

Local footy takes a jab

DANIEL RENFREY

Call shouldn't be left to leagues, says boss

ADELAIDE Footy League boss John Kernahan says the competition will implement a no jab, no play Covid-19 vaccine policy if directed to by the SANFL and SA Health.

The competition already has a no jab, no entry policy in place for league offices as per duty of care for its staff but is waiting on guidance regarding players and club staff.

Kernahan said he would be happy to work alongside the SANFL regarding a policy.

"If the last two seasons have

taught us anything with regards to Covid it is to not plan too far ahead but this is one issue we are happy to collaborate with the SANFL on," Kernahan said.

"Generally speaking, we are pro-choice but in parallel with that, if there are consequences of choosing not to be vaccinated and it includes not playing footy, then so be it."

Kernahan, on behalf of the Adelaide Footy League, sent

an update to all clubs on Friday, in it stating "we are at least open to it (a policy) being mandated in the near future".

However, he has also expressed the competition's frustration at the decision being left to local organisations.

"It is unfortunate something like this is being left to the SANFL rather than it being a universal directive from the State Government or SA Health that all can refer to

whether that be education, industry or recreation, otherwise we're all marching to a different beat," Kernahan said.

"It seems to me the South Australian community at least by majority is screaming out for some direction even if only due to 80 per cent of the population being vaccinated by choice in any event.

"The clubs are very aware this isn't necessarily an agenda item we can solve on our own

and the league is only a microcosm of the wider community."

Reigning division one premiers Prince Alfred Old Collegians said it would accept any directive from the league.

"The club will wait for direction from the ADFL, which we understand is dealing with the SANFL and other competitions," co-chairman Tim Hall said. "We are looking forward to completing the full season

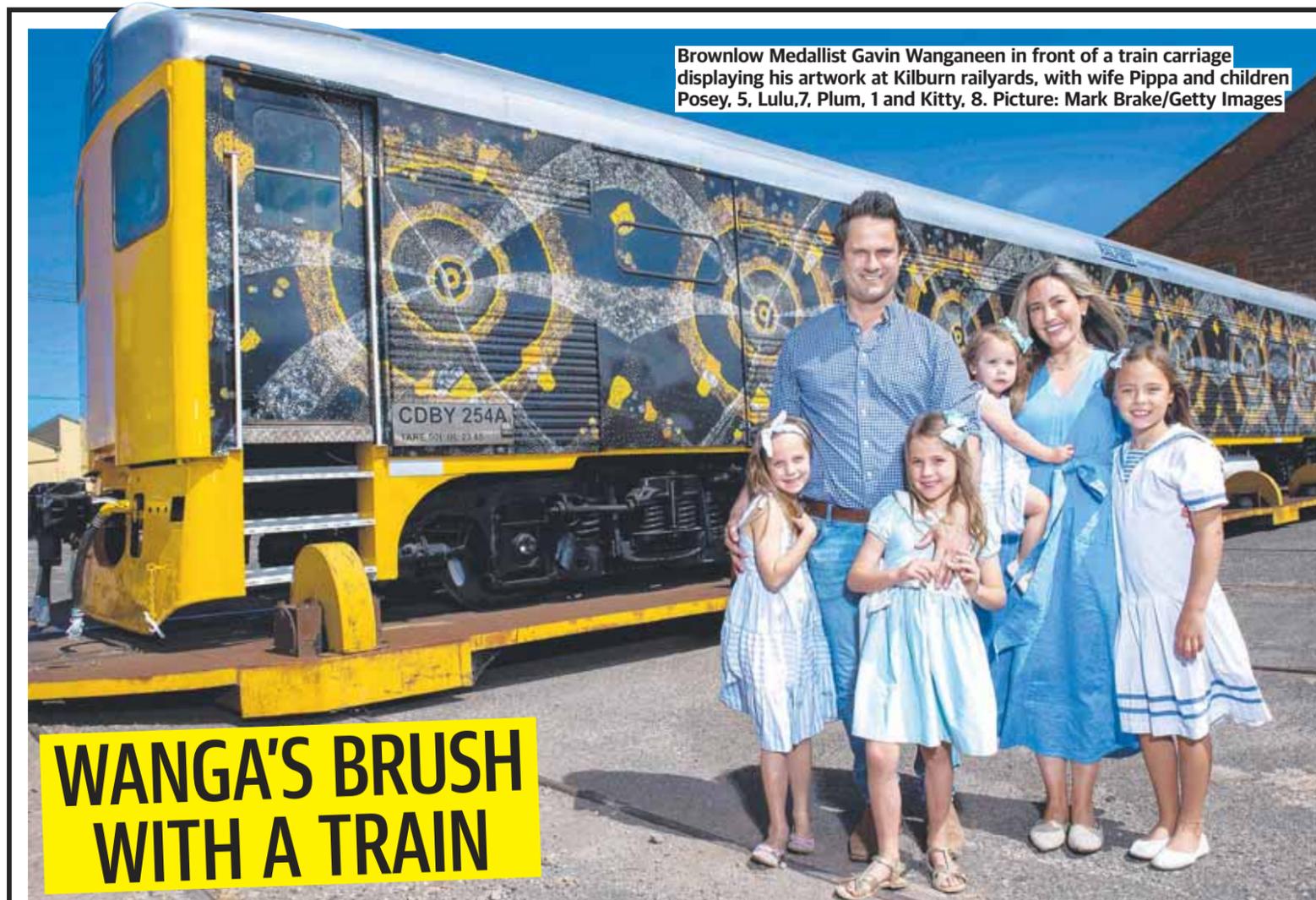
without disruption through Covid."

