



MEDIA RELEASE: Monday February 3, 2014

## AFL fanatic and radio funny man Ryan 'Fitzy' Fitzgerald to Host

# THE RECRUIT

### New competition reality program for FOX8

Foxtel today announced radio and TV personality, and former Australian rules player **Ryan 'Fitzy' Fitzgerald** has signed on as Host of the highly anticipated new AFL football competition series – **THE RECRUIT**.

Fitzgerald who audiences know and love as one half of the successful radio duo Fitzy & Wippa on DMG Radio Nova FM played for both Sydney and Adelaide before reoccurring injuries forced him into an early retirement.

"Coming from a very similar position as these blokes I know the hurdles they face just to make it. It's an extremely difficult road but can be the most rewarding path you'll ever take", says Fitzy.

There is so much undiscovered talent across the country who haven't had the opportunity so we've created a new pathway for them. They are finally going to get the spotlight they deserve and if they're good enough, it could launch them onto the AFL stage. I've been waiting for a show like this. It's one of a kind and to have the chance to work alongside the best in the business to help make one of these lucky guys **THE RECRUIT** is pretty exciting."

Fitzy joins the cream of the crop in AFL professionals, with five-time All Australian, triple premiership player and Brownlow medallist, **Michael Voss** signed on as Coach. **Ben Dixon** former Hawthorn champion and FOX FOOTY commentator will be by his side as Assistant Coach and will be a great mentor to the group.

Well respected fitness coach, **Darren Burgess** joins the team as High Performance Coach. Darren was formerly the head of fitness and conditioning at Liverpool Football Club, The Socceroos and Sydney Swans. He is currently High Performance Manager at The Port Adelaide Football Club.

The Recruit's Elite Performance Manager, **Leigh Russell** is an educator, organisational development specialist, facilitator and counsellor. Leigh has worked at Hawthorn, Essendon and Gold Coast Football Clubs and the AFLPA and knows how young footballers tick.

**THE RECRUIT** is a 10-part reality television series which will feature an extensive search and provide a player with the opportunity to become an overnight sensation with a guaranteed spot on an AFL clubs list.

To be broadcast on FOX8 later this year, **THE RECRUIT** is open to all footballers who are aged 20 (on or before December 31, 2013), who have not been on an AFL list previously or played in the VFL, SANFL or WAFL in the past two years.

**THE RECRUIT** will be produced in association with Foxtel, McGuire Media and The Media Tribe exclusively for Foxtel.

**For more information:**

Fitzpatrick Public Relations Ph. 03 9646 0644  
Jen Fitzpatrick [jen@fitzpr.com.au](mailto:jen@fitzpr.com.au) 0419 573 343  
Dee Stewart [dee@fitzpr.com.au](mailto:dee@fitzpr.com.au) 0417 357 523

**About Foxtel**

Foxtel is one of Australia's most progressive and dynamic media companies, directly employing around 2,500 people, and delivering a diverse subscription television service over cable, satellite and broadband distribution. We offer a better entertainment experience every day to each one of our 2.5 million subscribing homes through delivery of new and inspiring programming across all genres, the world's most popular channel brands, and investment in high quality local content. As constant champions of innovation we have brought customers the iQ personal digital recorder, Australia's largest HD offering, the Foxtel Go App for tablets and mobile devices, and our new internet TV service, Foxtel Play. Foxtel is owned by Telstra Corporation Limited ACN 051 775 556 (50%) and News Corporation (50%). [foxtel.com.au](http://foxtel.com.au)