



# BLOODS FOR LIFE

**PREMIERS** 1881 | 1885 | 1888 | 1889 | 1890 | 1909 | 1918 | 1933 | 2005 | 2012

**RUNNERS UP** 1880 | 1886 | 1896 | 1899 | 1907 | 1912 | 1914 | 1934 | 1935 | 1936 | 1945 | 1996 | 2006 | 2014 | 2016 | 2022

## OUR 150th YEAR CELEBRATIONS BEGIN

### OPENING ROUND AT THE SCG




#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**PAST PLAYERS  
FUNCTION**

**PROFILE OF BLOODS  
LEGEND PETER BEDFORD**

**HERITAGE FEATURE:  
THE LAKESIDE OVAL**



# BLOODS FOR LIFE



*Past Bloods gather for pre-Opening Round drinks:  
Tim Barling, Tony Morwood, Wayne Henwood, Paul Kelly, Neil Cordy, David Murphy,  
Barry Mitchell, Harry McAsey, Michael Pavone, Dennis Carroll and David Willis.*

## **BLOODS FOR LIFE: PAST AND CURRENT PLAYERS & OFFICIALS OF THE SYDNEY SWANS FOOTBALL CLUB**

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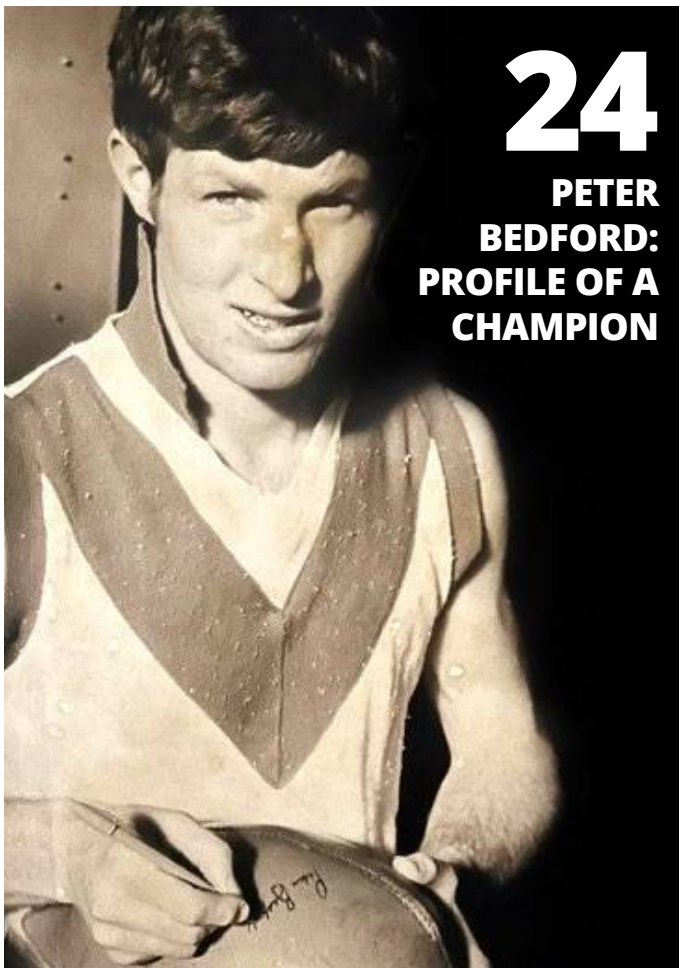
### **FRONT COVER:**

*150th Year celebrations kick-off with 10 Premiership Cups and past legends on the SCG for Opening Round.*

# Bloods For Life Magazine

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# OPENING ROUND: PAST PLAYERS FUNCTION

*To mark the beginning of the celebrations of the Club's 150th Anniversary, a function for Past Players was held at Swans HQ prior to the 2024 season Opening Round fixture against Melbourne at the SCG.*



*Neil Brunton, Kerrie Wright, Craig Davis, Barry Hall and Stevie Wright*

**A reminder to all Past Players and Officials that another function will be held in Sydney prior to the Round 22 fixture against Collingwood at the SCG (fixture to be finalised by AFL). Stay tuned for further details. Past Players and Officials also note the following functions coming soon to Perth and Adelaide**

- **ROUND 9 IN PERTH V FREMANTLE - Thursday 9 May 6.00-8.00pm**  
Empire Bar 220 Great Eastern Highway, Lathlain (featuring Tom Harley, Kieren Jack and Troy Cook).
- **ROUND 14 IN ADELAIDE V THE CROWS - Saturday 15 June 4.30-6.30pm:**  
Torrens Room, Cathedral Hotel, North Adelaide (special guests to be advised).





*Tim Barling, Grant Batholomaeus and Paul Kelly.*



*David Murphy, Brett Scott, Steve Taubert, Rod Carter and Gerard Healy.*



*Stevie Wright and Max Kruse.*

**OPENING ROUND:  
PAST PLAYERS FUNCTION**



*Gerard Healy and Tony Franklin.*



*The great Peter Bedford with Peter Rice  
(39 games for South Melbourne 1959-1962).*



*Mike Pyke and Ted Richards.*



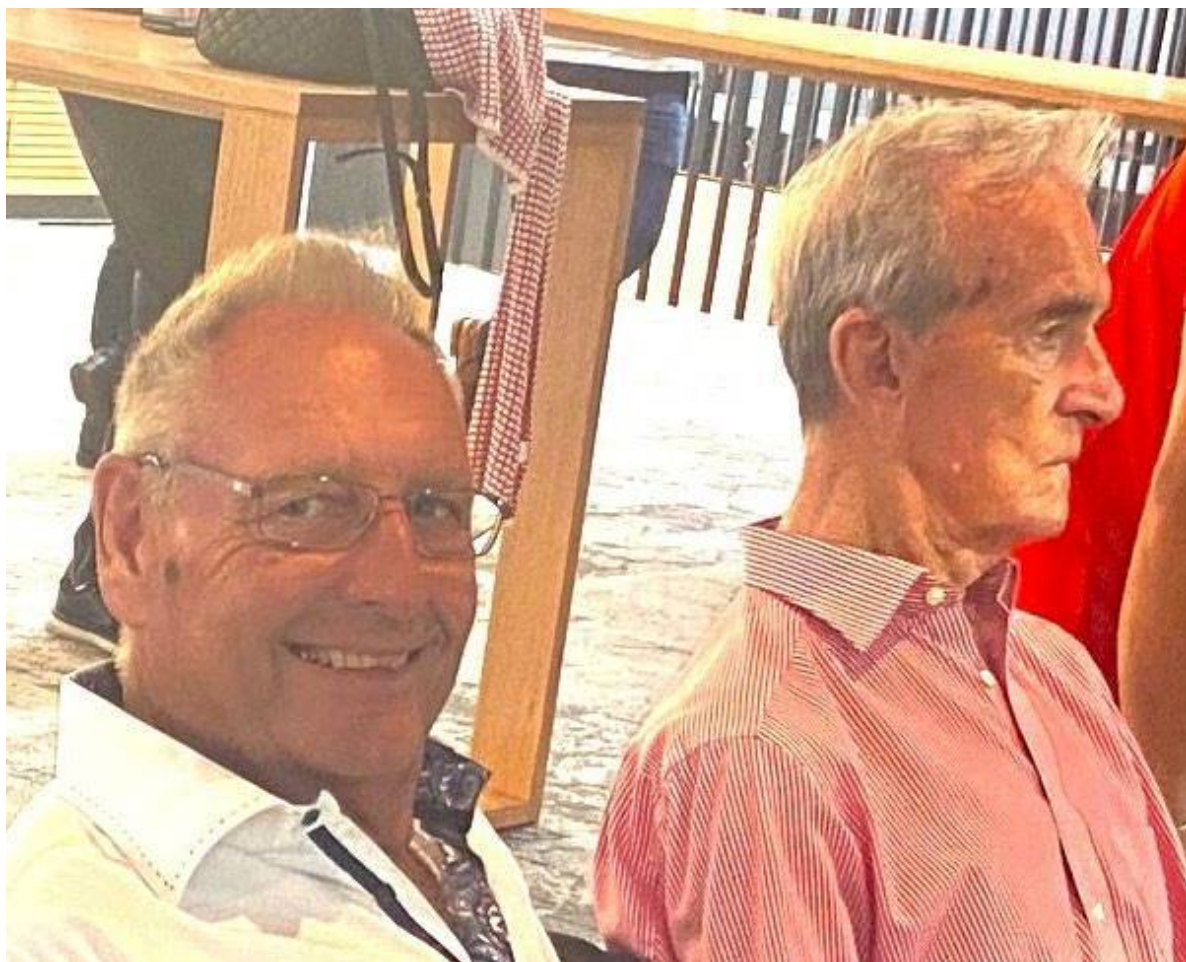


*Peter Bedford with Kate and Reg Gleeson.*



*Mitch Morton and Dan Hannebery.*

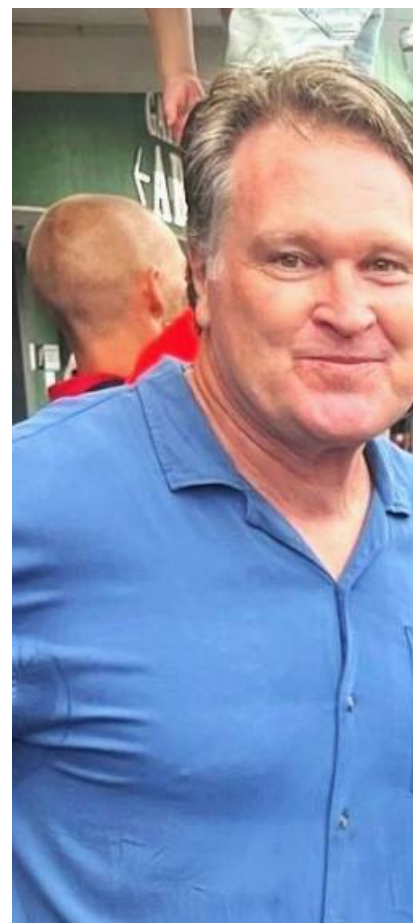
**OPENING  
ROUND:  
PAST  
PLAYERS  
FUNCTION**



*Graham Teasdale and John Heriot.*



*Stevie Wright and Craig Nettlebeck.*







*Mark Livy, Andrew Bomford and Barnaby Howarth.*



*Wayne Henwood, Greg Williams, Harry McAsey and David Murphy.*

## **OPENING ROUND: PAST PLAYERS FUNCTION**

*Prior to the Opening Round match against Melbourne, Past Players joined with supporters for the amazing **March to the Match**.*

*A massive guard-of-honour for the team was formed as they entered the SCG for their initial warm-up. It was a tremendous occasion and had everyone in the mood for the big game to follow.*



