like kicking goals and showing people that I can run my own life.



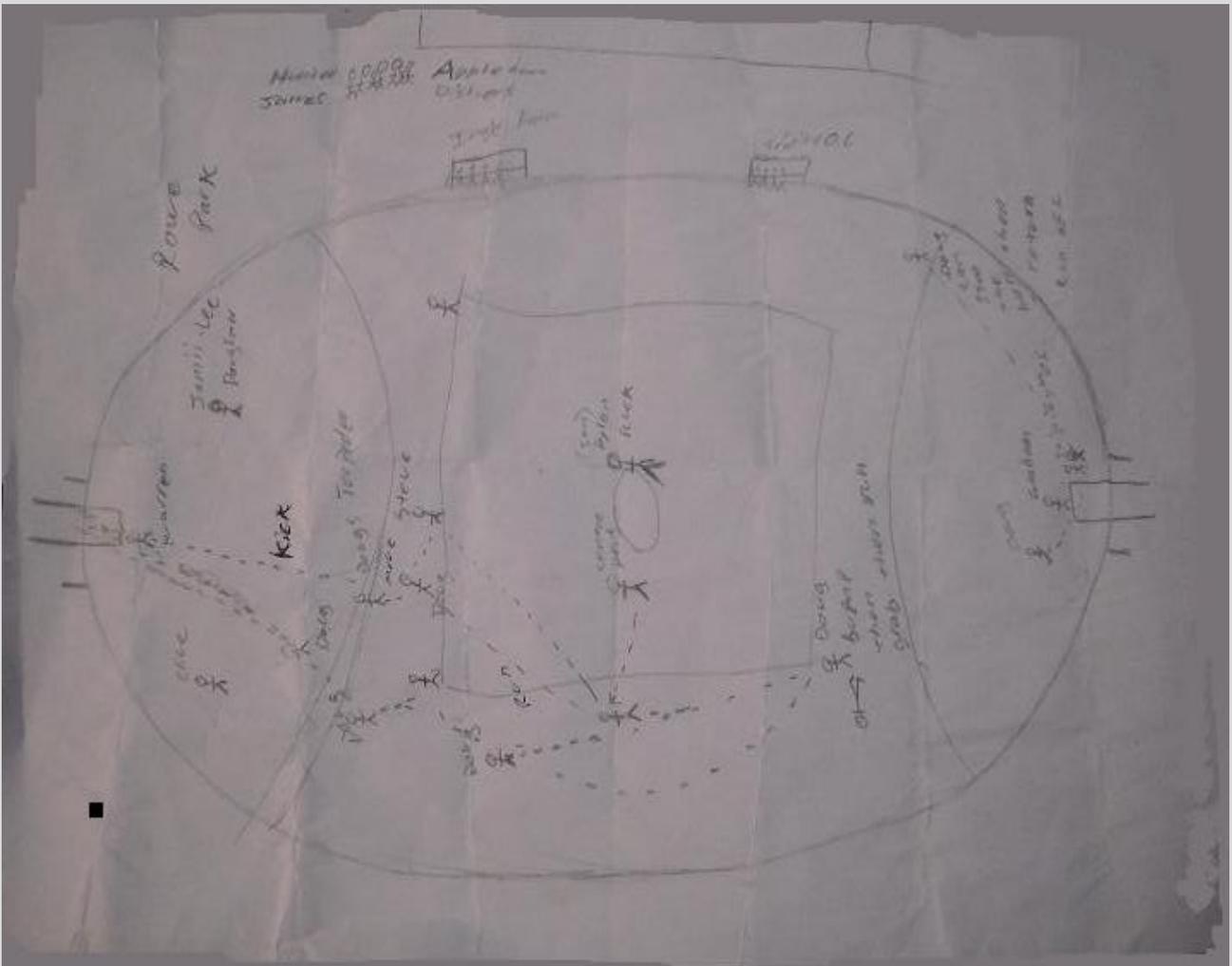
Play on the ball and kick long

Go the Crows! Back to back premierships in the late nineties. I've loved footy for twenty five years, since I was fourteen. My uncle's taught me, and God. The game is really good for you because it makes you fit and healthy. The best players are Kurt Tippett and Andrew McCleod. They play up forward and kick the goals. They play on the ball and kick long. I like these skills. My coach and my team members tell me to be like them, to use their skills. In football and in life you just have to get in there and do it. Do a great job, run straight through and hit every contest hard. Years ago I saw this, from the Elders, and to me it has always been important.



