

Coasters rule out strip

■ GOLD Coast coach **Guy McKenna** has backed the decision of his young players to ban themselves from the Surfers Paradise nightclub scene.

The Gold Coast leadership group, comprising most of youngsters who have not played AFL football, made the decision after a visit from police.

"The boys themselves sat down as a leadership group, under no direction of the football club and sort of had a strict policy about Surfers Paradise at night," McKenna said.

"I mean, go there during the day, go and work there if you have to... but at night, given some the incidents we are



Paradise lost: McKenna, Ablett.

hearing, you're just going to inflate the chances or percentages of you getting into trouble."

McKenna said the club was doing all it could to educate its young list of the pitfalls of the nightclub scene, including asking senior police to warn players of dangers.

"Given the climate we're in, and the lifestyle, we go out and above and beyond what the AFL provide... we have senior detectives who come in and basically point out the hot spots," McKenna said.

Only former Kangaroo **Daniel Harris**, Geelong premiership player **Nathan Ablett**, and ex-Collingwood pair **Danny Stanley** and **Sam Iles** have AFL experience in the young group.

Others in the VFL team's leadership group include captain **Marc Lock**, 18, **Charlie Dixon**, 19, and **Jack Stanley**, 20.

"The playing group came out certainly clear and united on this front," McKenna said.

"The ban is an official part of the club's culture with players asking administrators it be placed as a rule in the Players Handbook."

McKenna described Harris and Ablett as being like on-field coaches for the club.

The nightclub strip is notorious for being party central.

JOEL ON BOARD

■ GEELONG has secured the signature of one key midfielder — but it's not **Gary Ablett**.

Gun midfielder **Joel Corey** is understood to have agreed a new two-year deal last week.

HEY, UMPY!

■ AFL coaches are taking a turn in white, umpiring games as part of the Umpiring is Everyone's Business campaign.

Every senior and assistant coach has been asked by the AFL to umpire a match.

Last weekend **Paul Roos** umpired an under-14s match in Sydney, Collingwood assistant coach **Mark Neeld** umpired an under-16s match in Ocean Grove and Western Bulldogs assistant coach **Leon Cameron** umpired a school match in Maribyrnong on Friday.

BLUE MOVES

■ CARLTON skipper **Chris Judd** is mastering yoga move, the pose of the cobra.

Judd and Blues teammates are regulars at a yoga centre in Prahran where they work on the ancient Eastern practice in heated rooms designed to maximise harmony, balance and physical and spiritual wellbeing.

Australian Yoga Academy principal **Dominique Santana Salerno** said the Blues held one-hour sessions every week.

"They do a combination of different yoga types," she said. "If players come in with a rotator cuff injury or a knee reconstruction, we know how much they can do."

ALMOST THERE

■ SUDANESE sensation **Majak Daw** has a little a way to go in his football education.

Playing for Werribee in the VFL last weekend, the North Melbourne rookie joined a dubious club.

Hands off our game

■ COLLINGWOOD great **Peter Daicos** has called on the AFL to leave the Magpies' Anzac Day fixture alone, saying the Pies and Essendon deserve the right to play the game.

Speaking amid calls by some football people to rotate the game between clubs, Daicos said the game was an honour Collingwood and Essendon deserved for pioneering the game.

The Magpie ace who retired in 1993 said he would have loved to play in an Anzac Day game, which started in 1995.

"There's two sides to the argument, the first one being we've never been let down by attendance," Daicos said this week.

"We've always had bumper crowds and some great results. As a spectacle they get the big tick.

"When no one else thought of it, these two clubs pioneered it."

One up, one down

■ FORMER Essendon and Carlton player **Jordan Rannister**



Blues hero honoured

■ ONE of Carlton's most revered footballers, **Jim Park** (below) will today have flowers placed on his grave after an incredible link was recently established between the Blues and the country of his death, Papua New Guinea.

Park was a premiership hero with the Blues in 1938 before he joined up to serve in World War II. He served with distinction in the Middle East and New Guinea, where he was killed, aged 32, at Wau in 1943.

Over the years, no one from the club, nor Park's daughter, **Joan Schinner**, who was two when her father died, had had the chance to visit his grave. But Carlton historian **Tony De Bolfo** sensed an opportunity when the Blues recruited 18-year-old AFL hopeful **Peter Labi** (left) on a scholarship.

Labi, from Lae, in Papua New Guinea, visited Park's grave on a recent trip home and has arranged that his father, Giossi Labi, (left) the Police Commissioner of Lae, place flowers there each year on April 25.

Labi had to search through the Lae War Cemetery for "four or five hours" before locating Park's grave, but said it was worth the effort.

"To see Jim's grave and to be there was a great honour for me," Labi said. "I told Joan I was going. She was pleased and thankful."

Incredibly, Labi also has five great uncles — who were carriers