*Here comes the Band!*



*The crowd waits in anticipation...*



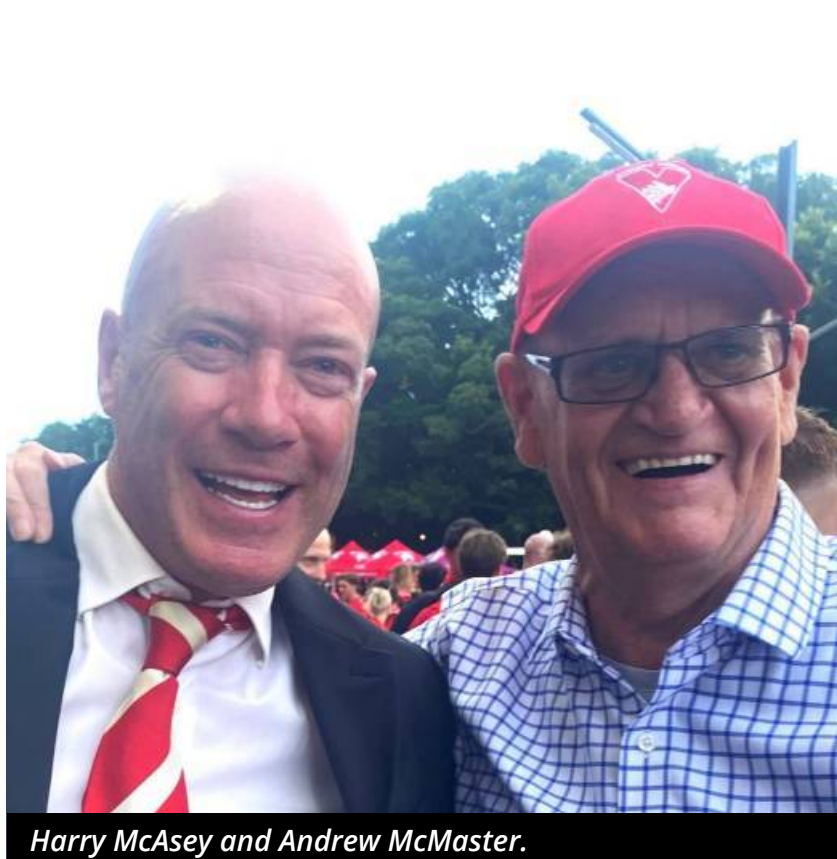
*The boys emerge.*

**OPENING ROUND:  
PAST PLAYERS FUNCTION**

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*Rick Quade and Leigh Gazzard.*



*Harry McAsey and Andrew McMaster.*



*Lewis Roberts-Thomson and Tom Derickx.*



*Derek Kickett and Neil Brunton.*



*Peter Rice gives his encouragement to the boys!*

## **OPENING ROUND: PAST PLAYERS FUNCTION**

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*Barry Mitchell, Jason Saddington, Leo Barry, Andrew Schauble and Andrew Bomford wait in anticipation.*



*Tom and Errol lead the way.*



*Nick Smith, Nick Davis, Barry Hall and Tadhg Kennelly wait with the young fans.*



## **OPENING ROUND: PAST PLAYERS FUNCTION**

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*Nick Smith and Dennis Carroll.*



*Lining the streets of Moore Park.*



*To mark the Club's 150th Anniversary, the Club's 10 Premiership trophies from 1881, 1885, 1888, 1889 and 1890 (the VFA era, and 1909, 1918, 1933, 2005 and 2012 (the VFL/AFL era) were presented by our past champions and legends to the 40,012 spectators in attendance.*

*It was an awesome tribute to our past, and a great occasion for all in attendance.*



*Jude Bolton, Barry Hall and Leo Barry with the 2005 Premiership Cup.*



*Two of the most exciting Bloods of all time – Michael O'Loughlin and Derek Kickett.*

## OPENING ROUND: PAST PLAYERS FUNCTION



*Norm Smith Medalist Ryan O'Keefe with Josh Kennedy, Kieren Jack and the 2012 Premiership Cup.*



*Bloods Legend and Captain Courageous Paul Kelly with the Opening Round game ball.*



*10 Premiership Cups in the centre of the SCG.*



**BLOODS  
FOR LIFE**

# YOUR OPINION MATTERS

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## Welcome to the **BLOODS FOR LIFE** Survey

We value your feedback and insights on how we can continue to grow and strengthen our communication within our membership.

If you could please spend 4-5 minutes completing this brief survey, we would be indebted for your feedback and insights.

***CLICK HERE***  
***OR SCAN THE QR CODE***  
***TO HAVE YOUR SAY***



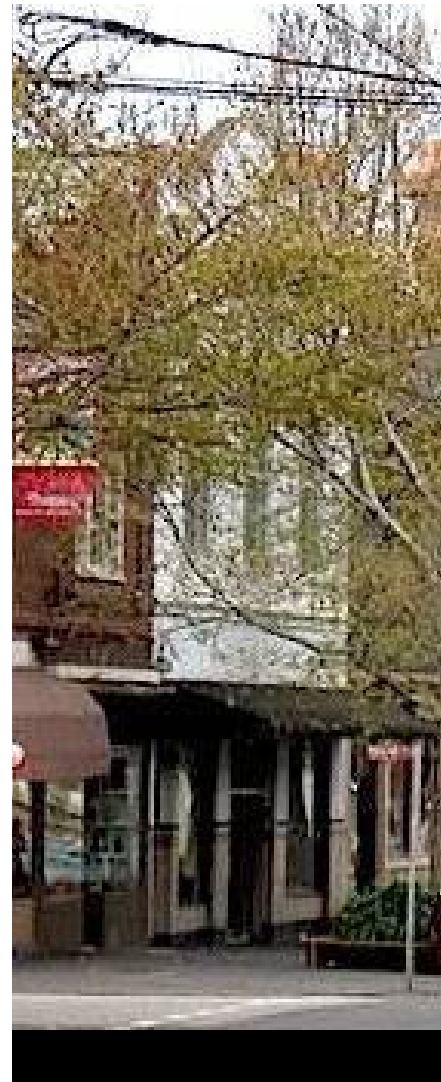
**THE LAKESIDE OVAL:**

# OUR HOME FOR A CENTURY

**In this the 150th year of our Club,  
we look back at a key part of  
our heritage, the wonderful  
Lakeside Oval**

*By Chris Bracher*

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*“Our history, our home, our heart, our stand”.*

**This was the emphatic call to action emblazoned on the banner at the MCG in round 14, 2005 almost 24 years after The Bloods last graced the Lakeside Oval.**

The members' grandstand – our Grand Lady of the Lake - was under threat of the wrecker's ball.

The symbolic guardian of the western end of Albert Park lake with its reassuring view into South Melbourne's Clarendon St, was decaying and the point of no return was looming.

Enter “Grandstand Rescue”; and their ‘retain and renovate’ campaign, reflecting the lingering love for the red and white by true-believers.

There were cynics aplenty, encouraging the club and its supporter base to move on and accept the inevitability of demolition

rumoured to be front of mind at the Grand Prix Corporation which had lured the F1s to Melbourne from Adelaide in 1996.

However, the Grandstand Rescue group was made of staunch stuff, and under the club-sanctioned leadership of Tony Morwood and Rob Pascoe - and comprising Craig Meade, Chris Dow and Chris Bracher - it vigorously promoted community re-engagement.

Intense lobbying along with hefty doses of supporter passion, saw the grand old lady saved. She now houses the Victorian Institute of Sport and while somethings have changed she still looks down Clarendon St into her former heartland. Every March, she marvels at the world's fastest men on wheels as they negotiate Turn 4 on the Grand Prix track, by her front door. Peaceful co-existence at last.



*Clarendon Street, South Melbourne.*

From the outset the Grandstand Rescue group understood they were just not saving a stand but generations of cherished memories and a historic connection now proudly embraced in the club's 150th year. And what a year 2005 was for a campaign like this!

The Lakeside (or Lake) oval was first established by the South Melbourne Cricket Club in 1862 and subsequently shared with the football club from 1878. Beloved and symbolic though she might be, our grand lady has not witnessed all the great deeds for which the Oval is renowned. She was constructed in 1926 as a replacement for the elegant wooden pavilion built in 1886 and destroyed by fire in 1910.

So it was her predecessor that welcomed the English Rugby team in 1888 for a one-off victory against South. Nor was she around in 1923 to see the record crowd of 40,401 for the biannual South-St-Kilda "Battle of The

Lake". However, she was witness to the best individual goal tally (15) at the ground in 1934 by the great Bob Pratt.

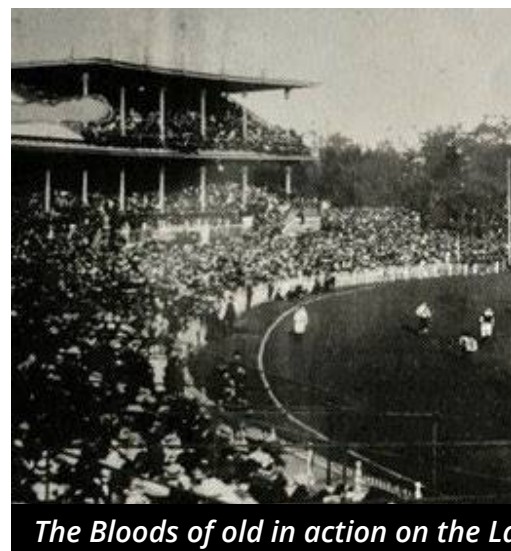
She saw all the Champions of consecutive eras – Pratt, Nash, Goldsmith, Matthews, Clegg, Skilton, Bedford, Teasdale, Round, and marvelled at their skill. Her spaces once echoed with the famous cry of "Up There Cazaly" in winter and polite applause in summer as she gazed upon South's finest cricketers - Hassett, Johnson, Miller, Redpath, Yallop, Walker and the great West Indian Captain Clive Lloyd among them.

She is too young to have seen the "Big Ship" Warwick Armstrong, Bill Woodfull and Clarrie Grimmett wear their red caps with pride, but she knows of the impressive list of Australian Test Captains to have called this ground their home.

## THE LAKESIDE OVAL: OUR HOME FOR A CENTURY



*Facilities were fairly plain*



*The Bloods of old in action on the L*

As a consequence of World War II her seats were empty from 1942-46 as South relocated first to Princes Park and then to the St Kilda Junction Oval, as the allied armed forces commandeered the Lake Oval for the wartime effort.

She was seen in a different light in the 1950s when "match-suitable" floodlights were erected spawning a VFL end-of-season night series for teams that failed to qualify for finals. Colloquially known as the "Consolation Cup" it ran from 1956 to 1971. This was an age when floodlight technology was primitive and the shadows in her corners hid the dirty deeds of some of the leagues hardest men!

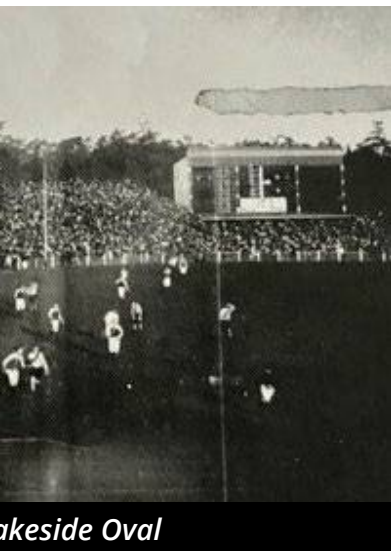
She's had companions throughout much of her life; the peanut man, the caged cockatoo that mimicked the sounds of the crowd, and local cult-hero, Tommy Lahiff as he marshalled young aspiring cricketers and argued with South's footy coaches keen to access the ground prior to the time-honoured seasonal handover date! A Swans favourite from the 1980's, Ian Roberts, also was an accomplished 1st grade cricketer with South, and he negotiated the seasonal tightrope firmly held by Tommy and Ian Stewart. Keeping the footballers off the sacred centre-wicket area was a constant source of conflict!

August 29, 1981 was a dark day for her, as the Swans of South Melbourne ran onto the

ground for the last time before heading north to a stuttering start as the Swans of Sydney. The black banner erected by the cheer-squad on that infamous day eerily reflected her mood. The speculation of a flirtation with a change of colours to coincide with the Sydney move nearly broke her spirit and that of her rusted-on community. However, twenty-four years later, the sadness of separation was discarded if not forgotten and her walls swelled with pride as her long-departed heroes finally delivered on a premiership promise. A week after the 2005 triumph she was crowned with a flag delivered to the heights by her favourite son of all time; her beloved "Skilts". That moment remains an anchor point for the local embrace of the "two cities, one team" mantra and an awakening to future possibilities, that only success can bring.

