



## ANGE TO LAUNCH NEW BOOK ON AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

» Fresh from avoiding relegation and winning a new contract at Yokohama Marinos, former Socceroos coach Ange Postecoglou will be back in Sydney this week to launch a new book.

The new book sheds light on the history between the national team and the Asian region and comes on the eve of the Socceroos defending Postecoglou's 2015 Asian Cup crown. **Playing for Australia - the First Socceroos, Asia and World Football** is the second book by retired ABC journalist Trevor Thompson and will be launched with Postecoglou in Glebe on Wednesday.

Although Australia didn't join the Asian Football Confederation until 2006, the book sets out to show how the relationship dates back almost 100 years, and Australia's international football connections are even older.

The book also compares Australia's experience with other paths taken by football's leading nations in the Asia Pacific region.

"The Australian football story stretches back more than 150 years through the presence of Australians at the birth of the modern game in England," said Thompson.

"British migrants established football in Australia, and the game grew with the arrival of more immigrants who became players, spectators and officials.

"But when the time came for the Australian game to find its own identity, and to express it through its national team, the Anglo-Australian relationship failed."

Instead, the book says it was Asia that played a key role in the development of Australia's national team in its first two decades - and Australia played a significant role in Asia.

Thompson shows that at the end of the 1920s, Australia had some of the strongest football teams at national and club level within the Asia Pacific region, but lost its way by reliance on English leadership of the game, rather than forging its own identity.

"Australia's future is intimately bound to Asia in football as in so many other aspects of life," Thompson writes.

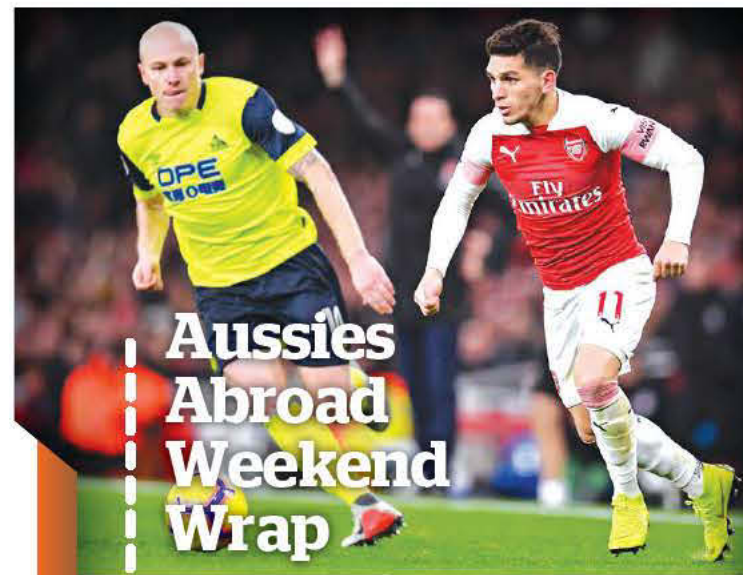
Even so, and despite being reigning Asian champions from the 2015 continental championships, Thompson says there is a cultural gap between Australia and its Asian football neighbours.

He also argues that, as Australia enters a decade of centenaries of important events and dates in the development of the game, the opportunity should be taken on and off the field to build better relationships with football partners, especially in Asia.

Thompson shows that Australia's football pioneers punched above their weight and helped ensure that football culture and multiculturalism are intrinsic to one another.

"When it comes to football and Australia's national teams, football understands what it means to be playing for Australia."

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### UK

Both our Aussies in the Premier League suffered narrow defeats away from home this week. Mat Ryan was in goals as Brighton went down 1-0 to Burnley while Aaron Mooy travelled to the fortress of Arsenal's Emirates Stadium where he played 90 minutes in a 1-0 loss to the Gunners.

Earlier in the week Ryan played a full game as Brighton defeated Crystal Palace 3-1 but Mooy was still searching for another win after going down 2-1 to Bournemouth.

In the English Championship Mile Jedinak was absent from Aston Villa's squad that drew 2-2 with West Brom. Mass Luongo played a full match as his QPR went down to 2-1 to Leeds United leaving QPR in 14th place in the league. James Meredith and Jackson Irvine faced off as both played 90 minutes as Millwall and Hull City drew 2-2 with both sides languishing towards the bottom of the table. Ryan Williams played a full game for Rotherham United in a 2-2 draw away to Sheffield Wednesday.

In FA Cup action Brad Inman was an unused sub as his Rochdale FC were thrown out in the second round by Portsmouth, losing 1-0 at home. Cameron Burgess suffered the same fate going down 1-0 to Shrewsbury.

In the English League One Ryan McGowan was dropped to the bench as Bradford drew 3-3 with Plymouth Argyle. Brad Inman was a 55th minute sub as Rochdale FC drew 1-1 away from home to AFC Wimbledon. Cameron Burgess was in central defence for Scunthorpe who lost 2-0 at home to Gillingham.

In League Two Jordan Lyden was a second half stoppage time sub as Oldham cruised to a 2-0 away win over Crewe Alexandra.

In the English Youth leagues Tom Glover was an unused sub as Tottenham U23 played out a 2-2 draw with Everton FC for whom Con Ouzinidis played a full match. Earlier in the week Glover watched on as Tottenham Wolfsburg U23 2-1 in the Premier League International cup. Tyrese Francois played a full game as Fulham U23 drew 1-1 with Stoke City U23. Earlier in the week Reading FC U23 defeated Fulham U23 2-1 as Liam Driscoll played a full match and Tyrese Francois also got through another 90 minutes however Joel Rollinson was absent from the Reading squad. Cameron McGilp played a full game and got an assist for Birmingham City U23 as Birmingham U23 beat Colchester U23 4-0.

In Scotland Tom Rogic came on in the 81st minute while Andy Rose was a sixth minute sub for Motherwell as Celtic were held to a 1-1 draw. Later in the week Rogic played a full game and got an assist as Celtic smashed Kilmarnock 5-1 as they kept their two point lead on Rangers. Oli Bozanic was on the scoresheet while Ben Garuccio was absent as Hearts drew 2-2 with St. Johnstone. The Aussie's crisp free-kick sent Hearts 2-1 up in the first half. Later in the week Bozanic played another 90 minutes while Garuccio was an unused sub as Hearts defeated Motherwell 1-0 for whom Andy Rose played 70m minutes. Mark Milligan was a 49th minute substitute, Jamie Maclaren came on in the 87th and Martin Boyle started and played 90 minutes as Hibernian drew 2-2 with St. Mirren for whom Ryan Edwards played a full match. Hibernian got a 1-0 win over Hamilton later in the week as Boyle played 45 minutes. Maclaren was an unused sub and Milligan was absent. Jesse Curran scored his first goal for Dundee FC in a 4-0 win over Hamilton.

In the Scottish Championship Lyndon Dykes played a full game as Queen of the South drew 1-1 with Ross County while Tom Beadling was a 59th minute sub for Dunfermline Athletic in a 2-0 loss to Partick Thistle.