



# Smiling Hill Weekly Newsletter

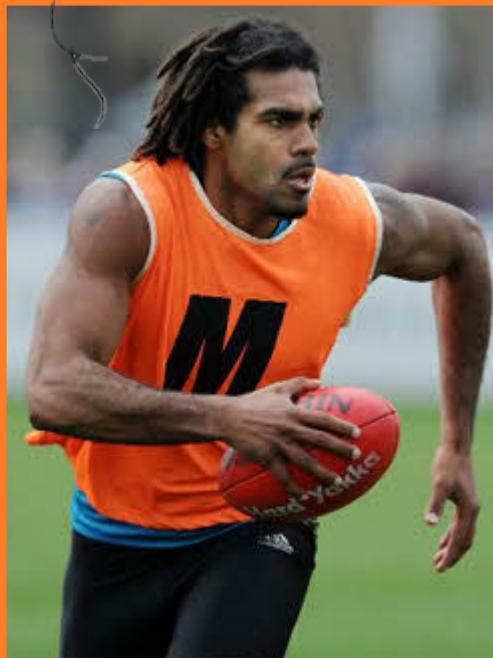
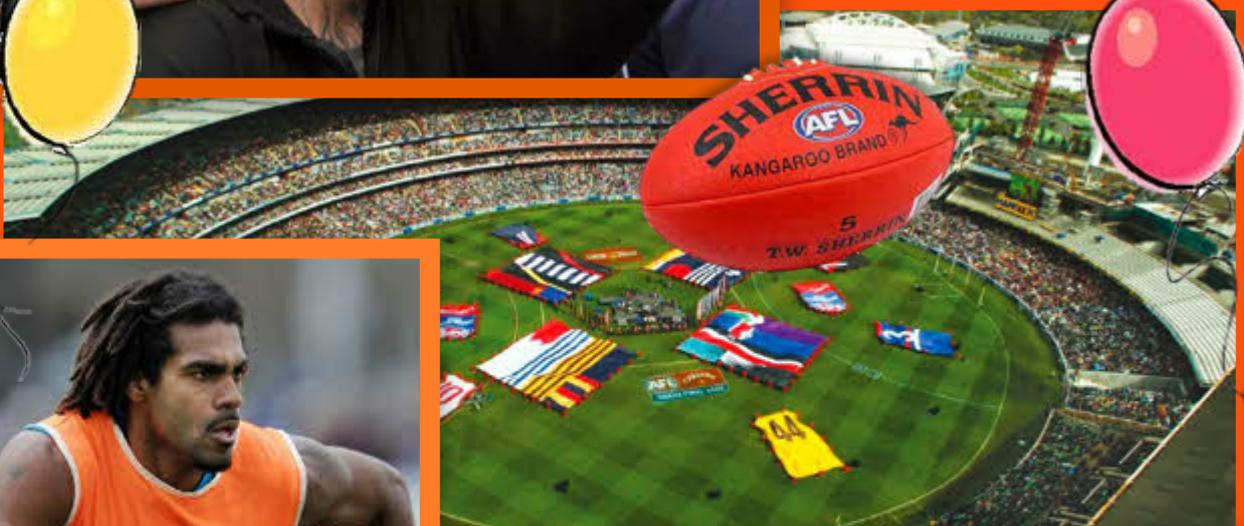


It's the

# PIES

Versus the

# SAINTS



## Aussie Rules GRAND FINAL

On the **BIG** screen from 10.30am this Saturday at

# Goodies

# A little background about Batam

## PART 2

**RECENT INITIATIVES** by the Indonesian and Singapore Governments suggest that Batam's surge of development over the past two and a half decades is barely a beginning!

The then Indonesian Government first designated Batam and the nearby islands of Rempang and Galang as a Special Development Zone in the 1980s (the three islands have since been linked by bridges and together are known as Barelang).

The Development Zone designation spurred a first wave of rapid development presided over by B J Habibie as the head of a specially created Batam Industrial Development Authority (Habibie was later to succeed General Suharto as Indonesia's President).

Over the following decade Singaporean, Malaysian, Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese, European, Australasian and American companies as well as Indonesian corporations rapidly established presences on the island.

By the early 1990s Indonesia had entered into an understanding with the Governments of Singapore and Malaysia to create the SIJORI Growth Triangle with the professed aim of combining the competitive strengths of Singapore, Johor (in Malaysia) and the Riau Islands to make the subregion more attractive to regional and international investors.