For part of the 1980's her cavernous interior rocked to the sounds of "disco" music and she is dear to the hearts of many Melbourne couples who danced and romanced at "Redheads". She then watched on for a decade or two as the oval terraces grew weeds, her more modern sister stand was removed, her paint blistered, her roofing iron twisted and the Lake "Oval" became "oblong" to accommodate a dislocated neighbour from the round ball code.

From her elevated position she is afforded wonderful views of Albert Park lake and the Canary Island and Livistona palms that fringe



Lakeside Oval



Looking good these days

the lake, beyond the terraces. Early in the season whilst the warmish-weather held, her patrons with binoculars might also have caught a glimpse of lawn bowlers behind the unique white timekeeper's/press box and hand-operated scoreboard, on the lake wing. Later in the season, it's fair to say that the late afternoon sea-breeze roaring down the lake made rugging-up a necessity!

The Lakeside Oval hosted 704 VFL day games and seven finals matches including the 1899 and 1901 Grand Finals. Additionally, it hosted Victorian Baseball Association and interstate Claxton Shield games in the 1960's and '70's. Since the departure of the Swans, ironically the ground was used by an otherwise homeless Fitzroy F.C. as a training and administration base for two years in the mid-1980s. The oval also hosted the "Army Reserve Cup" which was televised live on Sundays until 1986; the forerunner to contemporary Sunday AFL telecasts (and arguably reflective of a Sunday turf war between TV networks that ultimately contributed to the demise of the VFA competition). Old Xaverians amateurs were the last team to play regularly at the venue from 1993 to 1995. The final match on the ground was the 1995 VAFA Grand Final. Thereafter, the ground was reconfigured for soccer.

In a cruelly ironic twist, the ground conversion to accommodate the National Soccer League

heavyweight South Melbourne Hellas (a club which had suffered through the demolition of its Middle Park stadium to accommodate the spatial needs of the Grand Prix) proved all in vain for this famous club as it was not included in the A-League, which evolved from the NSL. Athletics Victoria is now the major tenant of the Lakeside Stadium; perhaps blissfully unaware that the athletics theme commenced some 50 years earlier with a match-race between the Australian distance running legend Ron Clarke and his brilliant Kenyan Olympic Champion rival, Kip Keino?

For 55 of the 103 years that the Bloods called the Lakeside Oval their home, our Lady of the Lake grandstand watched over her red and white heroes. While there is now little else to tangibly remind us of our origins, in her 98th year she now confidently stands in perpetuity, with the threat of the demolition ball long behind her.

She remains that red and white beacon at the end of Clarendon St; a symbol of pride for all of the Bloods family as they admire her and grow to understand the richness of her history and just why "SMFC" adorns the back of the contemporary player's guernsey.

***We would like to hear from you & receive your feedback***



**FEATURE  
ARTICLE  
A BIRD'S  
EYE VIEW**

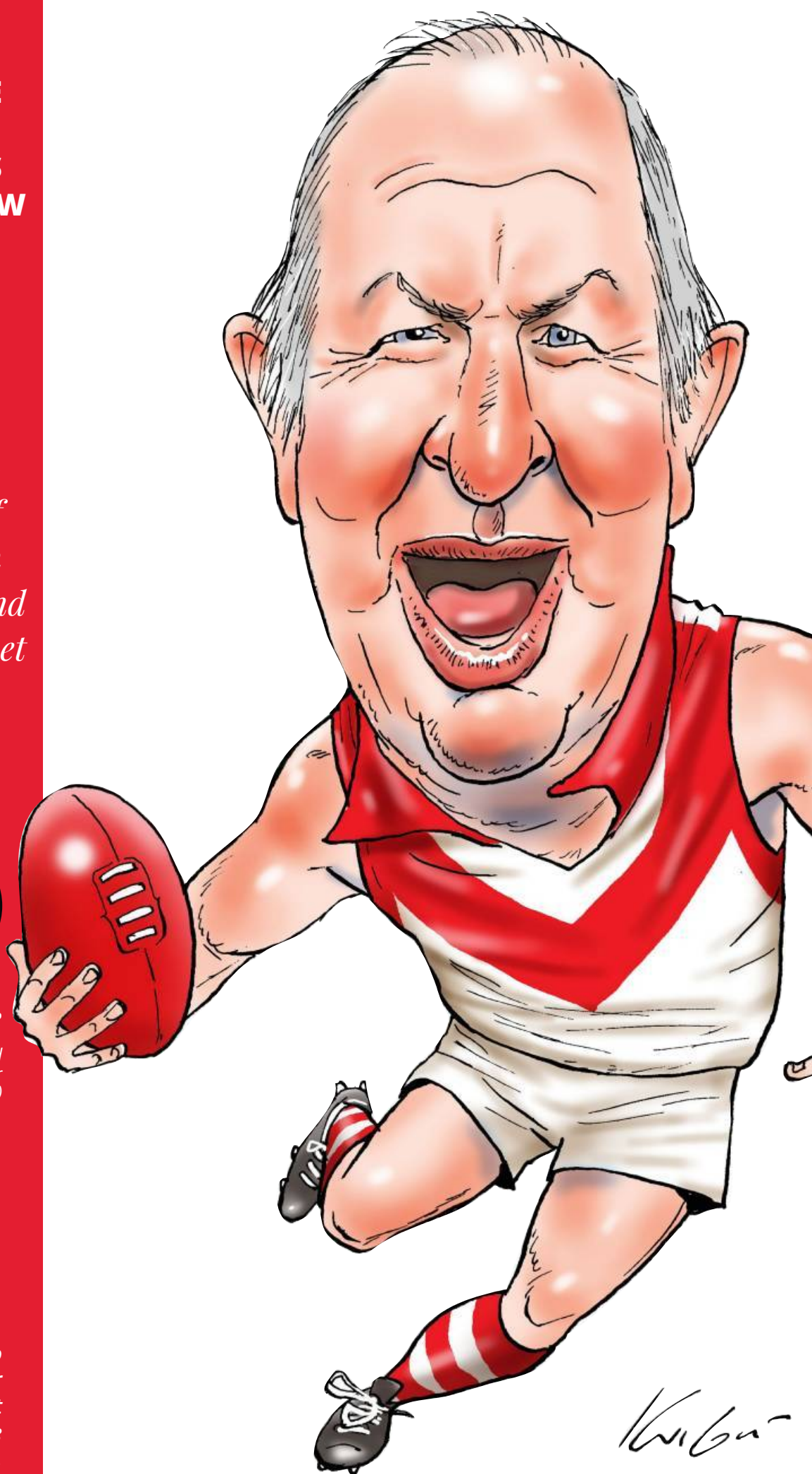
*In this edition  
we profile  
Bloods legend  
Peter Bedford –  
a champion of  
both Australian  
Rules and  
Cricket*



*By Joe Moore*

*(Joe Moore is a Hobart-based  
writer. He has been writing for  
the Sydney Swans since 2015)*

*Our thanks to  
Mark Knight for  
this magnificent  
caricature of the  
great Peter Bedford.*



*Knight*



# PETER BEDFORD - THE ALL ROUND CHAMPION



**Nicknames have been a longstanding tradition in Australian culture. During the 1960s, they became popular due to a combination of factors: identity and belonging, sporting culture, language creativity, and humor.**

Peter Bedford won the first of his 39 caps for the Victorian Sheffield Shield cricket team in November 1966, joining a team that included Bill Lawry, Keith Stackpole, and Ian Redpath. Receiving a nickname was a rite of

passage.

Bedford has been affectionately known as 'Wheels' from that day forward. Many have been fooled by the understandable assumption that the nickname derived from some type of footballing reference—linked possibly to his speed, agility, or ability to wheel onto either right or left boot with an equal level of precision. But, 'Wheels' became part of his identity simply because he shared a surname with Bedford Trucks. Although I agree with his suggestion to create a more elaborate story, it's been with him now for almost 60 years.

Speak to any South Melbourne supporter from the '60s and '70s, and they'll tell you 'Wheels' is appropriate given how he moved through the midfield and half-forward as a skilful goal-kicking rover. However, the five-time best and fairest winner, 1970 Brownlow Medallist, and Australian Football Hall of Famer wasn't always destined to be a Swan.

"Growing up in Port Melbourne was like growing up in a big country town. Everyone knew each other, and the football and cricket clubs were integral to the community. Dad played for Port, and my earliest

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Peter Bedford –  
*the All Round Champion*

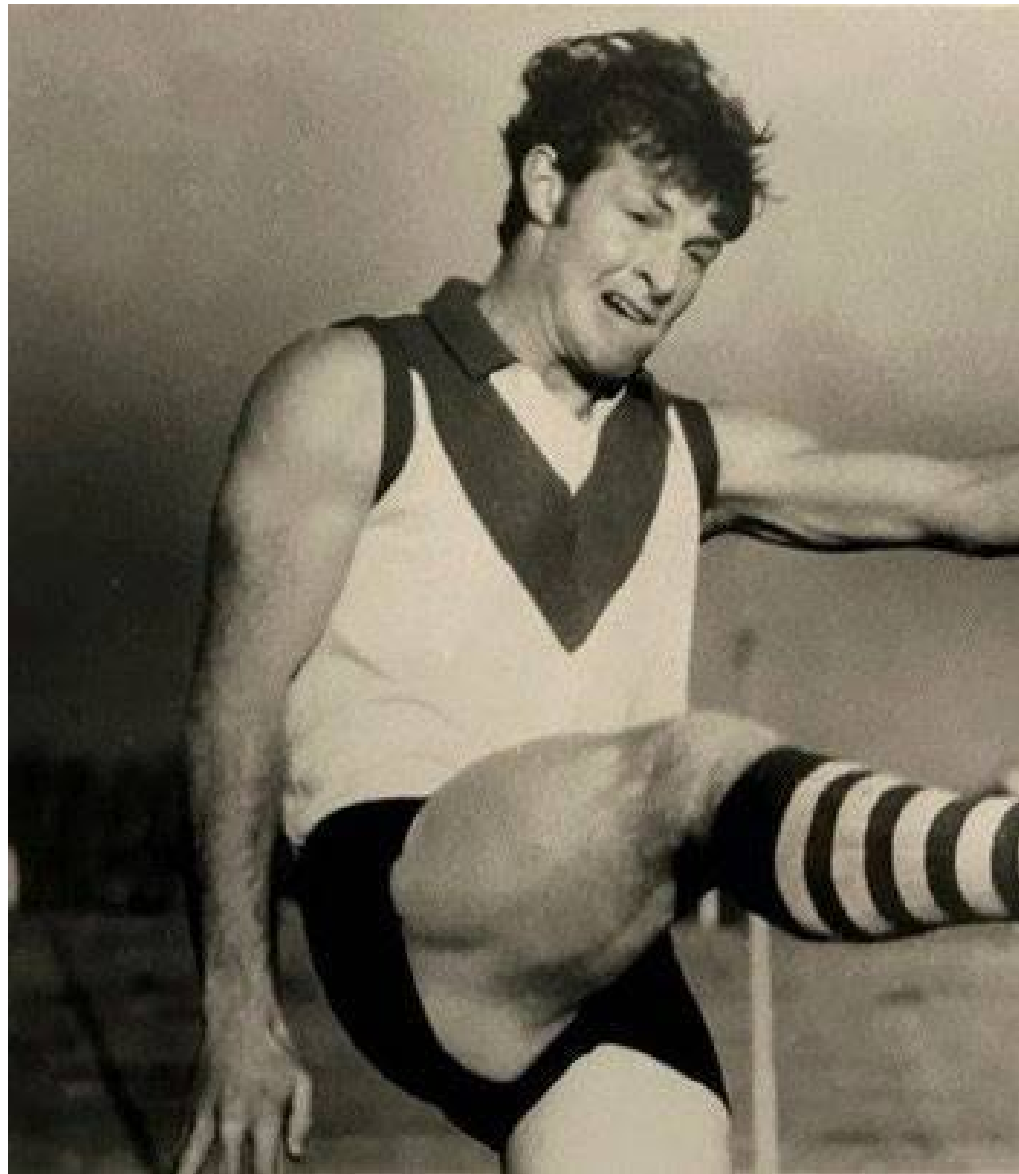
memories are of playing footy and cricket with eight or ten other boys, hour after hour” Bedford says.