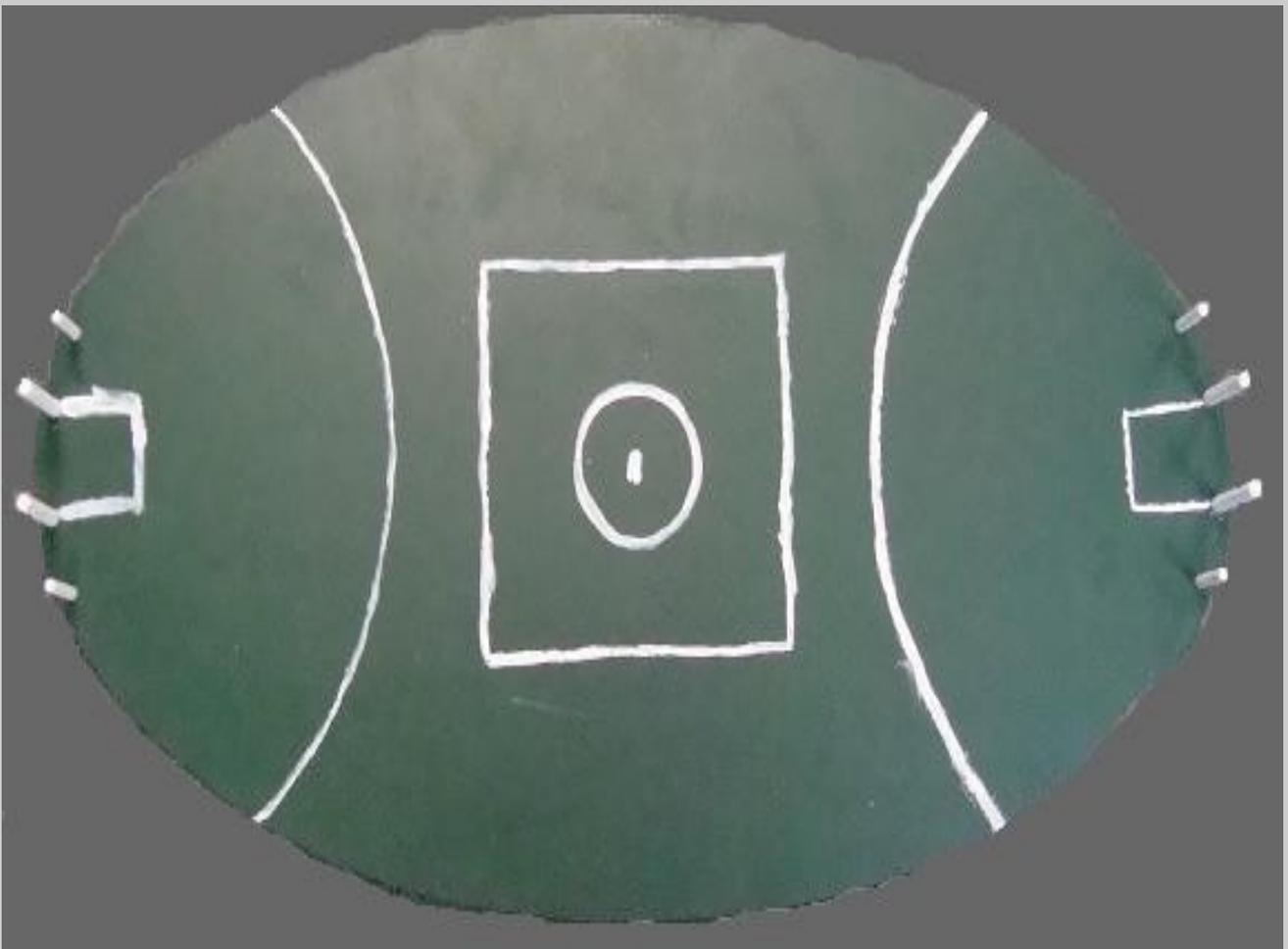
Long histories

I've loved the game from the beginning, for over forty one years. It's a part of history now that Port Adelaide won the grand final in 2004. I've always loved the game and Port Adelaide but Tredrea can piss off! My family has taught me about how it all started. They taught me about fella's who used to play in the beginning and how balls were made from possum skins. I like Burgoyne because he's a legend and Byron Pickett because he runs strong and kicks ass! I like using these skills. I've always been a Magpie supporter and have learned these skills from my family and the people who invented footy.



