

**B & A ANTON Importers & Distributors**



**MINOS**  
ΚΡΕΤΕ'S BEST  
Extra Virgin Olive Oil

για χονδρική πώληση **Τηλ: 9560 8441**  
105A Illawarra Rd., Marrickville



**Δελφοί**  
φέτα βαρελίσια  
barrel feta

**Delfi**  
greek feta

**DELFI**

**ibia importex** PTY. LTD.

Διατίθεται στην *Kebia*, σε επιλεγμένα καταστήματα τροφίμων, και *delicatessen*.  
Επίσης διατίθεται στα καταστήματα *Woolworths*.

4 Carrington Rd, Marrickville NSW 2204 • Tel.: (02) 9558 8555

**South Melbourne's A-League bid Chairman, Bill Papastergiadis, says entry into the top tier of Australian football could bridge the bitterness that exists between disgruntled NSL fans and the A-League.**



# Can South Melbourne reunite old soccer and new football?

**The day of reckoning** for A-League expansion finally arrived when FFA called for Expressions of Interest from eager aspirants, by announcing that two new teams will join the A-League on October 31, 2018. Perhaps the club that suffered the most after the NSL's 2004 demise was South Melbourne. With its large supporter base, proud history, success on the park and record in developing Socceroos it felt the pain more than others. Those wounds deepened when John O'Neil, the inaugural CEO of the A-League, dismissed the defunct competition as 'old soccer' marginalising many NSL diehards who refused to support what became known as 'new football'. But Papastergiadis believes that having South Melbourne as part of an

expanded competition can bring those fans back. "That's an important question that the FFA also understands," he said. "That is, the re-engagement of the latent support within this country who perhaps were disenfranchised when the NSL was dismantled. "It also allows for aspirational football to once again be part of our conversation. Because a club coming up from the NPL into the A League is what football is about. "It's about giving all of us the opportunity to aspire and excel. That's what our kids want. That's what our supporters want. That's where the passion is." With South Melbourne making last year's FFA Cup semi-final, Papastergiadis said the run to the final four was a huge boost to the

club's A-League aspirations. "It served a number of purposes," he said. "First, it reinforced in our own mind that we were playing with teams that we felt we should be playing with on a regular basis. "It justified all of the decisions on the playing group and everything that was necessary to get that group ready. "It also filled us with excitement about what may be ahead of us on a weekly basis. It opened our imagination to the beauty of the game and South Melbourne's place in the A League." But before South can dream they have to address a number of FFA's criteria and Papastergiadis says the former NSL club will have no problem measuring up to the bidding requirements.

"On the key matters identified by the FFA, and from a financial perspective, the club is ready-made for this bid," he said. "We have a stadium that seats up to 12,000 people, with a deal that means we can make a profit at 1,500 people. Our player list has also played at the upper levels of the game. "There is no other bid in this state or this country that can tick all these boxes at the moment. "Then, you add in our football department from the junior perspective and our women winning four successive championships including the Victorian NPL Grand Final at their first attempt. "This is a whole of football proposal for the A League. We are ready made. That's the beauty of our club."

W  
I  
T  
H  
I  
N

## Australian refs denied World Cup chance

Australia is one of only four countries competing at the tournament not to have a referee officiating at the World Cup. The news is worsened by the fact that the A-League was one of the domestic

leagues to trial VAR technology. Australian referee Ben Williams and assistants Matthew Cream and Hakan Anaz refereed at the 2014 World Cup. Surprisingly, Portugal, South Korea and Belgium

are the other nations not have a referee at the tournament. New Zealand will have an official at the World Cup however, alongside assistants from Tonga and New Caledonia. "(Selection is based

on) each referee's skills and personality, as well as his level of understanding of football and ability to read both the game and the various tactics employed by teams", FIFA said in a statement.