Despite achieving significant acclaim in football, his affection for cricket illustrates his discipline, versatility, passion and multifaceted skills as an elite athlete. Starting his sporting journey as a 10-year-old boy playing cricket for the Garden City under-14s, Bedford's weekends illustrated his dedication and love for the game.

Testament to his commitment and energy is young Bedford playing cricket at Murphy Reserve in the morning, only to dash to North Port Oval to catch a ride for an away game with the third XI before playing the next day in the local youth league matches at Lagoon Oval.

His impressive ability to so clearly recall those days reflects a profound connection to the times, places and spaces that have shaped him as an athlete and person.

Playing in the VFA for Port Melbourne, **The Borough**, Bedford also enjoyed Saturday afternoons watching



South play at the Lake Oval. And ritually he wore the number 14 guernsey of his hero and fellow Port boy, Bob Skilton.

One afternoon he received a lasting lesson about just where his loyalties should lie.

“I actually had a brief flirtation with Collingwood as a boy,” Bedford says.

“Mum and Dad enjoyed having a little flutter in those days. Mum would wrap the money up in an A4-sized sheet of paper, and I'd take it to the SP bookie. This Saturday morning, I walked

from Cecil Street to Bay Street to drop off the bets, then I walked across the road to get the meat and the veggies.”

“But my prime objective was to buy a new South jacket, which was predominantly white with red piping. I looked up on the rack and couldn't see a red and white one—they were sold out. I asked the shopkeeper, Mr. Carter, if I could try the black and white one on. He said, ‘Are you sure, son?’

It fitted like a glove, so I purchased it. When I got home, I went to meet Mum



versatility, Bedford says if playing conditions were as they are today, he'd have chosen cricket. As an up-and-coming right-hand batsman and leg-break bowler, his star was rising, capturing the attention of the South Australian club, Port Adelaide. They offered him a football contract built around his 'desire to improve his cricket prospects.' The contract hinted at possible South Australian Sheffield Shield cricket selection, and Sir Donald Bradman even informed Port he hoped Bedford would come, going so far as to say he'd be silly not to.

After some consideration, he declined the offer to move interstate, and the reality of being paid \$7 a day as a Victorian first-class cricketer made the choice to increase his focus on football the only logical one. When South Melbourne approached Bedford to join them ahead of the 1968 season, he and his wife Brenda had recently married. The offer would enable the young couple to put a deposit on their first home, and he duly decided to join the Swans.

However, moving from Port

when she hopped off the bus. I was excited as all hell, and Mum took one step off the bus and screamed, 'Where the hell did you get that from? Take it back!' So I ran back to Mr Carter, and I still remember the look on his face when he turned to me and said, 'I thought you'd be back, son.'

In 1965, Bedford followed in his father's footsteps, debuting for Port Melbourne. He played in three Grand Finals in three seasons, kicking two goals as a critical cog in the 1966 VFA

premiership-winning team. That season, he was chosen to represent the VFA at the national carnival in Hobart. He took two weeks' leave from the Toorak Teachers College to play. When he was selected for the Victorian cricket team later that year, he assumed leave would again be granted. "The principal said, son, what do you want to be? A teacher or a sportsman?" Bedford recalls. "I said, I think I want to be a sportsman, and he said, I think you should relinquish your position here."

A sportsman of tremendous

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

*Peter Bedford – the All Round Champion*

to South required a clearance, and Port Melbourne officials wanted to retain their most promising player. They denied his clearance request, and Bedford decided to make the switch anyway, excited by the opportunity to test himself against the best and play at the highest level of competition. He incurred a ten-year ban from the VFA and Port officials made life tough during the week of his South Melbourne debut.

Bedford debuted against Hawthorn in the second round of 1968 but on the morning of the match, he received a surprise visit inside the Glenferrie ground. "It was an awful week leading up to the game," Bedford recalled. "Norm Goss Sr. and Darky McFarlane came around home and terrorised me every night. They were saying things like 'cricket's your game' and 'what are you going to join that rotten mongrel mob for—they're no good'. They wouldn't let up."

"I was preparing for the game when Tommy Lahiff tapped me on the shoulder and told me Norm wanted a word beside the grandstand. When I saw Norm and Darky talking to Brenda, I thought, 'Here

we go again'. But Norm told me, 'We knew you were going to go at some stage; we just thought we might get one more year out of you'. They wished me good luck, and off I went."

His first appearance in red and white was memorable for several reasons. "I was playing on David Parkin in a forward pocket, and when I led up for the ball, he'd pull me back by the shorts," Bedford recalls. "I said, 'Please don't do that, David.' He did it again, and I said, 'Please don't, David.' When he did it a third time, a bit of the old Port Melbourne came out in me, and I sat him on his backside. We still laugh about it now."

"I wondered whether I'd made the right decision, though," Bedford said. "In my first game, Skilts got absolutely poleaxed, knocked out cold. They got the smelling salts out and loaded him onto the stretcher. After some extensive rehab at halftime, he went again and kicked five goals. I was lucky to start my career well with four goals, which was the catalyst for some pretty good things to come."

Pretty good, indeed.

Any young footballer gracing



*Bloods Legends and Brownlow Medalist*

the turf of VFL grounds in the 1960s and 70s received a thorough character examination, and Bedford emerged as a player of genuine toughness and fierce competitiveness. He won South Melbourne's best and fairest and the first of his 13 Victorian jumpers in his second season of top-flight football while playing a vital role in the state cricket side. When legendary coach Norm Smith joined South Melbourne in 1969, he encouraged Bedford to continue playing both sports. In fact, during Melbourne's late summer, Bedford trained with the Melbourne Cricket Club at the Albert Ground before dashing across to the Lake Oval for Swans training later that night.

Bedford immediately



ts: Peter Bedford and Bobby Skilton

connected with his new coach and said the whole team would've run through a brick wall for Smith. However, during the summer of 1969-70, his cricket exploits reached an entirely new level. A season that saw him bowl Greg Chappell on the way to a five-wicket haul that inspired Victoria's Sheffield Shield triumph had him penciled in for the Australia A tour to New Zealand. An ill-timed hamstring injury prevented him from boarding that plane, but he seriously considered an overseas winter move to play Lancashire League cricket. It was the closest he ever came to switching to the summer sport, his first sporting love.

In a 2012 *Sunday Age* article, Peter Hanlon wrote of Bedford: "He is full of cricket yarns, excusing himself to

tell one with Dennis Lillee at its heart. In shorthand, it features Bill Lawry, Richie Robinson, 'Garth' McKenzie, the umpire, a blow to the groin, a high-voiced impersonation, the tea break, John Inverarity, Graeme Watson dropping a slips catch, a shirtfront from Lillee, an attempted Derek Chadwick 'Mankad', Bedford getting so mad that a bit of Port Melbourne came out in him ("the old Port Melbourne"), Marsh dropping back five meters, a half volley hitting the middle of his bat yet still bowling him."

Instead of leaving for England, Bedford stayed, leading South to its first finals appearance in 25 years, while also claiming the 1970 Brownlow Medal. An exquisitely talented and courageous centreman he was superb averaging 24 disposals while kicking 50 goals. That year, he won an incredible eight Player of the Year awards and two new cars. In Norm Smith's biography, *Red Fox*, the master coach declares, 'pound for pound, Peter Bedford is the best player I've coached.'

'When Norm arrived, it was like a blood transfusion,' Bedford recalls. 'With his

## PETER BEDFORD

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

#### FOOTBALL

##### 52 GAMES

Port Melbourne in the VFA

##### 178 GAMES

South Melbourne  
1968-1976; 325 goals

##### 8 GAMES

Carlton 1977-1978; 4 goals

#### 5 TIME SOUTH MELBOURNE

##### BEST & FAIREST

1969; 1970, 1971, 1973 and 1975

#### BROWNLOW MEDAL 1970

##### LEADING GOALKICKER

1971, 1972 and 1973

##### CAPTAIN

1973-1976

#### SELECTED IN THE SWANS

##### TEAM OF THE CENTURY

**A MEMBER OF THE PORT MELBOURNE TEAM OF THE CENTURY** along with his father William Bedford

#### INDUCTED INTO THE AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME IN 1999

#### REPRESENTED VICTORIA

13 games; 11 goals

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

*Peter Bedford – the All Round Champion*

background, so many premierships, we looked up to him, and he moulded us into a pretty tough, resilient group. There was so much respect there; it was like he was a father, and every time you went out to play, it was incumbent on you to be the very best you could be; it was special."

While the Swans lost their 1970 semi-final to the Saints, Bedford appreciated the experience of playing in front of 104,000 supporters in what would be his only finals appearance. In the early stages of the Brownlow count—the first to be televised—he thought he was bound for disappointment. "I was sitting with Wayne Walsh, and things weren't going too well during the one-votes. I said, 'I don't think we're going to do too well here, mate.' He said, 'Don't worry, you'll get all the threes'. As it panned out, I started to move through the field and ended up winning by four from Gary Dempsey, then Jezza and Barry Cable. Everything became a bit of a haze. In those times, they used to take the winner out to TV ringside, so we went out to Festival Hall to be introduced to the crowd, which was a thrill."

Bedford was the last Brownlow Medallist to receive



his award in public. The presentation took place on the MCG before the second semi-final between Carlton and Collingwood which attracted a crowd of 112,838, the tenth-biggest crowd of all time and the largest for any match other than a grand final to that point. This backdrop of fervent anticipation and excitement added an unparalleled grandeur to Bedford's crowning moment.

Unfortunately, South's momentum from that season quickly dissipated. Bedford, though, upheld his high standard of play, winning his third club best and fairest and his first leading goalkicker award in 1971. He was elected Swans captain in 1973—an honour he dearly treasures today. Bedford applied himself to the captaincy,

winning his fifth best and fairest and third leading goalkicker awards in his first season as skipper.

However, the team couldn't regain the cohesion of that 1970 season. Eventually, in 1977 and 1978, Bedford played his final eight games with Carlton, including the last match of his storied career against the Swans. Like so many at the time, Bedford was saddened by the club's relocation to Sydney in 1982, although he never lost his red-and-white connection. "When we were transplanted into Sydney, for want of a better term, a lot of diehard South Melbourne supporters didn't like it and virtually walked away from the club. The league wanted to form a national competition, and when the club left, it was almost like losing a part of the



## PETER BEDFORD

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

#### CRICKET

#### BATSMAN AND LEG-SPIN BOWLER FOR VICTORIA

#### 39 MATCHES

Victoria 1966-67  
to 1972-73

#### 1,602 FIRST CLASS RUNS

at 28.10;  
top score of 134 v  
Western Australia

#### 45 WICKETS

at 33.40;  
best bowling figures  
5-40 against  
South Australia,  
1969-70

#### MEMBER OF SHEFFIELD SHIELD

winning Victorian  
side in 1969-70

family," Bedford says.

