



## STEVE SYMONDS

*AFLW Senior Coach  
Collingwood FC*

Our Collingwood FC Women's team had the great fortune recently in meeting Joel & listening to his story. Joel's message of finding perspective in life & demonstrating resilience & perseverance towards achieving small goals along the way towards a bigger journey, was one that resonated with our playing group. Despite the many challenges he has faced along the way, Joel with his positive attitude, has found his purpose in life. His journey is a powerful message that is a true inspiration to all.



## LTCOL ROSS CHAPMAN

*Commanding Officer ADFA*

"We took the opportunity for Joel to brief 900 of our Trainees at the Australian Defence Force Academy. His presentation was extremely well communicated and received by the audience who related closely with his military background. A different outlook was offered on how to put problems in perspective and overcome unexpected curveballs that arise in life. The key takeaways from Joel's talk are valuable and worthwhile. I would recommend any organisation that values mental resilience as a key attribute of its staff to leverage his experiences and ability to communicate in an engaging and personable manner."



## PETE RENNIE

*Teacher*  
*Whitefriars College*

I wanted to thank you personally for what was truly an amazing experience and thank you for the gift you gave us all. My guess is that you have made a life long positive influence on the 100 students present in the zoom meeting. I know you have added another layer to my armoury as I continue to face and hopefully embrace life's challenges. I haven't always embraced those challenges and in recent years taken steps to get the support and strategies required to do so. I couldn't wait to tell my wife all about you and will choose a time to tell each of my own adult children about a man that gave me insight and motivation to take charge of my perspective. I can't thank you enough Joel. I do look forward to seeing you on a TED Talk. You do have a gift that I hope more people get a chance to receive and then to pass on.



## Damien Mascitti

*Captain*  
*Box hill Hawks VFL*

Joel presented his story to our Football Club and was uniquely engaging. Hearing his journey from a fully fit soldier serving in Afghanistan to the accident that left him a quadriplegic certainly gave the group a new found perspective. Hearing Joel's story from start to now, showed that no matter the situation, there is always a silver lining. Joel's story and determination has inspired the players and staff of our club. I would strongly recommend anyone who has a desire to succeed and achieve in their lives to hear his story.



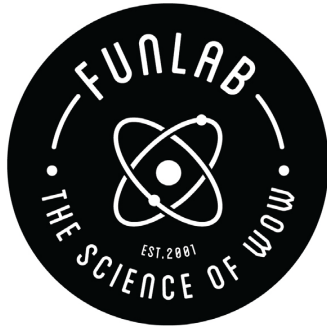
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**AUSTRALIAN ARMY**  
AUSSIE RULES FOOTBALL

## JAMES DEBONO

*National Army AFL Coach*

"We have had Joel present his story to our playing groups the past 2 years, his journey from being fully fit and healthy to a quadriplegic puts our players lives into real perspective. To hear the detail of his every day thoughts throughout his current rehab process, shows how brave he is, plus how important to surround yourself with positive people that at times challenge you to be better. His determination to tick his goals off is truly inspirational. We would strongly recommend other professional teams hear his story."



## FUNLAB

Our Manager arranged for Joel to give his presentation via Zoom during the COVID 19 Stage 4 restrictions in Melbourne, when we all had to work from home for 6 weeks. It couldn't have come at a more appropriate time - a time when we needed to be inspired and learn about resilience - Joel's presentation gave us all that and more. His presentation was so honest and open and told from the heart. There's no denying that we will all experience tragedy in some form during our lives but Joel's presentation really helped to point out that we need to differentiate between a tragic circumstance and a circumstance that perhaps we simply find frustrating or annoying or angry and which in fact is not a tragedy at all and that we need to reflect more on what we actually have in our lives rather than what we don't have, and be grateful for the things we do have no matter how simple they may seem. There are so many other messages that I took from his presentation that I could write an essay on them but best for you to listen to Joel speak for yourself. I can't recommend Joel's presentation highly enough and challenge anyone not to be moved and inspired by it.

# McGrath

## MICHELLE FLANNAGAN

*Operation Manager*

*Mcgrath Greensborough / Eltham*

We recently had Joel tell his story to our staff via zoom, whilst we were in Stage 4 restrictions in Melbourne. It is fair to say that we were all thinking that the thought of a 6 week lockdown period where so many of our freedoms were to be taken away was proving challenging to accept, but to hear Joel speak about his personal journey certainly gave us all some perspective, not only about our current situation, but more importantly about life in general. Through his presentation Joel showed us that no matter what obstacles you face in life, through attitude, determination and dedication you can overcome any obstacles. I liked the personal nature of Joel's presentation best – the rawness of his personal struggles resonated with me in light of the fact that to the "outside world."

Joel seemed to appear to adjust to this life changing event really well. Thanks Joel for an excellent presentation!