What it was really about was linking the infrastructure, capital, and expertise of Singapore with the abundance of land and low cost labor resources of Johor and Riau (especially Batam and the nearby island of Bintan).



*Topside construction at McDermott yard*

Singapore recognised that it needed to relocate some of its land and labor intensive industries (and its "dirty" heavy industries). Johor and Riau were the logical locations.

The Asian economic crisis of the late 90s hit Indonesia particularly hard and issues also emerged between Singapore and Malaysia. For a time the rise of Batam slowed and the earlier Growth Triangle ideas went on a backburner.

The slowdown continued throughout the political upheaval of Indonesia's remarkable, though at times stumbling, transition to a new democratic constitution and government structure to succeed the authoritarian Suharto "New Order" regime.

Batam also found itself facing increasing competition for investment dollars from China, Vietnam, India and Malaysia. Pressure began to build on the National government and legislature to match investment incentives being offered by other locations in the region.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's election in 2004 as Indonesia's first popular vote President and the ascension of Lee Hsien Loong as the new Prime Minister of Singapore sparked initiatives to get Batam and regional co-operation back on track.

In June 2006 President SBY made a symbolic journey to Batam to meet Prime Minister Lee and together they

witnessed the signing of a new Framework Agreement on Economic Cooperation between Singapore, Batam and the two other immediately neighbouring Indonesian Islands of Bintan and Karimun (this time Malaysia NOT included).

This Agreement cements a Singapore-Indonesia partnership to establish **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)** in Batam, Bintan and Karimun with streamlined procedures and incentives to make the islands more investor-friendly, more cost-competitive and more capable of attracting increasing Singaporean and other international direct investments.

It identifies seven key areas in which Indonesia and Singapore will pool resources to ensure that business, regulatory and labour conditions are favourable to investors, namely investment, finance and banking, taxation, customs and excise, immigration, manpower, and capability development.

The new Agreement once more implicitly recognises the reality that tiny Singapore is running out of land and facing rising costs for the key inputs that historically have contributed to its prosperity - the more Singapore prospers the more Singapore capital MUST overflow into Batam or elsewhere.

As a further incentive, in 2007 the Indonesian Government formally

*Many Batam Expats know little about the development of the island and its recent history. This material is from our website. You can read more by going to the ABOUT BATAM page at:  
[www.smilinghillbatam.com](http://www.smilinghillbatam.com)*

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**Goodies**

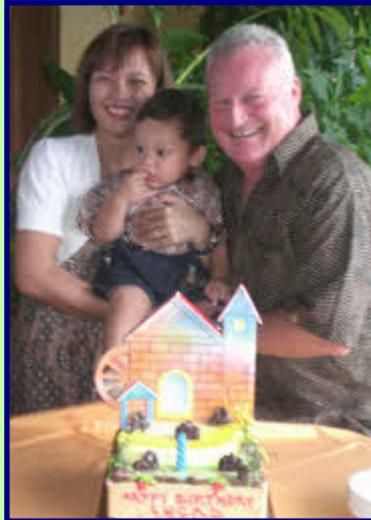
**Save Valuable Time & Order Ahead**

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# It's the Smiling Hill Collection

**THE CLOUDS** cleared and the mums and dads turned out in force for the first birthday party of Mr Lucas William McGuinness. Talk about a BABY CLUB! And all these hard-bitten blokes talking about teething and nappies And weight gain ...My God what's happening around here ?



LEFT: Anna, Trevor and birthday boy Lucas and ABOVE just some of the current Expat crop. Smiling missing included Dillon Cutting (at a wedding) and Mitchell Morris (in Jakarta)

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Life is like a boat  
- without water  
it serves no  
purpose!

## A little background about Batam

*Continued from Page 2*

decreed (and the National Parliament subsequently ratified) the designation of Batam and the nearby Riau islands of Bintan and Karimun as fully fledged **Free Trade Zones (FTZs)** which will bring the abolition of Customs Duties, Value Added Taxes, Luxury Goods taxes and Excise Duties.

A Presidential Regulation establishing a National Council to oversee the Free Trade Zones was promulgated in May 2008 together with Presidential Decrees appointing Zone Councils to implement and administer new taxation, immigration and other arrangements.