Tackling hard times by making a new life

Since I have been in Adelaide and on the program I have come out of my shell and made some good friends. Because of the friends I had in Tasmania and Melbourne I was getting in trouble with the cops and doing the green. Now that part of my life is finished and I'm starting my new life over with my new friends and my girlfriend. I'm not looking back, only forward. I'm making a new life plus I'm going back to school and doing an IT computer course to better myself and my life.



Hit every contest hard

**We all really love footy, in one form or another,
A game once taught to us from a Father, uncle
or brother.**

**We love to watch the players and the skills that
they show,**

**From kicking goals, playing hard and giving it
their best go.**

**They show us how to be a team,
to try to play as one,**

**They show us sometimes it's hard,
you play life on the run.**

**We play life tough, we run straight through,
we try to stay on task,**

**We try to be like our favourite player,
but Tredrea can kiss our ass.**

**We show courage and determination,
a strength from within,**

**Like our heroes past and present,
who played with possum skins.**

**We love our game and respect the players
who have starred,**

**The game is like our lives,
we hit every contest hard.**

It takes a Team to win the game!

Positions on our Teams of Life

DEFENCE

The position of defence on each of our Team's of life is the person who helps the most to protect our dreams and help's to protect what is precious to us.

ATTACK

The position of attack describes who assists and encourages us in trying to score goals.

CENTRE

The centre of our Teams is us! We are the centre of our own lives. The centre position can also include anyone who we feel is with us at the centre of our lives, of our teams.

INTERCHANGE BENCH

The interchange bench represents people who are sometimes on our team and sometimes are not. These people might be very helpful to us on our teams and on other occasions not helpful at all. These team members float in and out of our lives and are therefore placed on our interchange bench.

COACH

Our coach on our Team of Life is the person in our lives who has taught us the most, the person we have learned our life lessons from.

The people who play the position of Defence in our Teams of Life

My Mum plays Defence for me because she is a strong role model, strong minded and stronger than my Dad.

My Sister plays Defence on my team because she's my number one sister. She pulls me into gear to behave myself. She helps me stick to my contract.

My Brother plays Defence because he plays the same footy as me, and he one the premiership. He looks after me.

My girlfriend, sister and father are the Defence on my team. If I have a problem and need to talk I can call my girlfriend anytime I want to talk. She is there for me when I need her.

All my family, the whole lot of them play Defence on my Team. My mum encourages me. She has played basketball and netball.

The people who play the position of Attack on our Teams of Life

Anglicare is the attack on my team. They opened my eyes, they encourage me to do things when I need/ want them done.

Papa is in the position of attack on my team. He taught me well, how to behave myself. He taught me the rules, don't do this, don't do that. Be home on time.

My Cousin and Sister are the attack in my team. They tell me I can go anywhere I want. They encourage me and that.

My Uncle is in the position of attack on my team. When I was little he used to tell me to go after my dreams and to do what I want to do. Don't listen to no-one. He also pulled me into line, when I stepped out of line he kicked me up the butt to get me in the right direction.

All of them, the whole lot are in attack. My footy coach, all the players, the young fella's.

The people who play the position of Interchange in our Teams of Life.

My Brothers and Uncle are on my interchange bench.

They're in a different country, I don't get to talk to them much, only every now and then. I don't get to see them at all.

My bench consists of Uncle Doug, Uncle Kiwi, Uncle Ken, Uncle Kingsley and one of the Anglicare workers.

Kiwi, Hayden, Ken and Doug are the crew on my interchange.

My Step Father is on my interchange bench on my team. Whenever I ring up to speak to my Mum and she's not there I can always speak to my Step Father. If no-one else is there I can always speak to him about doing things properly and not hurting anyone.

On my interchange are my Mum and Aunty Alice and Aunty Bell.

