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HEAD TO HEAD: Mayor Darryn Lyons and Kevin Sheedy spruik the Giants match.



MAKING HISTORY: The Cats' 1882 VFA team visits Sydney, where their contemporaries will return next week to take on Kevin Sheedy's previous team. Charles Brownlow is sixth from left in the front row.

Sheeds backer of 16-flags bid

By JOHN VAN KLAVEREN

AFL LEGEND Kevin Sheedy has backed a Cats push to rewrite the beginnings of football, lifting Geelong's haul of premierships from nine to 16.

Geelong president Colin Carter's submission to officially recognise 20 years of "neglected" Victorian Football Association (VFA) history will also change the number of various clubs' premierships.

Sheedy, an ambassador for Greater Western Sydney Giants - which plays Geelong in two weeks - was at Kardinia Park for a promotional visit to encourage fans to journey to Spotless Stadium for the clash.

Representing the newest entrant to the competition, Sheedy told the *Independent* Carter's idea merited "serious consideration".

"I know it changes the number of premierships won by clubs and

some might get a bit uptight about that but that's okay," Sheedy said.

"We have to remember it's just a game."

Sheedy said he was sure the AFL would do its research with the assistance of well-credentialed football historians before making any decisions.

An AFL commissioned group of historians and researchers, including the AFL's Col Hutchinson, will consider the submission.

The research into football's early years will also consider crediting some of football's early champions with games not currently on record.

The former greats include Geelong's Charles Brownlow, after whom the AFL's highest honour is named, and William 'Ben' Hall.

The most contentious part of the move is AFL clubs gaining premierships won in the VFA.

Nine clubs established the

VFA in 1877 as a centrally-organised competition awarding its annual premiership to the best-performed club.

Founding clubs Carlton, Essendon, Geelong, North Melbourne, Melbourne and St Kilda later added Fitzroy, Richmond, Footscray and Collingwood.

Eight clubs broke away to form Victorian Football League (VFL) in 1897, the beginning of official premiership records. The VFL's foundation clubs were Geelong, Carlton, Collingwood, Essendon, Fitzroy, Melbourne, South Melbourne and St Kilda.

Geelong's seven VFA premierships would give the Cats 16 flags, lifting the club from equal seventh to outright fourth.

But the *Independent* understands the premierships will be categorised according to the competition in which they were won, to add historical perspective to the achievements.

GIVEAWAY

Strike Alpha Cradle

The law states that it is illegal to hold a phone in your hand while operating a vehicle. Drivers are only allowed to use a mobile phone to make and receive phone calls if the phone is secured in a commercially available cradle which is fixed to the vehicle. Any infringement is subject to heavy fines - a fine of \$330 and the loss of three demerit points is no rarity.

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	TINKERBELL & THE PIRATE FAIRY (G) DAILY: 10.15 12.15
2D DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (M) NO FREE TIX DAILY: 10.00 12.50 3.40 6.30 9.20	HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2 (PG) DAILY: 10.00 11.15* 1.40* 4.10* 6.40
DOLBY 3D 3D DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (M) NO FREE TIX DAILY: 2.20 8.00	JERSEY BOYS (M) NO FREE TIX DAILY: 10.30 1.30 6.30* 9.15*
2D DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (M) DAILY: 5.10 NO FREE TIX	22 JUMP STREET (MA 15+) DAILY: 1.00 3.30 6.40* 9.10*
RIO 2 (G) DAILY: 10.45* 12.30 1.30* 3.50* 6.50	BLENDED (PG) DAILY: 10.30 9.00
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