Reds star player and competition best and fairest Jack Trengove was also eager to get a full season under his belt.

"I just hope we can get back to playing footy seasons that are as normal as possible again," he said.

"Getting through a full season uninterrupted is the ultimate goal."

An imminent decision and announcement by the SANFL is expected – with guidelines for local community competitions expected to be included.



Brownlow Medallist Gavin Wanganeen in front of a train carriage displaying his artwork at Kilburn railyards, with wife Pippa and children Posey, 5, Lulu, 7, Plum, 1 and Kitty, 8. Picture: Mark Brake/Getty Images

WANGA'S BRUSH WITH A TRAIN

ANDREW CAPEL

AUSTRALIAN football legend Gavin Wanganeen's indigenous artwork is hitting the road.

Work from the AFL Hall of Fame member and former Essendon and Port Adelaide star's popular "Shooting Stars" series will make the 2800km trip from Broken Hill to Perth each week for two years as it adorns a carriage on Rail first's CDBY 254 Crew Van.

"It's a big thrill and great opportunity to have my work

displayed in this way," said Wanganeen, the 1993 Brownlow Medallist who won AFL premierships with the Bombers and Power.

"It's not every day of the week that an artist gets the chance to have one of their designs put on the side of a carriage, which will be travelling across Australia, and I hope those people who get to see it enjoy it."

Wanganeen's "Shooting Stars" series was inspired by a camping trip he and his wife Pippa took on Wardang Island, on the western coast of Yorke Peninsula, where he saw a

shooting star. The experience had a profound effect connecting him to his Kokatha ancestors and inspiring him to further explore this spiritual relationship through art.

Rail First Asset Management approached Wanganeen about displaying his artwork "to celebrate First Peoples' culture and demonstrate our shared support of community and cultural diversity".

Wanganeen said he chose the "Shooting Stars" design in consultation with Rail First because the stars shoot to a central point and

that it reminded the company of the "central town of Port Augusta where all the trains converge and cross through".

"So it sort of represents the trains shooting through the land and the journey that this particular train takes across Australia," he said.

Wanganeen, who retired from the AFL at the end of 2006 after 300 games in 16 years, has been working as an artist for a decade.

"It helped me transition out of football and when I paint it connects me back to my culture," he said.

Suns lose academy mentor

SAM LANDSBERGER

GOLD Coast has lost another key person with academy coach Andrew Raines walking away from the club last week.

The Suns farewelled football boss Jon Haines and mid-field coach Josh Francou after the 2021 season while Richmond premiership player Jacob Townsend rejected the Suns' offer to train with the club, preferring to sign with VFL club Southport Sharks.

It comes as Gold Coast academy player Austin Harris joins Essendon's pre-season training with a view to the Cairns product playing for the Bombers' VFL team in the 2022 season.

Harris was picked in the AFL Academy team this year for an exhibition game against Geelong's VFL team.

Raines, a highly-regarded talent nurturer who has closely mentored emerging star Jack Bowes, wants to spend more time growing his business One On One Football, which is an online platform connecting accredited AFL coaches with players for private sessions.

Gold Coast has had a significant staff turnover in recent years, but Raines said there was no ill-feeling towards the club he has spent the past seven years at.

"They've got Jarrod Cotton, who coached Norwood in the SANFL, he's taken on my old role anyway in the Under-18s," Raines said.

Crows, Power set to play historic first Friday night Showdown

FROM PAGE 70

"Rightfully, it's got its slot now in prime time.

"It'll be a great event."

Olsen credited Silvers for helping to secure a Friday night Showdown in discussions with the AFL.

"A prime-time Showdown is an important event for the club," he said.

"There's no greater stage

than a Friday or Saturday night in prime time."

Silvers said he hoped Adelaide Oval was back at full capacity for the historic clash.

"After joining the club it did not take me long to work out these games are as big and intense as any rivalry in the competition," he said.

"Getting a coveted Friday night timeslot has been one of our priorities with this fixture.

"It's a win for our members, as well as our fans and the wider South Australian football community.

"Hopefully Adelaide Oval's capacity returns to what were normal levels prior to the pandemic and it's a full house."

The Power has requested its home Showdown for a Saturday night timeslot.

The Advertiser can also reveal the Power will have trips

to north Queensland and the Northern Territory in 2022.

The Power will head to Cairns for an April 30 clash against St Kilda in round 7.

In round 18 the Power will take on reigning premier Melbourne in Alice Springs on the weekend of July 15-17.

One of Port Adelaide's main fixture requests was to again host a match during Anzac Round.

Hawthorn will share the Anzac Day stage with Essendon and Collingwood when the Hawks host Sydney in Launceston in round 6.

The Hawks and Swans will kick-off Anzac Day from 12.30pm at UTAS Stadium. The match will be followed by the Bombers and Magpies which is expected to draw up to 100,000 at the MCG.

It will be another big con-

test for new coach Sam Mitchell who will steer the Hawks against North Melbourne in round 1, Geelong on Easter Monday in round 5 and then the Swans in round 6.

The Western Derby between West Coast and Fremantle will also take place in round 3 on Sunday April 3, in the hope WA's borders are open to Victorian teams by the start of the season.