Half of them have moved to different areas. I talk to them every now and then.

The people who play the position of coach in our Teams of Life.

My Mum, my two oldest brothers, my Uncle, my deceased Daughter and Son are all my coach. They've taught me to be strong. My mother was always there, she got me out of jail, out of boy's homes, she was always there. She's now deceased, she's been gone for ten years now.

My coach is my Grandpa and Grandma. They put me in line, taught me how to behave myself. No F...ing around, if I do I'll get my ass kicked.

On my team the Elders are my coach.

They sit down and have a yarn. Told me stories about what they've gone through. They taught stories in a group then we pass it down to the next generation.

My Poppa and Aunty are the coaches on my team.

I learnt a lot about fixing cars, changing engine parts. My Aunty taught me how to cook properly.

My Mum is my coach. My Mum taught me English and about Aboriginal spirituality and culture. I've learned a lot from books, I've read them all. I've learned things by picking them up as I go along.

Team Pulgi attended and helped out with the Elizabeth BOSSE Tree of Life Women's group for their graduation ceremony at Tauondi College, Port Adelaide. There was a healing circle, singing, BBQ, lot's of laughter. Many of us were moved by the powerful stories told by the women about how they used their skills, knowledge, families and culture to survive hard times. Team Pulgi wrote a letter to the women's group letting them know what it meant to join together and help each other out.

To the BOSSE Elizabeth Tree of Life Women's Group,

We have written this letter to let you know what it meant to us to attend your graduation ceremony at Tauondi College on the 26th July 2010.

We would like to thank everyone for having us at your ceremony. We particularly liked the fire, it was nice and warm. It meant a lot to us having everyone throwing leaves on the fire and coming together. Some of us have been to a lot of different ceremonies. In New Zealand, our ceremonies involved walking on glass and fire and throwing knives at trees to help get our grief out. This ceremony was different to others we've been to.

We thought it was really good how you all addressed violence and what you've been through. We understood your stories even though they are not exactly like ours. Some of the stories were hard to hear, but what we heard was deadly. Your stories were courageous and very inspiring. We hope that your stories can be used to help other women in the same situation.

We really liked how your group shared your stories and strategies. We learned a lot about how women feel and about how you deal with your feelings. One of us said: "After the ceremony, I went home and read all your stories and then wrote my own story and presented it to our men's group."

We have not been through the same as you but we also have been dealt violence in our lives in different ways. Sometimes violence has been around in our lives, other times we have comforted women when their fathers have beaten them. One of us told a story of saving someone from committing suicide.

We don't think it's right that women get raped. Your stories made us think about how we don't tolerate violence. Some of us have similar stories to the stories you told.

We really liked the singing and the stories behind the songs. We think it showed a lot of courage to do this, to get up and sing. And we were very happy to hear Aunty Joy's speech.

We also liked doing the BBQ and eating the food!

We enjoyed the presentation of the plaque we made to give to you. Sorry we didn't have time to finish it, but we will as soon as we can. It was a great day and an honour to be a part of it.

We would like to use the courage and strength of your stories to help us in our men's group if this is okay with all of you. We do things a bit differently in our men's group, but in the end we are reaching toward the same goals of bettering ourselves.

Now we would like to invite you to attend our graduation on the 20th September in the community garden at the Elizabeth Mission at 12pm. We will be sharing the stories we have gathered in our group and would really like it if you could be there with us.

Thanks again for sharing your graduation ceremony with us, it meant a lot!

The Pulgi Men's Group

Tackling Problems

Some really tough things can get in the way of us kicking our goals. Team Pulgi have used many skills to develop a game plan to score goals, even if the game is rigged!

Problems we've tackled

- Homelessness
- Food not being shared with everyone
- Fighting
- Violence

Game Plan

Tackling Homelessness

When I was homeless I knew I had to take the first break, then my mates stepped in and gave me a place to stay. After this, I got Anglicare on board to get a place of my own. Originally I had an attitude of “fuck you, go away.” Now I know I need people to help. I've tackled homelessness by helping myself by joining with others. I learnt this from watching others go down the wrong path. I learnt how to get my act together in jail, 'cause if you don't, you can stay there forever. My grandpa passed on the skills of having a strong mind. He was the chief of our (Maori) tribe. My uncles gave me stories about him being a warrior, to me this is worth a million dollars! Some tips for tackling homelessness, “Get off your ass, open your eyes, there is help out there, don't be scared to use it.”

