



# THE QUINTESSENTIAL AUSTRALIAN STORY



THE KNIGHT ALLIANCE

This year **The Knight Alliance** is proudly supporting The Reach Foundation



## The Quintessential Australian Story

At The Knight Alliance we wish to acknowledge Jim Stynes as a Quintessential Australian for his determination, perseverance and inspirational story.

James "Jim" Stynes' OAM (born 23 April 1966) is an Irish former professional Australian rules footballer who is currently a businessman, philanthropist, writer, youth worker, qualified teacher and Chairman of Melbourne Football Club since 2008. Jim was diagnosed with Melanoma Cancer in 2009 and has demonstrated great heroics by fighting cancer ever since and continues to inspire others to do the same

Jim's rise from obscurity to national icon is the stuff of legend. Arriving in Australia from Ireland at age 18 with no prior knowledge of Australian Rules Football, he soon captured the attention of football fans and ultimately the wider Australian public through his fierce but fair sportsmanship

On the football field, Stynes' entire AFL career was played with the Melbourne Football Club as a ruckman. He is an official legend of the club, being a member of its Team of the Century. His honours include the 1991 Brownlow Medal and four Melbourne Football Club Best & Fairest awards, equalling the club record. His most extraordinary achievement was playing an AFL record-breaking 244 consecutive games between Round 17 1987 and Round 4 1998. Jim was inducted into the AFL Hall of Fame in 2003.

In 1994, whilst still playing football, Jim co-founded The Reach Foundation with Australian film director Paul Currie. Jim and Paul were two young men who recognised that too often the greatness in young people is hidden behind fear, anger or hurt. Reach was born from a desire to inspire every young person to believe in themselves and get the most out of life. Reach is now a national organisation that has positively impacted the lives of over 500,000 young Australians through school and community based programs.

Jim has received numerous awards for his work with Reach and in the community including Melbourne of the Year (2010), Order of Australia and Churchill Fellowship (2007), and Victorian of the Year (2001 and 2003).

Jim has worked on government advisory boards, including the 1997 Victorian Government Suicide Task Force.

He remains actively involved with Reach and has recently developed and launched Jimbo Super Muesli despite his ongoing battle with cancer.

A true story of inspiration for all Australians.

### For your information

1. Every Australia Day, staff at The Knight Alliance recognises a worthy recipient(s), for our 'Australian Knight' award, who has demonstrated qualities that personify those of a **Knight**.
2. The Knight Alliance has gifted \$10,000 to The Reach Foundation, given Jim Stynes' belief in young people and their potential.
3. For further information and donations to The Reach Foundation please go to: [www.reach.org.au](http://www.reach.org.au)

*Australia Day is an opportunity for all  
Australians to come together to celebrate our  
country and our unique culture.*

# Have a great Australia Day!



**Celebrate Australia Day**

Australia Day - 26 January



Cheers from

and all at The Knight Alliance  
(refer over)

## **Staff at The Knight Alliance**

Amanda Santoro  
Andrea Robinson  
Anne McGrath  
Carly Lampitt  
Caroline Biese  
Elena Goncharov  
Geoffrey Marshall  
George Martin  
Grant McCallum  
Gregor Evans  
Jeffrey Hubbard  
Joyce Evans  
Maria Skarlatis  
Mariah Whitefoot  
Mark Reed  
Mary Matler  
Melissa De Silva-Jayasekera  
Robert Evans  
Sheena De Silva-Jayasekera  
Sussanne Kendall

OWNERS CORPORATION MANAGEMENT

**T:** 9509 3144 **F:** 9509 3188

**E:** [theknight@theknight.com.au](mailto:theknight@theknight.com.au) **W:** [www.theknight.com.au](http://www.theknight.com.au)