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***The Outer Sanctum* debuts on ABC**

After a successful breakout season, one of Australian football's most unique and engaging podcasts joins the ABC for the 2017 season. ***The Outer Sanctum*** features a panel of six footy-mad fans, who've honed their skills by recording a weekly podcast about their love of the game around the kitchen table.

They gained prominence last year after sparking a national debate about the treatment of women in football by airing derogatory comments by Triple M commentators, including Collingwood president **Eddie McGuire**, about *The Age's* chief football writer **Caroline Wilson**.

Now, the team bring their passion for all things footy to the comfier chairs and studios of ABC Southbank.

"ABC Sport is delighted to be collaborating with the women of *The Outer Sanctum* to bring this ground breaking podcast to ABC audiences and AFL lovers across the world," said Nick Morris, Head of ABC Sport.

"*The Outer Sanctum* has set a new benchmark for AFL podcasts in this country, giving audiences a new perspective on one of Australia's biggest sports," he added.

The Outer Sanctum is broadcaster **Emma Race**, academic and lawyer **Kate Seear**, author **Nicole Hayes**, poet and author **Alicia Sometimes**, and small business owners **Lucy Race** and **Felicity Race**.

In each episode, the women share their observations on football, with guests who can bring a different perspective to the conversation around AFL. Previous guests have included Western Bulldogs marquee player **Katie Brennan**, Indigenous author **Tony Birch**, Richmond president **Peggy O'Neal** and women's football advocate **Susan Alberti**.

Kate Seear said, "We are thrilled to be partnering with the ABC and can't wait to get talking about footy and share our mutual love of the game."

"*The Outer Sanctum* is different to other footy podcasts; we don't focus on stats and facts, but on diverse and unconventional stories from in and around the game. You'll hear about footy from a fan's perspective, as we share stories from the outer. Each week, we also examine the social, cultural and political aspects of sport, unpack the big issues of the day and share our passion for all that is beautiful and all that is absurd about this great game," she said.

The Outer Sanctum are:

Emma Race - broadcaster, tv and radio producer and former talent manager. Emma is passionate about gender equality across technology, media and sport. Her two sisters are also part of the crew.

Alicia Sometimes - broadcaster, writer and spoken word performer. She can be heard regularly on ABC Radio Melbourne, RN and 3RRR. Alicia is a mad lover of science and the arts and, when not talking or watching footy, always has her nose in a science book.

Nicole Hayes - author of fiction and non-fiction books for adults and young people about footy, politics, feminism and rock music. She swears she remembers the Hawks' 1971 Premiership, even though she was barely walking.

Lucy Race - Sports fan, feminist and avid reader of books, newspapers and social media. Lucy loves all sports (except golf and tennis) as evidenced by her dogs, Archie Thompson and Jarryd Roughead.

Felicity Race - business owner, freelance writer, football lover and mother of three boys who don't barrack for the Hawks. In 2016, Felicity learned how to bounce a footy which is the pinnacle of her football career so far.

Dr Kate Seear - Monash University law academic and lawyer who has lived through ten Hawthorn premierships and bleeds brown and gold. When she's not watching footy, she researches and writes about law, drugs, gender and sport. Kate and her partner are the proud owner of a dog named Cyril.

Listen to [The Outer Sanctum](#) via the [ABC Radio App](#), iTunes or wherever you find your favourite podcasts.

[Read more about The Outer Sanctum.](#)

What The Outer Sanctum fans say:

"THANK YOU!! I am so thrilled to find some intelligent, funny, female voices talking about football! I listened to the first episode today and it was humorous, insightful and relevant! I'll be a regular listener."

By Vinemae

"I sometimes watch footy on TV and occasionally go to games but generally don't listen to sport shows on radio or watch footy shows. Until now. Listening to this podcast somehow connected me to footy more than I expected. I felt like I was in someone's lounge room having a coffee and a chat. These ladies are real and funny and passionate and clever. I enjoyed listening to them very much. I just wish they'd invite me over for a cuppa."

By fancyclare

“This is a wonderfully refreshing podcast from an all-women team about the AFL. Great to hear insights and perspectives delivered in a thoughtful, relaxed, humorous, and very human way. Keep up the wonderful work!”

By Adam, Melbourne

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