He's a local boy through and through and for the purpose of this story, we met at a café in Albert Park. In one magical month in 2003, Bedford was named in his two beloved football clubs' teams of the century. Named as centreman, he was united with his dad, Bill, in Port Melbourne's side and just weeks later joined his childhood hero Bob Skilton as rovers in the Swans Team of the Century.

Later in life, Bedford met his second wife Lynne at the North Port Oval, and South Melbourne luminary Father Bob Maguire married them. Sadly, Lynne passed away in 2016, and shortly after that, Bedford received a phone call that encapsulated the sense of connection he continues to feel with the club. "I'd

been out to dinner with my brother-in-law, and I was driving home when Andrew Ireland called and asked how I'd feel if we won the 2016 Grand Final, and I got to present the cup to the team? I must admit I teared up when he asked me, with that incredible opportunity they gave me," reflects Bedford.

Bedford retains those links to this day, regularly attending Swans matches with his daughters and often appearing at club dinners and special occasions, where he shares stories from his playing days and offers insights into the game. These interactions allow fans and members to connect with one of their heroes in a meaningful way.

Be assured: 'Wheels' is still travelling nicely. ▼



*March to the Match*

# CLUB REPORT

**This season marks a special year for our football club, being 150 years since the Swans were born from humble beginnings on 19 June 1874 in Temperance Hall, at what was then known as Emerald Hill and later became South Melbourne. From Emerald Hill to the Emerald City of Sydney, we've come a long way: 10 premierships across the VFA and VFL/AFL, a women's team, an academy with some 700 boys and girls, and our new home, the Basil Sellers Richard Colless Centre.**

There's been plenty happening at our HQ so far this year as we continue to look at new ways to make best use of our incredible new space. We've hosted everything from corporate offsites to bubble soccer and kids birthday parties, all the while maximising the

space for our elite training programs with our men's team in full swing and our women's team ramping up their training. Our new home has also been key to delivering new community programs and it was a highlight to welcome participants from our ARA First Nation's Foundations program, which is in its second year. A huge thank you to Michael O'Loughlin and his team for their support.

This season we are striving for 75,000 members and hope to see more sell-out crowds. Our Opening Round certainly saw the season get off to a terrific start with some 40,012 people packing the SCG to witness the team's 22-point win over Melbourne. Melbourne was a historically significant opponent, being the first team we played in the VFA in 1879 and the first team we played





*Swans HQ prior to Opening Round*

after moving to Sydney in 1982.

Anyone who attended Opening Night would have witnessed the magnificent atmosphere as thousands of fans gathered at our HQ and lined Driver Avenue for our first 'March to the Match'. It was really pleasing to see the way fans embraced this initiative, and I would like to extend a personal thank you to those who attended our past player function and were part of this guard of honour ahead of the

game. I know John and the team were thrilled to see so many of you there.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to seeing you at the footy. ♥



**Tom Harley | CEO, Sydney Swans**



**MY FAVOURITE GAME**

# **THE GREATEST SWANS GAME YOU HAVE SEEN**

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*As a new feature of the BLOODS FOR LIFE Magazine, we will be seeking from our Bloods For Life members a short story on their most memorable Swans game for inclusion in the Magazine.*



**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR MOST MEMORABLE GAME STORY**  
*CLICK HERE to submit us what was your most memorable game by the Bloods and why? Your response can be short or long (say between 100-400 words).*



For a Past Player it might be the first or last game in which they participated or another milestone game, or feature the greatest teammate or opponent they ever shared the field with.

For a Past Official it may be the most critical, exciting or inspirational game they were involved with.

A game that left a lasting impression; occurred at an important time of your life; or was just so important for any reason. And then of

course there are the Premiership triumphs.

For this edition we asked former long-standing Club Chairman Richard Colless, who has been actively involved with the Club since 1993, to give us his thoughts on what was his most memorable game.

In typical fashion he has focussed on 2 games that he believes, with the value of hindsight, were fundamental to the sustained success that the Club has had since the mid-90s.

## MY FAVOURITE GAME

# THE GREATEST SWANS GAME YOU HAVE SEEN

### GAME 1

#### SYDNEY V CARLTON:

### ROUND 8 ON 19 MAY 1995 AT THE SCG

Carlton would win this year's flag by 61 points against Geelong and 19 of their premiership players were in the 21 that took on the Swans in Round 8.

It was Ron Barassi's 500th game as a senior AFL coach.

The Club went in as massive underdogs having won just two of the first seven matches. Conversely, Carlton was undefeated and firming as unbackable premiership favourite. Carlton was on top of the premiership table and we were 11th.

As expected Carlton burst out of the blocks but mid-way through the quarter the Swans steadied and at quarter time, led by 10 points 4.1 (25) to 2.3 (15).

In the second quarter we kicked nine goals straight to Carlton's 1.1. The Blues were shellshocked and had no answer to our lightning quick ball movement and manic tackling and trailed 3.4 (11) to 13.1 (79) at half-time.

The Swans brain's trust caused utter confusion the way the team played against Carlton's two giant ruckmen: Justin Madden at 206cm (6'9") and Matthew Allan who was significantly taller than any Swans player at 199cm (6'6½"). In essence, Jason Mooney took most of the 29 centre bounces and then moved to centre half-forward allowing Paul Roos to play as a free-wheeling ruckman (almost certainly for the first time in his life). Paul finished with a game high 34 possessions - 15 from marks.

By half-time an underdone Tony Lockett had

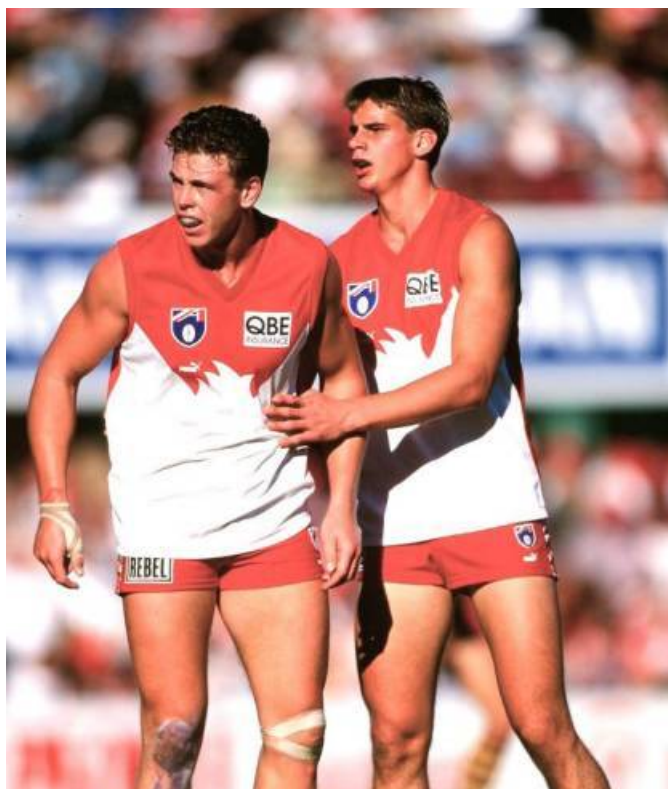
kicked five goals. His opponent was Stephen Silvagni who the following year was selected as full back in the AFL Team of the Century. Silvagni didn't reappear as a defender in the second half and spent the balance of the game nearer Carlton's forward line.

In the 3rd quarter the Swans kicked 5.2 to Carlton's 1.6 eventually winning by 72 points - 21.6 (132) to 8.12 (60).

In addition to the Roos-Mooney combination, Lockett finished with eight goals and three Brownlow Medal votes, Dale Lewis was sensational with 28 possessions and half-back Dean McRae was scintillating and received two Brownlow votes. Paul Kelly emerged as a bona fide competition champion and was awarded one vote for the Medal he was destined to win later in the year. An 18-year-old kid by the name of Michael O'Loughlin showed he had the makings of something special kicking four goals in just his fourth senior game. Lockett and Kelly were selected in the All Australian Team at season's end.

I watched the game on YouTube a couple of weeks ago and it is truly extraordinary. That said, my memory didn't give enough credit to all coaches and players. The ball movement was just so slick with many possessions coming from brutal attacks on the Carlton ball carrier. It was magical to watch and I encourage everyone to do so.

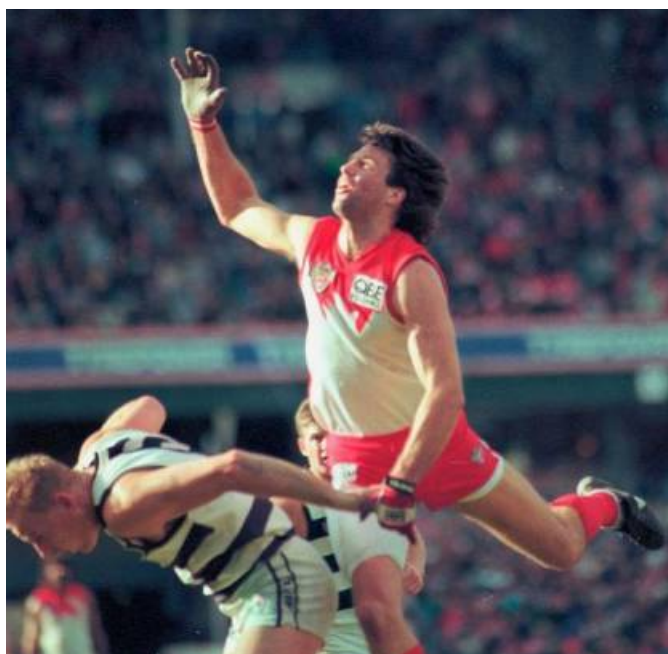
Particularly pleasing was that some of the lesser players such as Neil Brunton, Jason Daniels, Scott Direen, Derek Kickett played like superstars. After watching the game again



*Jason Mooney and Jason Saddington*



*Paul Kelly flies!*



*Paul Roos*

I felt that in May 1995 I hadn't fully grasped the potential that existed within the club. We lost two games by five points and one by a point and finished with a percentage of 100.7. Furthermore, we lost the Reserves Grand Final by just two goals.

It was a wonderful way to acknowledge RDB's contribution in rebuilding and re-enlivening the club.



*Neil Brunton*



*Derek Kickett*

## MY FAVOURITE GAME

# THE GREATEST SWANS GAME YOU HAVE SEEN

### GAME 2

#### SYDNEY V NORTH MELBOURNE:

### ROUND 11 ON 15 JUNE 1996 AT OPTUS OVAL (AKA PRINCES PARK)

Just like the 1995 game we played the year's eventual premiers and 18 of the premiership players were in the 21 that took on the Swans in Round 11, which was also Paul Roos' 300th game.

After opening the season with two comprehensive defeats we began to claw our way up the ladder. The one point win over Richmond in round four was described by Paul as the kind of win needed to confirm the club could withstand finals pressure.

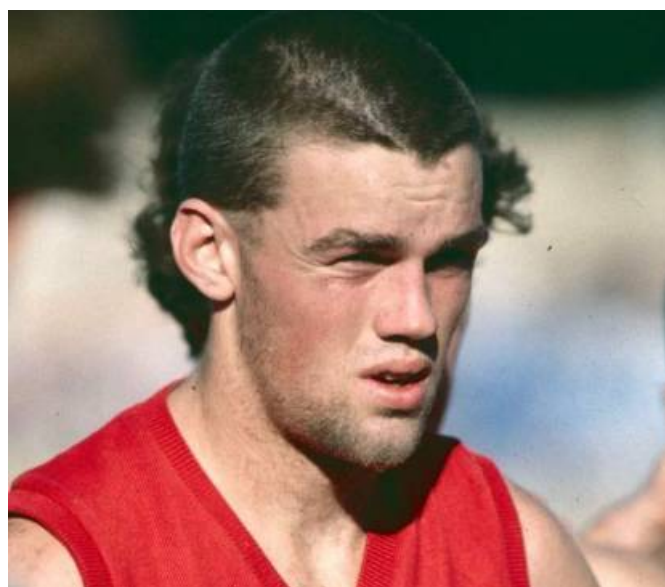
Like the year before our opponent was in first place and we were at a season high fifth spot.

