

# Assistant coach in critical condition

**BRENDAN DUNWORTH**

HAMILTON Kangaroos assistant playing coach Tim Meulendyks remains sedated in hospital following a shock cardiac arrest on Thursday. The Hamilton Kangaroos Football Club, family and friends were in disbelief when learning the news the star on-baller was rushed to The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne.

Driving through Lara (Geelong), on Thursday morning, the 26-year-old suffered a cardiac arrest before he veered off the road and crashed into a pole.

He was flown to Melbourne and has been treated while under sedation since.

Tim's brother Josh, updated *The Spectator* of the situation early on Monday morning.

"It was around 8.30am in the morning on Thursday and Tim had a cardiac arrest which caused him to swerve off the road," Josh said.

"Witnesses pulled over and rang police and ambulance and they were there shortly after.

"CPR was performed and then I am not sure if he was originally going to go to Geelong hospital, but a decision was made for him to be airlifted to The Alfred.

"He has been sedated since Thursday lunchtime and then on Sunday afternoon they slowly turned it down so he can wake up and tests can be performed. "He may wake up in 10 minutes, or in a few hours or in a few days ... the doctors have said everyone is different when sedation is lowered."

Asked if there were any underlying medical issues associated with the cause of the emergency, Josh said he didn't believe so, but said doctors were monitoring the situation.

"It was a shock and the doctors have been doing tests to see why it happened but now they have to wait to do more," he said.

Despite crashing into the pole, no physical injuries were found.

At the time of print, a representative from The Alfred confirmed Tim was in a critical condition. Kangaroos' chairman John Pepper said all thoughts were with the Meulendyks family.

"On behalf of the club we wish Tim a speedy recovery and we are thinking of him and his family at this time," he said.

"We know a lot of people in the district know about it and everyone is really feeling for him."

**HAMILTON** man Tim Meulendyks remains in a critical condition at The Alfred hospital at Melbourne. Photo: SUPPLIED.



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**Good Friday - 30th March**  
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Dunkeld @ 3pm

**Easter Vigil - 31st March**  
Hamilton @ 7.30pm

**Easter Sunday - 1st April**  
Glenthompson & Penshurst @ 8.30am  
Hamilton & Dunkeld @ 10.30am

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## Project to develop a new work mindset

A NEW partnership project will help south-west Victorian students to develop a new mindset about work and create skills they can transfer across industries.

Informed by the New Work Order research and insights, this project aims to New Work Mindsets in south-west Victoria is a partnership between South West TAFE, Lyndoch Living, Foundation for Young Australians (FYA), Eventide Homes (WDHS).

The project has received \$3.6 million from the Victorian Government through the Workforce Training Innovation Fund.

SW TAFE chief executive Mark Fidge welcomed the funding, saying the project would shift the mindset of students and employers from specific training to building a portfolio of technical, enterprising and career management skills.

SW TAFE executive manager of educational projects and project head, Madelyn Lettieri, said the project would use innovative thought leadership and courageous thinking to apply FYA's internationally recognised research in south-west Victoria.

The project will establish a new learning space at SW TAFE for students to build enterprise skills and meet with local entrepreneurs developing ideas for micro-businesses, a new training model for the healthcare and social assistance sector, and a prototype New Work Mindset tool to cluster jobs, skills and related TAFE courses.

Ms Lettieri said this would form the basis of new career management thinking for current and future workforces and address emerging and future needs for healthcare, social and particularly the aged care industries.

"The south-west project could also be adapted for use across Victoria, Australia and internationally," she said.

New Work Mindsets in South West Victoria will use research findings from FYA's New Work Mindset report to develop, test and trial new career development approaches for SW TAFE students and Lyndoch Living, WDHS and Eventide Homes employees.

This will create new roles and increase productivity and employer satisfaction.

FYA chief executive Jan Owen said their research reveals that young people are predicted to have 17 career changes across five industries in their lifetime.

"To navigate these changes we need to shift the way we approach our working lives," Ms Owen said.

"Rather than the current practice of building one set of narrow, job specific skills bridge the gap between the education world and the working world," Ms Owen said.

In response, the employee expressed disappointment that issues of staff morale and involvement in new project development was not addressed and said there are currently no experiments using either the animal house or the automated facility, nor are there any projects scheduled to use these facilities in the future.

"Unless these concerns are addressed, work morale and employee's mental health will continue to decline," the employee said.

## Uncertain future

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Prof Spangenberg did, however, shut down claims of a potential closure of the Red Meat Innovation Centre.

"The Hamilton site, together with the AgriBio research site, form Agriculture Victoria's red meat innovation cluster," Prof Spangenberg said.

"This cluster is undertaking world-leading research that is delivering transformational impact in both red meat and forage innovation, benefiting both the red meat and dairy industries.

"The farm infrastructure at the Hamilton research site is being used, and will continue to be used, for research projects that increase industry profitability through innovations in animal nutrition, reproductive performance and lamb survival.

"Notable projects include developing genomic selection for feed conversion efficiency in sheep, and improving ewe nutrition through a world-first intensive feeding approach.

"The infrastructure at Hamilton is also being enhanced to support forage innovation that will benefit both the red meat and dairy industries."