Onside with the NRL
photographs by Mark Tedeschi

State Library of New South Wales
Macquarie Street, Sydney

Monday 18 June to Sunday 5 August 2012
Opening night: Tuesday 19 June 2012, 6-8pm

The exhibition coincides with the launch of the book
Shooting around corners: photographs by Mark Tedeschi
published by The Beagle Press
Onside with the NRL highlights the diversity of players’ backgrounds and reveals interesting aspects of their lives beyond Rugby League. These unique compositions move beyond the familiarity of the football field to reveal the depth and diversity of the interests that shape footballers’ lives outside their sport.

‘These prominent NRL players are not depicted in the traditional way, on-field or in the locker room, but instead.. pursuing their interests apart from football. This is not the first time I have used the portrait genre to depict a group of people in this way. My series, Legal chameleons (2008), consisted of barristers doing their own thing - pursuing their own interests, hobbies and activities apart from the law. This time I have chosen to show the many interests, jobs, hobbies and pastimes of NRL players to demonstrate how varied their activities are and how inaccurate the traditional stereotypes are of these men. I found the players to be delightful, warm people with a very developed sense of serving the community. It was a challenging and rewarding experience to photograph this group that normally I would have no contact with.’ Mark Tedeschi 2012

Mark Tedeschi’s portraits allow the viewer an extraordinary insight into the culture and world of the individuals who are the subjects of his works.
Junior Sa’u, NRL player for Newcastle Knights, 2012

For further information please contact
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This book is a comprehensive collection of Mark Tedeschi’s photographs which provides a sample of twenty-five years of his work. During this period he has been a prolific photographer, which is especially remarkable considering the other side of his life as the Senior Crown Prosecutor for New South Wales, prosecuting some of the most significant criminal trials in the State.

The photographs cover a wide gamut of topics from indigenous urban and rural communities to constructed scenes of barristers’ extracurricular pastimes and hobbies; from landscapes of urban decay to dramatic portrayals of the Australian desert; from portraits of prominent artists to delicate images of children and the elderly; and from intriguing domestic interiors to dramatic images of personal pathos on the streets of northern Italy.

Many of his images are enigmatic, humorous, and deep with subtle meaning, requiring the viewer to engage with them to fully appreciate them. His special ability is to cross cultural boundaries and engage with people from a wide variety of milieu. His numerous prizes and awards and other photographic accomplishments are a testament to his dedication to the art of photography.

The book contains more than 130 black and white and colour photographs, some with commentaries by the photographer; an introduction by art critic John McDonald; a foreword by Nicky McWilliam of Eva Breuer Art Dealer; and an interview of Mark Tedeschi by publisher Lou Klepac of The Beagle Press which explores Mark’s involvement in and passion for photography.

This book has been sponsored by the NRL with the support of Eva Breuer Art Dealer. It is published in association with an exhibition at the State Library of New South Wales entitled Onside with the NRL which has been organised by Eva Breuer Art Dealer.
Mark Tedeschi is well established as a photographer both in Australia and abroad. His works are included in the collections of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the National Library in Canberra, the State Library of NSW, the Centre for Fine Art Photography in Colorado USA and many private collections. Mark has won numerous photographic awards and prizes in Australia, North America and Europe. Mark is a finalist in the National Portrait Gallery Photographic Prize 2012 for his photograph of artist Pat Harry, ‘Creative angst’. Unusually for a practising artist, Mark is also a Queen’s Counsel and a New South Wales Crown Prosecutor.