In Melbourne there wasn't enough housing. I kept getting knocked back. I tackled homelessness by moving from Melbourne to Adelaide and registering with Housing SA. There's more housing in Adelaide. I decided not to give up and keep trying. I did my research about the housing system and found a way through. I learnt these skills of perseverance and determination from my old man. Now that I'm getting older, I'm getting wiser and stronger. Tips for others dealing with homelessness, “Keep going out there and try your hardest to do what you want. Keep trying to do what you want and eventually it will happen. Persevere.”

Tackling Injustice

At Pulgi BBQ some people eat all the food and others miss out. Eat and run, eat and run, 24/7. I spoke to the workers to try and make sure we could all have enough to eat. Communication and respect helps me tackle what's been going on. I learnt how to use respect from my Mum and Aunty Alice.

Making a stand against Fighting

Sometimes fighting gets in the way. I get control of the game again by staying cool calm and collected. I don't react by running amok. I behave myself, respect others, and don't piss them off. I tackle fighting by talking to my workers Brendan or Matt. This helps me calm down, have a break for a while and stay out of it. I learnt these skills from my Elders and uncles. They say, when you get older you'll be like us. Now I am that age it's all coming back. I want to be like these fella's. When fighting takes over I tell others to knock it off. I say "come on fella's calm down. Don't worry about it, relax. Just have a feed. Just get on with life, don't run amok."

Making a stand against Violence

When violence gets the upper hand, I tackle it by joining with others who I know will help stop it. I communicate to everyone else, especially the workers on my team. I learnt how to do this from my Grandpa, Grandma and Dad. They straightened me up. Tips for others standing up to violence, "Go and talk to staff. Stop threatening other people. Talk to staff politely. Act normal in front of other people and be friendly and be happy, not sad."

Our Graduation Ceremony

On the 20th of September 2010, we celebrated all we have achieved in our group. We joined with Tammy's Women's group and met the new Elizabeth Tree of Life Women's Group. We spoke about what is important to us and shared our knowledge and skills with each other. We read our poems and shared our stories with everyone there. We shared a BBQ lunch. The important people in our lives witnessed our stories and were moved by the power of our words.



Celebrating Goals

Team Pulgi has achieved some really significant goals and will keep working together to score more in the future. We celebrated our achievements at our graduation ceremony and hope we can continue to join with others to tackle the problems that have been kicked our way.

We have learnt many skills from our families, friends and culture's. We have a lot of experience taking on the hard tackles and playing on through.

Goals scored by Team Pulgi

- Overcoming Homelessness
- Standing up to Violence
- Stopping the Fighting
- Using respect to tackle Injustice

We aim to score many more!

Future goals for Team Pulgi

- Getting a full-time job
- Finishing school
- Play sport
- Keeping the house clean
- Getting my own place
- Joining the Defence Force

Skills we use to score our goals

- Perseverance and determination
- Getting help from others
- Helping ourselves
- Keeping on top of the everyday jobs
- Researching what's available
- Joining with others to tackle problems
- Keeping fit
- Watching, listening and learning
- Staying cool, calm and collected
- Using respect
- Using the knowledge passed on by our families

This project was made possible by the support of many. We would like to thank and acknowledge the help we received from FaHCSIA, DFC (Exceptional Needs Unit, Homeless Support program), Anglicare SA; the Dulwich Centre, in particular David Denborough and Uncle Wally Malbunka coach of the Hermannsburg Bulldog Football Club, who developed and trained us to do the Team of Life; the amazing men involved, Hayden, Ken, Kingsley, Kiwi and Doug. The Team Pulgi facilitators, Julian Wigg and Robel Asfaw-Tadesse; Jennifer Swan, Brendan Pyne, Matt Cannon, Alicia Charnstrom, Mick Grimley and Chris Marron for backup support; and we would particularly like to acknowledge the creative thinking and courage of Shandy Arlidge for daring to support something new; The Kurna peoples and all of our families, friends and ancestors for making us who we are today.