At quarter time it looked as though a long afternoon lay ahead: North 4.5 and Sydney 2.1. But in the second quarter the Swans exploded kicking 6.3 to 1.1 to lead by 16 points at half time with Tony Lockett having one goal to his name. The third quarter was a rout as we kicked 10.2 to 3.4 to lead 18.6 (114) to 8.10 (58) with Tony on his way to a nine goal second-half haul.

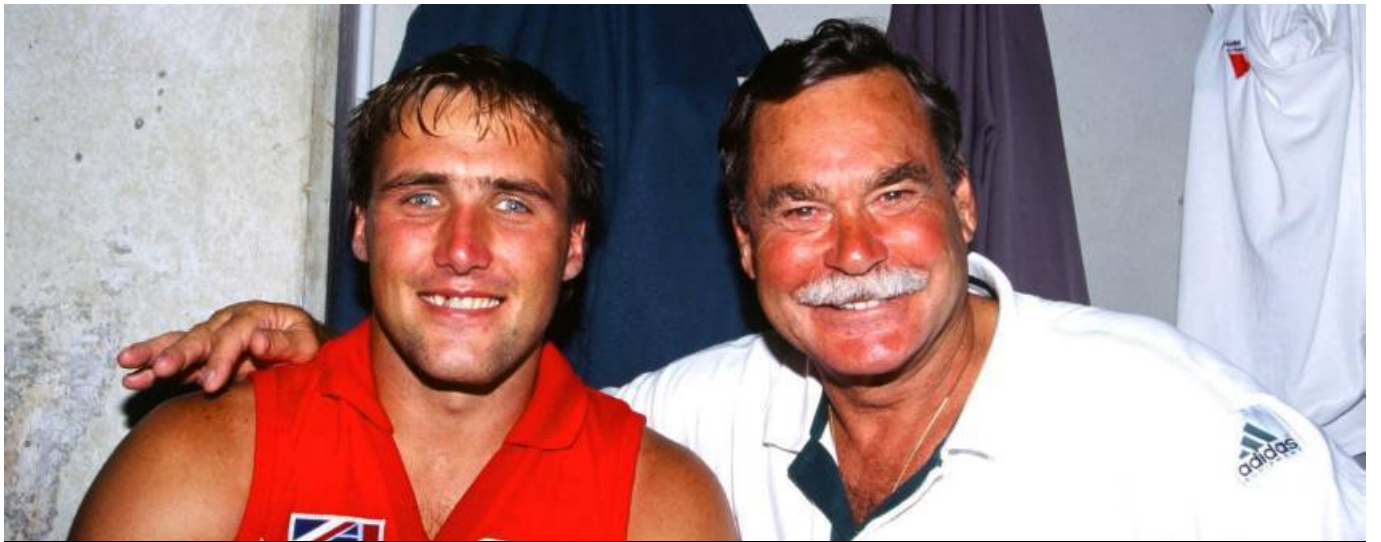
Kevin Dyson (29 possessions), Paul Kelly (three Brownlow Medal votes) and Daryn Cresswell (seven tackles) dominated in the midfield while Dale Lewis and Shannon Grant were superb as was Adam Heuskes. To lose Heuskes and Grant in 1997 and 1998

respectively left a couple of huge holes to fill. Simon Garlick was dynamic while Derek Kickett kicked three goals and towelled-up David King. Paul Roos at age 33, had 30 possessions and took 12 marks and kicked two goals on his special day. Troy Luff probably played his best game for the Club taking 11 marks, many of which would be classed as "species" and he was rewarded with two Brownlow votes.

In short, we didn't have a passenger. Tony and Paul were again selected in the All-Australian Team.



*Adam Heuskes*



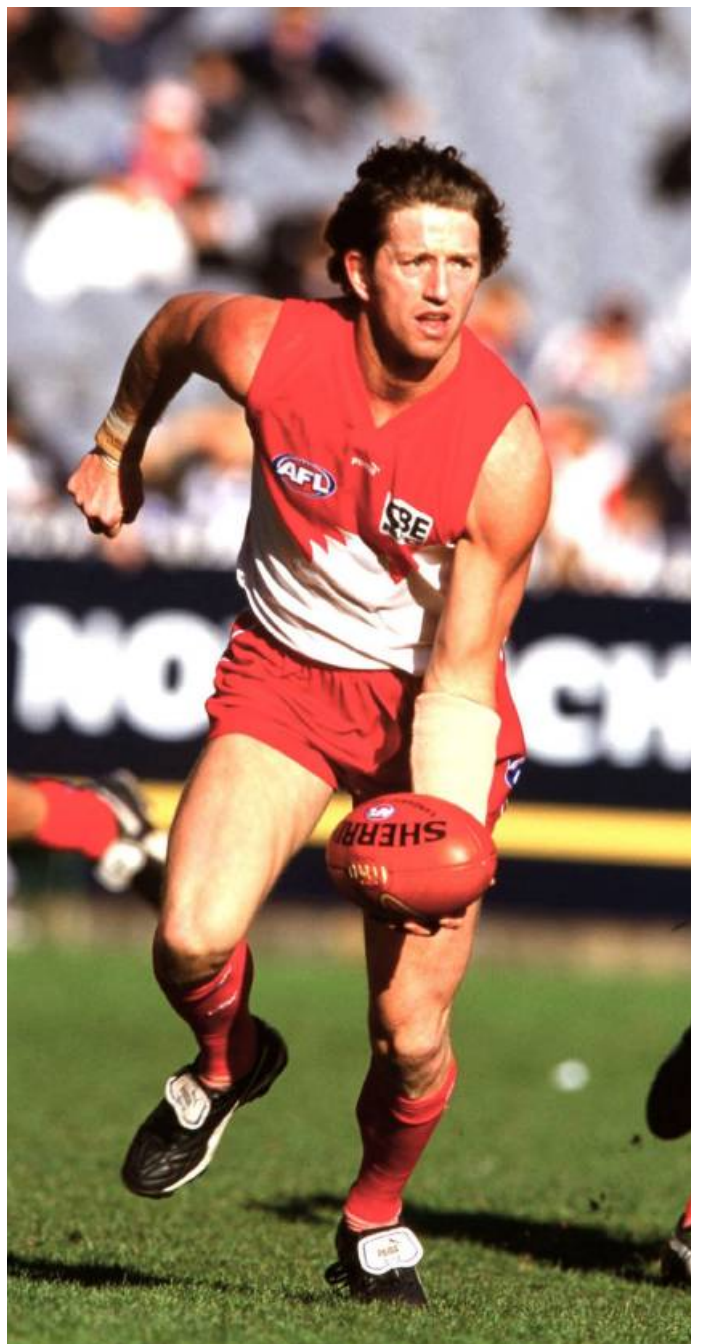
*Tony Lockett and Ron Barassi*



*Kevin Dyson*



*Shannon Grant*



*Dale Lewis*



*Joel Amarte celebrates a goal with Tom Papley and James Rowbottom*

# FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

**2024 is off to positive start, the club is in good shape for the start of the season.**

Kicking off our 150th year on Opening Night against Melbourne was one to remember. I want to thank the thousands of fans who turned up to Swans HQ for our 'March to the Match' and then packed out the SCG - it was a fantastic atmosphere.

We have started the season reasonably fitted and healthy and in decent form. A few wins to kick off the season always has us feeling positive about our chances this season.

The development of some of young guys has been great to see, with Matt Roberts' form off

half back pretty impressive. Against Essendon we had 13 players 24 years of age and under. Adding to this, recruits Brodie Grundy and James Jordon have fitted in very well.

Despite a strong start, we always want to be better and keep improving. Our young midfield continues to be tested week after week, but right now they are on the right path. Logan McDonald, Joel Amarte and Hayden McLean also continue to show promise that they can develop into good key forwards in the AFL. Tom McCartin and Ramps and co have also been leading a strong defence.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank





*Matt Roberts*



*Hayden McLean*



*Brodie Grundy up against Max Gawn*

our loyal members and fans for such strong crowds to start the season. Believe me, you really make a difference and when the SCG is rocking our boys grow an extra leg.

It's a long season and we know it's a marathon, but we feel we are in a good spot to challenge. At the end of the day that's all I can ask of the players – compete and strive to be better.

Upwards and onwards in 2024... see you at the footy! ▼

**John Longmire**  
Senior Coach, Sydney Swans

## RESULTS

**OPENING ROUND:** Sydney Swans 12.14.86 defeated Melbourne 9.10.64

**ROUND 1:** Sydney Swans 15.12.102 defeated Collingwood 10.9.69

**ROUND 2:** Sydney Swans 19.17.131 defeated Essendon 15.11.101

**ROUND 3:** Richmond 11.16.82 defeated Sydney Swans 11.11.77

**ROUND 4:** Sydney Swans 15.14.104 defeated West Coast Eagles 11.12.78

**ROUND 5:** BYE

**ROUND 6:** Sydney Swans 17.8.110 defeated Gold Coast Suns 8.9.57

**ROUND 7:** Sydney Swans 18.10.118 defeated Hawthorn 5.12.42

**ROUND 8:** Sydney Swans 14.14.98 defeated Hawthorn 10.9.69



# HORSE LEADS THE FIELD FOR THE AFL NSW HALL OF FAME

By Rod Gillett

**Sydney Swans coach John Longmire, who kicked eight goals straight in NSW's historic victory over Victoria at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1990, heads the list of former Swans players, coaches and administrators to be inducted into the inaugural AFL NSW Hall of Fame.**

Twenty-one members of the first-ever AFL NSW Hall of Fame have deep connections to the South Melbourne/Sydney Swans football club.

One hundred former players, coaches, umpires, media personalities and administrators will be inducted into the NSW Hall of Fame at a gala dinner at the SCG on Friday May 3.

Of the 100 NSW Hall of Famers, there are 76 players and coaches, 11 administrators, nine umpires, and four media personalities. Thirty-one inductees were involved in the elite game, with the remaining 69 part of community football clubs and leagues across NSW. There are 10 women among the

inductees. Thirty-eight of the 100 inductees have passed away.

The 10 Legends will be named during the gala dinner on 3 May.

A committee of seven was established by AFL NSW/ACT in 2019 to follow a Charter written for the AFL NSW Hall of Fame based on the following principle:

*The primary role of the Hall of Fame is to recognise and enshrine players, coaches, umpires, administrators, and media representatives who have made a significant contribution to the game of Australian Football in NSW since its inception in 1880.*

The Charter empowered the Hall of Fame committee to elect up to 100 inductees by following the fundamental criteria for selection – “outstanding service and overall contribution to the game of Australian Football in NSW”.

A key element for candidates from the elite level was majority commitment to football





*Hall of fame Inductees John Longmire and Jarrad McVeigh with the 2012 Premiership Cup*

in NSW while for community players it was based around achievements and honours.

Most of the inductees from the Swans were recruited from footy clubs in NSW including the likes of Doug Priest (Holbrook) and Ross Elwin (Leeton), who returned to coach country clubs in the Riverina, and later served on committees and coached juniors for many years.