The SEZ initiatives bring with them less obvious benefits. For example many Batam industries operated by or supplying Singapore manufacturers have become de facto beneficiaries of the Singapore-US Free Trade Agreement because of their direct Singaporean commercial ties.

The process of implementing the SEZ and FTZ changes is moving slowly but the announcements of what is coming have already prompted more new investment and spurred activity in property markets and the commercial sector.

Batam's rapid and consistent economic and population growth, its already strong and diverse industrial base plus the current commitments to growth and development from both the Indonesian and Singapore Governments would appear to assure the island's future.



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down for an **EARLY**  
juice and a hearty  
breakfast

# Goodies

## RESTAURANT

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Sundays Brunch from 7.30am

## Whats on.... Sports



### Singapore Grand Prix on the BIG Screen Sunday

#### FRIDAY September 23rd

- 12.00 noon Australian Football Highlights
- 4.30pm National Rugby League : Titans v Roosters (PF1)
- 8.25pm Formula 1 Practice : Live from Singapore

#### Saturday September 24th

- 10.30 am AFL 2010 GRAND FINAL : Collingwood v St Kilda
- 4.30pm Rugby League : Dragons v West Tigers (PF2)
- 5.55pm Formula 1 Practice : Live from Singapore
- 6.40pm English Premier League : Man City v Chelsea
- 8.55pm English Premier League : West Ham v Tottenham
- 8.55pm English Premier League : Liverpool v Sunderland
- 11.00pm Formula 1 Qualifying : Live from Singapore

#### Sunday September 25th

- 1.00pm AFL Grand Final (repeat) : Collingwood v St Kilda
- 4.00pm Formula 1 Qualifying : From Singapore - Repeat
- 5.55pm English Premier League : Bolton v Man U
- 6.45pm Formula 1 Championship : Singapore Grand Prix
- 8.00pm English Premier League : Wolves v Aston Villa
- 10.00pm English Premier League : Newcastle v Stoke City

We now have two BIG SCREENS so we can show two different sports at the same time!



Smilina Hill F1 liverie

# AV A LARF

## *A politically Neutral story*

**WHILE WALKING** down the street one day a US senator is tragically hit by a truck and dies. His soul arrives in heaven and is met by St. Peter at the entrance.

"Welcome to heaven," says St. Peter. "Before you settle in, it seems there is a problem. We seldom see a high official around these parts, you see, so we're not sure what to do with you."

"No problem, just let me in," says the senator.

"Well, I'd like to, but I have orders from higher up. What we'll do is have you spend one day in hell and one in heaven. Then you can choose where to spend eternity."

"Really, I've made up my mind I want to be in heaven," says the senator.

"I'm sorry, but we have our rules."

And with that, St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to hell. The doors open and he finds himself in the middle of a green golf course. In the distance is a clubhouse and standing in front of it are all his friends and other politicians who had worked with him.

Everyone is very happy and in evening dress. They run to greet him, shake his hand, and reminisce about the good times they had while getting rich at the expense of the people.

They play a friendly game of golf and then dine on lobster, caviar and champagne.

Also present is the devil, who really is a very friendly guy who has a good time dancing and telling jokes.

They are having such a good time that before he realizes it, it is time to go.

Everyone gives him a hearty farewell and waves while the elevator rises ..

The elevator goes up, up, up and the door reopens on heaven where St. Peter is waiting for him.

"Now it's time to visit heaven."

So, 24 hours pass with the senator joining a group of contented souls moving from cloud to cloud, playing the harp and singing. They have a good time and, before he realizes it, the 24 hours have gone by and St. Peter returns.

"Well, then, you've spent a day in hell and another in heaven. Now choose your eternity."

The senator reflects for a minute, then answers: "Well, I would never have said it before, I mean heaven has been delightful, but I think I would be better off in hell."

So St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to hell.

Now the doors of the elevator open and he's in the



middle of a barren land covered with waste and garbage. He sees all his friends, dressed in rags, picking up the trash and putting it in black bags as more trash falls from above...

The devil comes over to him and puts his arm around his shoulder. "I don't understand," stammers the senator.

"Yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and clubhouse, and we ate lobster and caviar, drank champagne, and danced and had a great time. Now there's just a wasteland full of garbage and my friends look miserable. What happened?"

The devil looks at him, smiles and says.....

"Yesterday we were campaigning. Today you voted."

***Our thanks to former Batam resident Bob Dethridge for the above - by the way Bob will be visiting Batam and Smiling Hill next week.***

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