

# PERCEPTIVE... A TERRIFIC YARN... GROUND-BREAKING

**Murray Bird's *Athenians and Red Invincibles*** tells the story of the beginnings of football in the north of Australia in 1866. It was a time when Queenslanders played by the Rules – *the Australian Rules*. After a bitter football war broke out in Brisbane, the course for Queensland's choice of footy codes was set for the next 130 years...

*"Australian Rules football is our greatest contribution to the culture of world sport. It took root in Queensland in 1866, making that state a traditional home of the game. A brilliant book by a perceptive thinker."*

**GREG DE MOORE**

*Author of Tom Wills: First Wild Man of Australian Sport*



*"With an historian's approach and a story-teller's style, Murray Bird describes how footy started in The North in 1866 and explains how the many personal links with The South kicked it along. His thorough research has uncovered some remarkable nineteenth century characters."*

*"It's a terrific yarn and my favourite type of history – at once informative and entertaining."*

**JOHN HARMS**

*Writer, broadcaster, founder of [www.footyalmanac.com.au](http://www.footyalmanac.com.au)*

*"This ground-breaking book sets the record straight in terms of the origins and evolution of football in Queensland. Not only are those long-forgotten pioneers who established and promulgated the code brought to life, but Murray Bird's forensic analysis makes a substantial and lasting contribution to a broader understanding of the relationship between sport and society in colonial times."*

**ROB HESS**

*Managing Editor, *The International Journal of the History of Sport**

## **ATHENIANS** *and* **RED INVINCIBLES**

**THE ORIGINS OF QUEENSLAND FOOTBALL**

*by Murray Bird*



**\$39.95 incl GST (plus postage)**

**Contact Murray Bird ■ [mbird@velocitysports.com.au](mailto:mbird@velocitysports.com.au) ■ 0433 001 588**