Rivals glam up for footy awards

Antimo Iannella

Crows recruit Grace Egan and Power star Teagan Germech will put footy rivalries aside for Monday's glamorous W Awards.

Port Adelaide defender Germech said she was looking forward to mingling with fellow players at AFLW's night of nights in Melbourne.

"The W Awards is about celebrating the competition and recognising all the talent in the AFLW," she said.

"We spend the season as competitors so it's nice to be able to come together and enjoy everyone's achievements."

Former Richmond player Egan, 26, said she was excited to "express herself outside of footy".

"It's not often we get to swap the boots for heels, and I'll look forward to getting my hair and makeup done," she said.

"I love to get dressed up and I can't wait to come together and celebrate the season with the rest of the players."

Germech is expected to poll well during the count, which honours AFLW's best individual player.

The 24-year-old, along with Power teammates Matilda Scholz and Abbey Dowrick, were named in the league's All Australian team. Chelsea Biddell was the Crows' sole representative.



Port Adelaide's Teagan Germech and Adelaide's Grace Egan at ONS Boutique for the W Awards. Picture: Eleni Tzanos

New pill can help save the memory

Fresh hope for Alzheimer's

Ike Morris

A drug aimed at reducing Alzheimer's symptoms has shown promising results in older Australians.

Australian biotech company Actinogen released the results of its phase 2 trials of the drug Emestedastat, which works by blocking the production of the stress hormone cortisol in key areas of the brain.

Developed under the brand name Xanamem, the trial involved 247 patients in Australia and the US with mild to moderate disease, taking a daily pill over 36 weeks.

While it showed it slowed the progression of the disease by 30 per cent in those over the median age of 75 – representing half the trial group – it did not record a statistically significant benefit in the overall trial group.

According to Actinogen, most participants in the trial experienced few side effects during the 36 weeks.

Actinogen chief executive Steven Gourlay said a recent $10.8m research and development tax incentive rebate awarded by the federal government put them in a stronger cash position amid the trial.

"It encourages companies like us to do as much research in Australia as we can," Dr Gourlay said. "So it's been good for Australian jobs, it's been good for Australian science, and it's been great for helping companies like us to do the work that we need to do to answer important questions like: 'Does this drug that controls cortisol work in Alzheimer's disease'?" he said.

The next trial is expected to involve 700 patients and begin in mid-2027, with the company hoping to get the drug to market in 2030.

Dr Gourlay said if that trial proved successful, he would hope they would be in a position to mass produce the drug, pending approval by the Therapeutic Goods Administration. He said he would also welcome it being listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme following further trials and pricing assessments.

"We would obviously be developing a lot of economic data to show the PBS when the drug gets approved, as you do in Australia and a lot of European countries – less so in the US – to show that the drug really is creating value: Preventing people from going into nursing homes, improving quality of life, reducing system costs," Dr Gourlay said. "And hopefully that would be convincing, and that would then bring forward the day that PBS would give us an approval."

Dementia – an umbrella term for a raft of neurological conditions of which Alzheimer's is one – is the leading cause of death in Australia.

According to Dementia Australia, 446,500 Australians are currently living with dementia, with that number expected to increase to more than one million by 2065.

News of Xamemen's phase two trial results was released on the same day Dementia Australia released No Time to Lose: A United Call for National Dementia Reform, renewing its call for the federal government to "take decisive action to address one of the nation's greatest challenges".

Pair charged over Cup thefts

Emma Kirk

Two men have been charged over the alleged thefts of five Melbourne and Caufield Cup trophies from Melbourne racecourses.

Three cups won by three-time Melbourne Cup champion Makybe Diva were taken from Flemington Racecourse about 6.30am on Monday. The trophies, worth an estimated $1m each, remain missing.

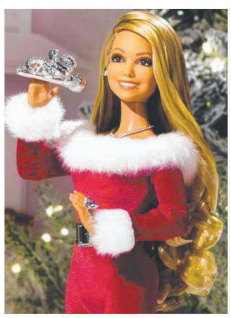
A Caulfield Cup also went missing from Caulfield Racecourse, while a fourth Melbourne Cup trophy was allegedly stolen on November 12.

Sama Mirzaagha, 36, and Chrysovalandis Tassakos, 39, have since been charged over the alleged thefts.

Mr Tassakos was charged with offences including burglary, theft and handling stolen goods. He was bailed following an appearance before Melbourne Magistrates Court on Thursday and is due to reappear on February 23.

Mr Mirzaagha was charged with two counts of burglary and theft, committing an indictable offence while on bail and dealing property suspected of being proceeds of crime.

He did not apply for bail and was remanded in custody, with his case to return to court for mention on January 12.



The Mariah Carey Christmas Barbie

Doll I want for Christmas

The Queen of Christmas has found a new way to sleigh the festive season – and this time she's made of plastic.

Mariah Carey has been immortalised as a Christmas Barbie once again, with Mattel unveiling a new doll inspired by the singer's famous festive hit. Sporting long golden locks, a red jumpsuit, fluffy white trim and black boots, the miniature Mariah looks as ready to take the stage as the real one.

The doll pays tribute to Carey's smash hit All I Want for Christmas Is You, which has dominated Christmas playlists since its release 32 years ago.

Priced at $80, the festive collectable is on sale just in time for Christmas shopping.

It marks songstress Carey's second collaboration with the Barbie line, after her first Christmas doll sold out in one day in 2023.