

## Charity thieves rip off children

SAM RODRIGUES

HEARTLESS thieves have robbed a western suburbs charity twice this week, stealing toys donated for underprivileged children.

Overnight on Monday and Tuesday, sheds at the back of the modest Mansfield Park offices of Mission Australia were broken into.

Using bolt-cutters, thieves opened padlocks to sheds which held about \$3000 of donated toys and about \$2000 worth of tools used to repair and maintain homes of their clients.

Lianne Smith, acting service manager for The Parks branch, said the theft was "disgusting".

"This sort of stuff does have a big impact on people," she said.

"For some of these children it's the difference between getting a birthday or Christmas present and not getting anything."

Anyone with information should call BankSA Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. Anyone who can help Mission Australia can contact Marta Harbuzinska on 8218 2800.

## SACA SACRIFICE | Chief executive Deare pays price

# Stadium Wars –

### SATURDAY INSIGHT

RICHARD EARLE  
CRICKET WRITER

OSCAR Wilde quipped that 'truth is rarely pure and never simple'.

The truth proved toxic for Mike Deare this week – forced to resign as South Australian Cricket Association chief executive after revealing details of a \$350 million plan to upgrade Adelaide Oval.

Discussion of a blue-chip development aimed at snaring major international events would generate excitement in most places, but caused mayhem in a town dogged by Stadium Wars.

Deare revealed no sensitive data but his transparency particularly enraged football officials including SANFL boss Leigh Whicker.

The public had been given a glimpse of the benefits generated by consolidation of sport at a city stadium – an arrangement enjoyed in other capital cities.

Progressive SA sports fans



CAMPAIGN: Ian McLachlan, Don Bradman, Andrew Demetriou and Leigh Whicker.

who have tasted the under-cover experience of Melbourne's Docklands Stadium or the tribal vibe of a walk from busy restaurants to the MCG want to replicate the experience here.

Deare's fate highlighted the level of distrust that has existed between the SANFL and SACA for 40 years.

Sir Donald Bradman left an extraordinary legacy that

blessed world cricket but divided sport in South Australia.

The Don was a universal source of joy as cricket's greatest batsman. Yet, Bradman, the SACA powerbroker, was short-sighted in dismissing football from Adelaide Oval to West Lakes in 1970.

SACA was ultimately deprived of a vital revenue stream and future investment

required to finance a world-class stadium for South Australians in the CBD when football left.

Only the spectre of falling attendances at AAMI Stadium and an under-utilised Adelaide Oval conspired to trigger historic, AFL-brokered talks between the disparate parties in Melbourne during April.

AAMI Stadium requires a \$200 million refurbishment to

avoid becoming obsolete. Increasingly, Crows and Power fans are abandoning AAMI Stadium, put off by its location, dated infrastructure, poor transport options, traffic bottle necks and arduous drives home.

Port Adelaide supporters crave a move to Adelaide Oval – angry their club will lose \$350,000 from playing home games at AAMI Stadium this season.

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