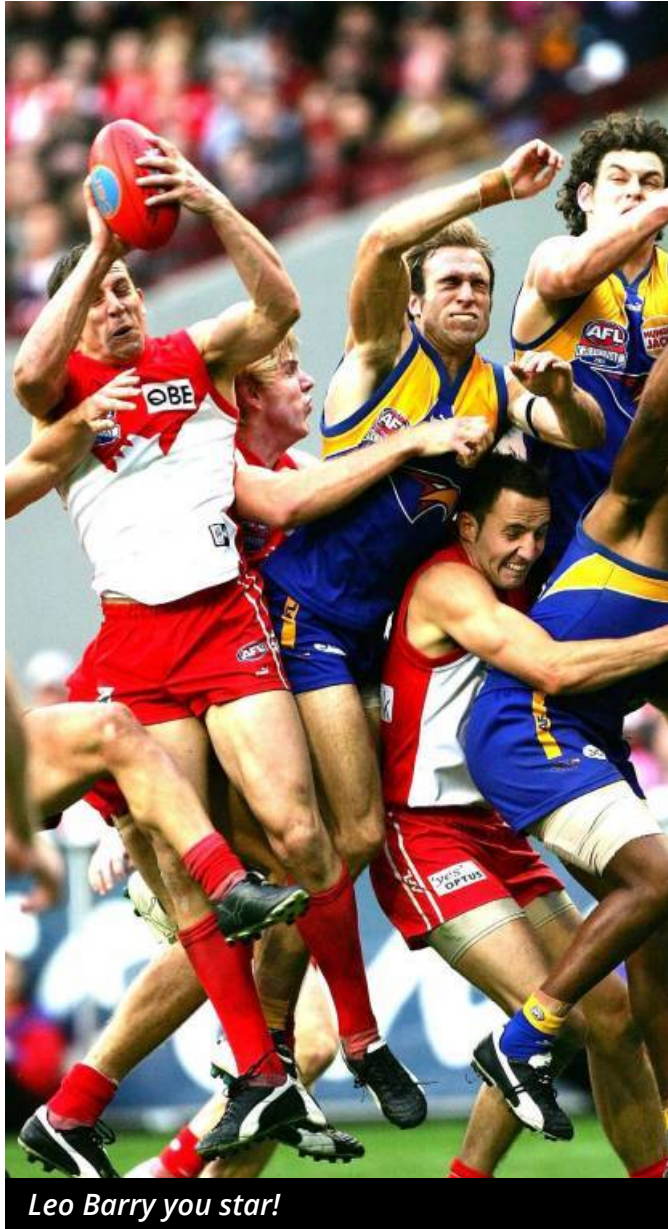
After retirement former skippers Dennis Carroll and Brett Kirk, both took on coaching and administrative roles for the club. Brett has been joined in recent years by Jarrad McVeigh (assistant coach), and now Jarrad's brother Mark, also in a coaching role after a stint at the Giants following 232 games for Essendon.

Others stayed in Sydney to develop professional careers or businesses such as David Murphy (coached Riverview College for eighteen years), Rod Carter stayed as a teacher and worked in football development while Neil Cordy carved out an illustrious career in the media.

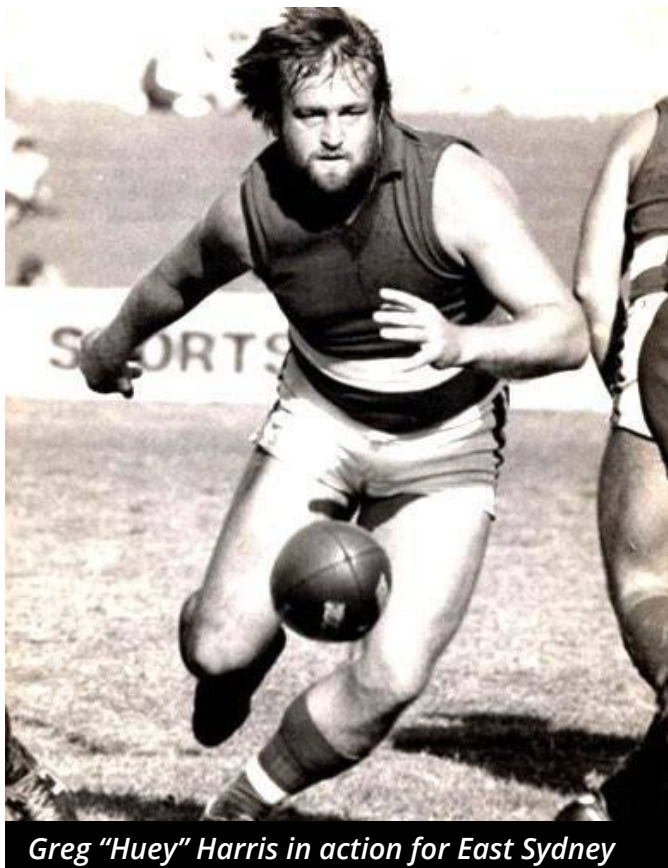


*John Longmire swamped by team-mates after NSW's win over Victoria at the SCG in 1990*

However, the one who has done it all is former player, captain, coach, selector and board member Rick Quade, who was zoned to South Melbourne from Arianah Park Mirrool in 1970 which he returned to coach in 1975. Rick was also a selector for the victorious NSW origin team in 1990.



*Leo Barry you star!*



*Greg "Huey" Harris in action for East Sydney*

## HORSE LEADS THE FIELD FOR THE AFL NSW HALL OF FAME

Local footy legend Greg Harris, who coached East Sydney and NSW to success, worked in development and was chairman of selectors under Ron Barassi and Rodney Eade while former Riverina and NSW administrator John Yates served on the Swans board and Craig Davis, who came to Sydney as assistant coach to Tommy Hafey played nine games in 1988, and later worked in development and as general manager of the NSW AFL.

Tony Locket's selection in the NSW Hall of Fame was based, in addition to his outstanding achievements as a player for the Swans, on his tremendous impact on the game in NSW in the 1990s.

Daniher brothers, Terry and Anthony both started at the Swans before going to Essendon; both were superb players for NSW in the origin victories over Victoria and Western Australia and narrow loss to champions South Australia.

Paul Kelly (1995 Brownlow medalist), Leo Barry (2005 premiership) and Kieran Jack (2012 premiership) were automatic inclusions based on their outstanding achievements as players for the Swans.

Former club chairman Richard Colless, who is largely credited with saving the Swans from extinction in the early 1990s and leading the club to two premierships, 2005 and 2012, in a twenty-year reign was named as an Administrator. He was also chair of the NSW/ACT Commission from 1998-2002 and served on the SCG Trust (2014-2016).

*Visit the Swans Hall of Fame*



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING SYDNEY SWANS PERSONNEL  
WHO HAVE BEEN SELECTED IN THE AFL NSW HALL OF FAME:**

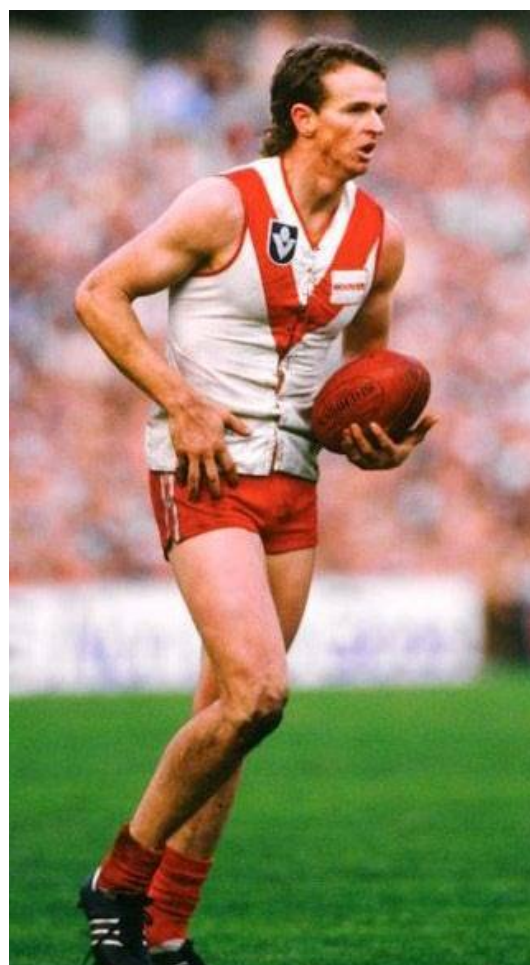
<b>NAME</b>	<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>ERA</b>	<b>REGION</b>
<b>ROSS ELWIN</b>	Player/Coach	1963 -1997	Riverina
<b>DOUG PRIEST</b>	Player/Coach/Admin	1965- present	Riverina
<b>RICK QUADE</b>	Player/Coach/Admin	1967-2008	Riverina
<b>GREG HARRIS</b>	Coach/Admin	1970-1997	Sydney
<b>ROD CARTER</b>	Player/Coach/Admin	1974-2010	Sydney
<b>TERRY DANIHER</b>	Player/Coach	1976-95	Northern Riverina
<b>NEIL CORDY</b>	Player/Media	1979-present	Sydney
<b>ANTHONY DANIHER</b>	Player	1981-1997	Northern Riverina
<b>DENNIS CARROLL</b>	Player/Coach/Admin	1981- 2020	Riverina
<b>TONY LOCKETT</b>	Player	1983-99 & 2002	Sydney
<b>DAVID MURPHY</b>	Player/Coach	1984-2020	Murray
<b>CRAIG DAVIS</b>	Player/Admin	1986-2007	Sydney
<b>JOHN LONGMIRE</b>	Player/Coach	1988-present	Hume/Coreen
<b>PAUL KELLY</b>	Player	1990-2002	Riverina
<b>RICHARD COLLESS</b>	Admin	1993-present	Sydney
<b>BRETT KIRK</b>	Player/Coach	1999-present	Murray
<b>MARK MCVEIGH</b>	Player/Coach	1999-2012	Central Coast
<b>JARRAD MCVEIGH</b>	Player/Coach	2004-present	Central Coast
<b>KIEREN JACK</b>	Player	2007-17	Sydney
<b>LEO BARRY</b>	Player		Murray
<b>JOHN YATES</b>	Admin	1982-2004	Riverina

