

Website plays matchmaker for retiring AFL players.

Footy Recruits is an online job board for Aussie Rules players, coaches & football clubs.

Port Fairy, Victoria, September 15, 2011 With around 130 players retiring from senior AFL rank each year, there's a ready-made pool of talent that can enhance lower-tier competitions across the country.

When players do find their way to these teams, it's often in an ad-hoc manner via word of mouth.

But now a new web-based service has been created to help match prospective players – including ex-AFL players, with suburban and country footy clubs.

The site, FootyRecruits.com, allows players to post their credentials including photos and videos and even an employment history for clubs to view. Registration is free for players, with the website offering a real shot at helping them find offers once their career is over.

General Manager Player Development Steve Alessio said the site was a great opportunity for players to receive offers from clubs when their AFL career is over.

"Many players who have competed at the top level still wish to play when their AFL career comes to a close," says Alessio.

"Lots will play at a local level and this kind of website provides them with an opportunity to place themselves on the market and gauge interest from clubs looking for players of their calibre.

Alessio said some clubs could also throw in accommodation and employment opportunities as part of the deal.

"We encourage any service which helps provide opportunities for our members and have thrown our support behind this site."

Kevin Hughes came up with the idea after spending many years as the coach of Heywood, a remote town in Victoria, and continually facing the battle to attract high quality players to the distant town.

"I had some connections down in Melbourne, but it was just so hard to find players willing to travel to Heywood," he said.

"That was in the '90s and nothing has changed. Everyone in this (Western Border) league is finding it hard to attract players.

"And it's not just this league. It's everywhere."

Footy Recruits is an online job board where clubs can search for players and coaches. Football clubs from all over Australia are now discovering the new service. Over 250 clubs are using Footy Recruits to find and sign new team members. The website has also had interest from over 30 countries. How does it work? Firstly register and complete a profile. You can post your profile in one of three categories: Players, Coaches or Clubs. You can include your description, playing history, playing position preference and photographs for your profile. Clubs can search and advertise for players and coaches. For privacy, teams can't see other club's advertisements. They can browse the list of recent or most popular profiles, and they can receive email alerts and RSS feeds of the latest profiles. Footy Recruits is not an employment agency. Footy Recruits is a job board where people place their profiles. FootyRecruits does not place people in jobs. That decision is made by the employer/club. It is the responsibility of the club to ascertain the suitability of any applicant. About -Footy Recruits is a partnership, consisting of Kevin Hughes (ex AFL and VFL player) and Peter Bond (Website designer and developer). Contact Info: Contact: Peter Bond. Company: Footy Recruits. Phone: 03 5568 2939. Email: admin@footyrecluits.com Website: www.footyrecluits.com###

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