

New Australian Author Book Release

The Mosquito Fleet

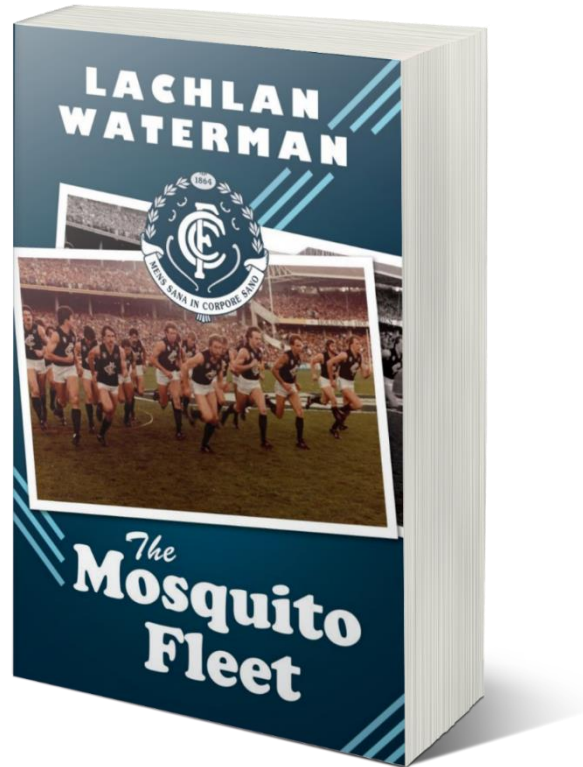
LACHLAN WATERMAN

In 2021 and 2022 Carlton celebrates the 40th anniversary of their back-to-back triumphs...the ones forgotten about...

1983 ended a golden era for Carlton, winning three premierships in four years. Two failed September campaigns followed, and premiership coach David Parkin was sacked. This was a disturbing trend as bloodthirsty presidents demanded success.

Months after taking Carlton to the mountain top, Captain Coach Alex Jesaulenko was caught in the crossfire of a brutal political scuttle, supporting longtime friend and incumbent President George Harris.

Both men were replaced. A staunch disciplinarian, Jesaulenko was a revelation as a coach, losing only three matches for the season. The team is dubbed 'The Mosquito Fleet', a group of small, sublimely skilled players that ran the opposition off their feet.



In 2021 and 2022 Carlton celebrates the 40th anniversary of their back-to-back triumphs. When the discussion about dynasties and golden era's, the Carlton sides from 1979 to 1982 rarely enter the conversation. The Blues won 78% of their matches and three titles in four seasons yet are often overlooked. Their breathtaking style of play and authenticity will long live in the memories of those who saw them play.

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Visit shawlinepublishing.com.au for more details on the author, Lachlan Waterman.

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A Conversation with Lachlan

What does literary success look like to you?

In the words of Tom Clancy, "Success is a finished book..."

What period of your life do you find you write about most often?

Young adult. Like many Carlton supporters of my era, I was fortunate to grow up with The Mosquito Fleet and enjoy their success.

What was your hardest scene to write?

The chapter about the death of Wayne Johnston's eleven-year-old son, who died of an asthma attack on the football field. Horrific.

What is the most difficult part of your artistic process?

Editing parts, you really like. Sometimes you can get attached to an idea or phrase, and it's hard to let it go.

Why did you write "The Mosquito Fleet"? What were your inspirations?

I was fortunate to grow up with The Mosquito Fleet, Carlton's small man brigade that ran opponents off their feet.

This side never quite got the recognition they deserved, three premierships in four years and a night title. It was a great era of Australian Rules Football, a tribal suburban rivalry. Everyone went to the football Saturday afternoon. It was a ritual. Players were semi-professional, they still worked 9-5 jobs, but the standard of play was exceptional.

Supporters could relate to their players, they were authentic. They had a ball off the field too. Football was a big part of their lives, but it didn't define them. Life was a lot less complicated. No mobile phones. No internet. Football was everyone's outlet on a Saturday afternoon.

"The Mosquito Fleet by Lachlan Waterman, with its rich and detailed descriptions and extracts from interviews, is an exceptional book that lets the reader explore Australian Football at its finest. I would recommend this riveting book to sport lovers, football lovers and non-fiction readers in general."

The Literary Titan, 4/4 Star Review

"A powerful and fast-moving story..." William Cane, International Best-Selling author

Does your family support your career as a writer?

Yes. My father was the first person to suggest I had a gift for the written word. Before that, writing was just a hobby. Something that I did for fun.

Do you believe in writer's block?

Yes. The subconscious works in mysterious ways. I often get ideas out of the blue and send myself a quick email.

Who inspires you to be your best self?

When you read about Frank McCourt, who wrote Angeles Ashes at sixty-six years of age, that's powerful.

When did you first realise you wanted to write?

After I had a piece published in Footy Almanac, I knew I had a book in me.

What would you say is your interesting writing quirk?

If I'm doing some self-editing, I wear my favourite Yosemite baseball cap. I'm not worth a cupful of cold water after 5pm and would never consider writing in the evenings.

Do you have any suggestions to help others become a better writer? If so, what are they?

Read some of the classics and analyse how they go about it. Slow reading, re-reading, and reflective reading can help. Read a book two or three times, like a movie you pick up different ideas or things you missed the first time.

Does a big ego help or hurt writers?

I think a healthy ego helps because there is plenty of rejection and disappointments and delays along the way.

Do you want each book to stand on its own, or are you trying to build a body of work with connections between each book?

I would like to stay in the sports genre and build a body of work.



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