

Donna Bailey

The Footballers



Bailey has photographed 18 boys from the 2005 Quarry Hill under 12s football team. Her inspiration came from watching the passion, commitment and zeal of her eleven-year-old son, Ned, and his team-mates as they played football during the winter of 2005. Although the 'Quarry Hill Under 12s' did not experience a victory for the entire season their sincerity, and dedicated approach to being footballers did not falter.

The Footballers addresses the theme of boyhood via a country junior league football team. These photographic works consider Australian football culture, camaraderie and resilience but equally, they offer a moving view of young masculinity, the innocence of youth, and the spiritedness of boys who are on the verge of shifting out of childhood.

Image above: *The Footballers*, 2006, Type C print,
Below clockwise: *Mitch, Dogsy, Chris & Joel*, 2006, Type C prints, 800 x 1000cm