**(Rod Gillett was a member of the Selection Committee  
for the AFL NSW Australian Football Hall of Fame) ▼**

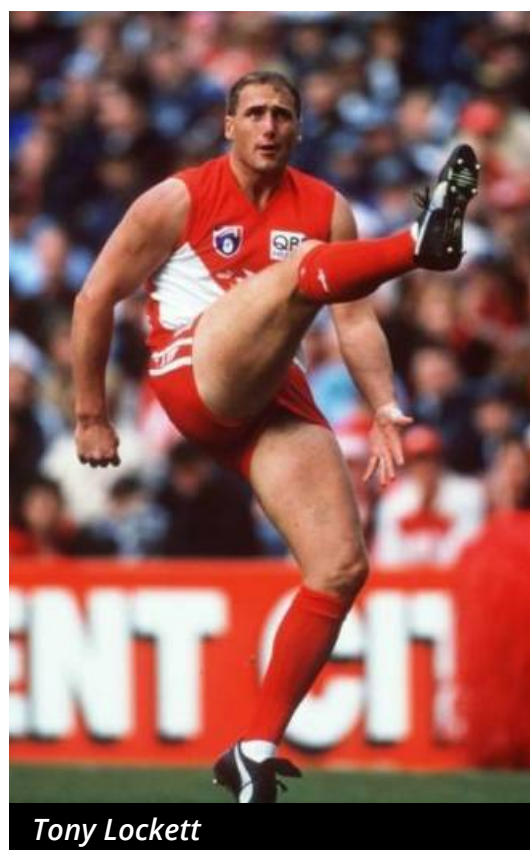
## HORSE LEADS THE FIELD FOR THE AFL NSW HALL OF FAME



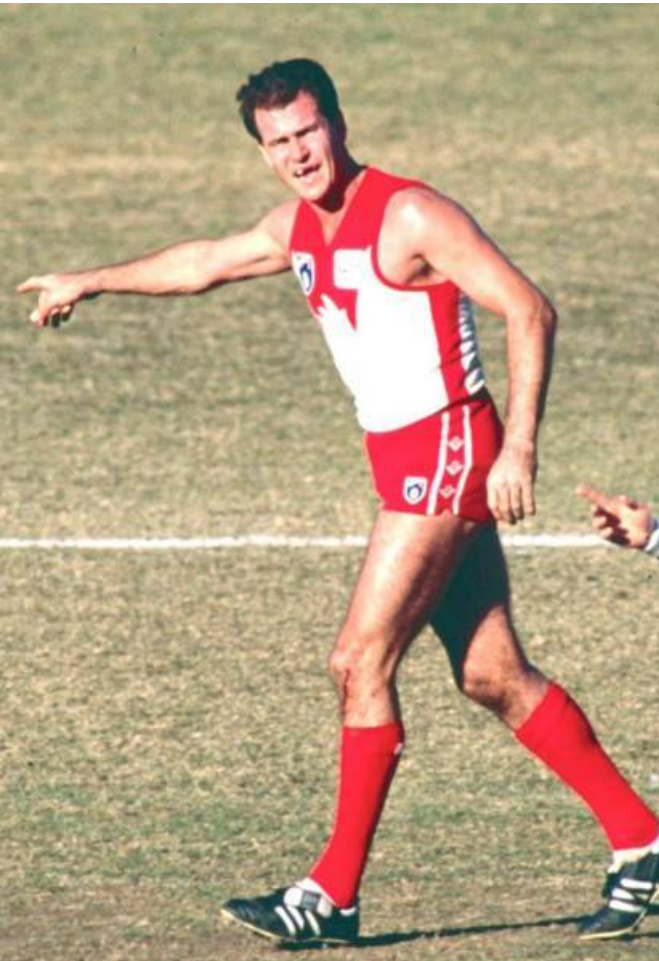
*Brett Kirk*



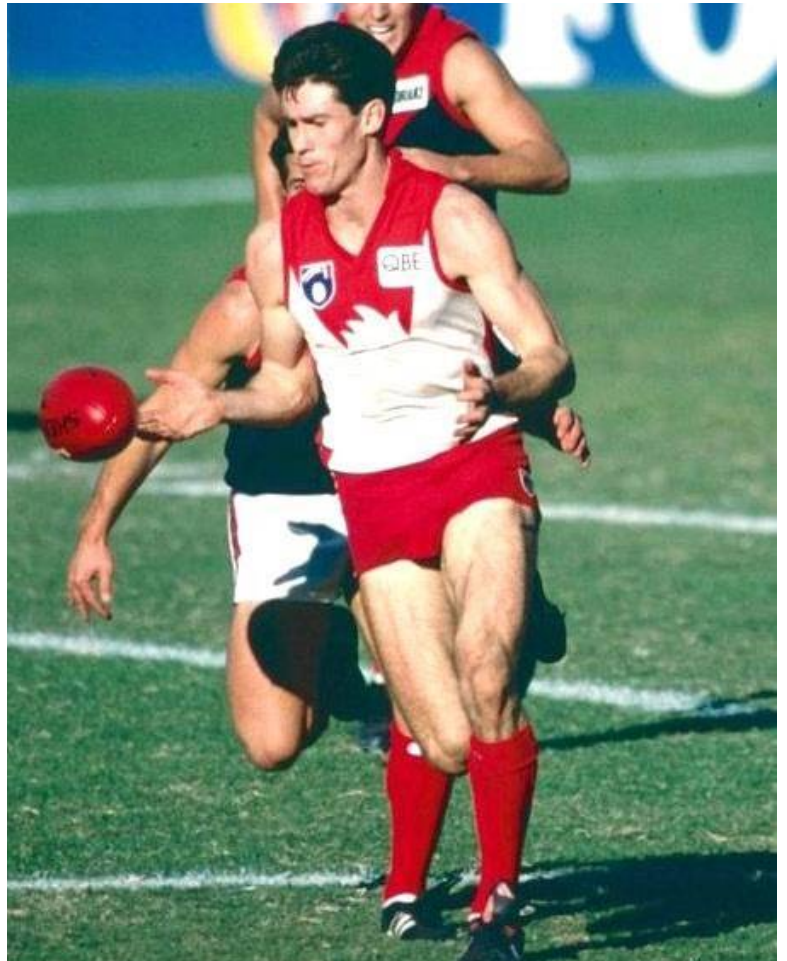
*Anthony Daniher*



*Tony Lockett*



*Dennis Carroll*



*Neil Cordy*



*Judy and John Yates*

# AFLW REPORT

**Last season marked a host of firsts for our team: we claimed our first victory, finished in the top eight for the first time, and competed in our first ever finals campaign, making it through to the semi-finals. We also had three rising star nominations and three All-Australian selections, while the phenomenal support we received from members and fans saw the Sydney Swans top the table for match-day attendance. There was much to be proud of.**

As we look ahead to the 2024 season, we do so with optimism, promise, and plenty of excitement.

Our preparations for season 2024 have already commenced. Four times a week our athletes are training as part of our optional 'pre pre-season' program ahead of the official pre-season commencing in June. We saw our hard work pay off in our vastly improved 2023 season, and we are hungry for more of that success.

We have also commenced playing in the VFLW competition, where we will field a team for five matches. This is an opportunity to play competitive football and get some match fitness into our players ahead of the season. It's also a chance for the new faces of our AFLW program to play in a competitive

environment with their new teammates.

In the AFL Sign and Trade period we landed some fantastic new talent, listing Holly Cooper from the QBE Sydney Swans Academy, Sarah Grunden from Calder Cannons, and Laura Hausegger from Oakleigh Chargers. We also welcomed Kiara Hillier from the Brisbane Lions and Giselle Davies from the Gold Coast Suns during the AFLW Trade Period.

On the injury front we are also optimistic, with Rebecca Privitelli and Ally Morphett making solid progress as they recover from long-term injuries, while Hayley Bullas and Maddie Collier back to full training.

We look forward to another year of improvement, and hopefully another year of firsts.

Thanks for your support and I look forward to seeing you at the footy. ♥



**Kate Mahony**  
**Executive General Manager**  
**Sydney Swans AFLW**





*Sarah Grunden*



*Laura Hausegger*



*Giselle Davies*



*Holly Cooper*



*Kiara Hillier*



**Brian (the "Whale") Roberts**

**QUESTION 1.**

Of the five players that have captained the Club the most times, name the four of them who are from NSW?

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**QUESTION 2.**

Who are the 3 Coaches since 1982 that have come from NSW?

---

**QUESTION 3.**

Who are the members of the *Swans Team of the Century* from NSW?

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**QUESTION 4.**

Who were the Swans players named in the *NSW Greatest AFL Team of All Time*?

**QUESTION 5.**

Who are Swans' Club Champion winners from NSW?

---

**QUESTION 6.**

Who was the player from Parkes in NSW who played in the 1935 and 1936 VFL Grand Finals?

---

**QUESTION 7.**

Who was the first player recruited from NSW to play for the Swans?

---

**QUESTION 8.**

Who are the players from the ACT who have played with the Swans?

---

**QUESTION 9.**

Who were the NSW/ACT players that represented the Club in the 2016 Grand Final?

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**QUESTION 10.**

Who were the NSW/ACT players that played for the Club in the 2005 Premiership?

---

**QUESTION 11.**

Who were the NSW/ACT players that played for the Club in the 2012 Premiership?

**Quiz:**  
**HOW  
SWANS  
SAVVY  
ARE YOU?**

*In this the 150th Year of our Club's great history, the Quiz focusses on players from NSW and the ACT.*

### QUESTION 12.

Who is the only NSW/ACT player to represent the Club in multiple VFL/AFL Premierships?

### QUESTION 13.

Which player did the Swans trade to Richmond in 1975 in return for Graham Teasdale, Francis Jackson and Brian Roberts?



Francis Jackson

### QUESTION 14.

Which born and bred Sydneysider join Collingwood under the *Father and Son Rule* in the 1998 National Draft, and later returned to Sydney at the end of 2002 and played a fundamental part in the Club's first Premiership in 72 years in 2005?

### QUESTION 15.

In 1986 the first year of the National Draft, the Club had five selections, four of which were used to take NSW/ACT players. Can you name any of them?

### QUESTION 16.

Which Bali-based hospitality entrepreneur was Pick 39 in the 1991 Pre-Season Draft (and reportedly slept with a blown-up photo of his *Mark-of-the-Year* above his bed)?

### QUESTION 17.

Who are the players the Club has recruited from Pennant Hills in Sydney to play senior football?



Graham Teasdale.

### QUESTION 18.

Who was the first person from the Illawarra region in NSW to play VFL/AFL football when recruited by the Swans in 1984?

### QUESTION 19.

Who was the Swans player from NSW who was the last player that also played for South Melbourne to retire?

### QUESTION 20.

Name the club that former Swans Reserves (premiership) player Luke Breust came from?

Check your answers by clicking on the icon

**STOP PRESS**

# CONGRATULATIONS DEANO!

*A big Bloods For Life congratulations to one of our members on recent magnificent achievements.*

A big BLOODS FOR LIFE congratulations to Swans stalwart **Dean Moore** who has been recognised for his amazing service to the Bloods over almost 50 years.

The Sydney Swans Football Club has announced that the **Dean Moore Award** will be presented annually at the Club Champion Dinner to recognise a Sydney Swans staff member who has best embodied the Club's values.

Dean's response when the Award was announced was typical of this humble blood: *"I love this Club; it's been a big part of my life for a very long period of time."*



**CLICK HERE to hear more from  
Dean and the Club about the award**



# AFL PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION ALUMNI INJURY AND HARDSHIP FUND

Established in 2017, the AFL Players injury & Hardship Fund provides ongoing support for the health and wellbeing of past players. The injury & Hardship Fund has various payments and benefits which may be applicable to past players.

## LIFETIME HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

AFLPA Alumni members may be eligible for reimbursement of medical costs and expenses for any joint surgery. Medical costs and expenses for a dental injury incurred whilst training or playing with an AFL / VFL club may also be reimbursable under the program. Members with private health insurance are eligible for reimbursement of up to \$8,000, while those without private health insurance can access up to \$6,000. Hardship support may be available to members who do not have private health insurance due to financial hardship.

## HARDSHIP FUND

As life doesn't always work out the way it was intended, support may be available to Alumni members in financial hardship. The Hardship Fund has assisted over 160 past players with more than \$2 million since the launch of the Alumni Program in 2007.

## HOSPITAL EXCESS REIMBURSEMENT

AFLPA Alumni members can apply for reimbursement of any excess paid for a hospital stay or procedure conducted in a hospital up to \$500. Note, these procedures do not have to be football related.

## VISIT [AFLPLAYERS.COM.AU](http://AFLPLAYERS.COM.AU)

For lifetime health care, past player hardship support, hospital excess reimbursement and the AFLPA Alumni program in general, contact Tim Harrington, Chris Smith or Luisa Meoli

### Tim Harrington

Head of Alumni

0419 152 411 | 03 8651 4380  
tharrington@aflplayers.com.au

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**Sydney Swans | Bloods For Life | [www.bloodsforlife.com](http://www.bloodsforlife.com)**

Contact us | [info@bloodsforlife.com](mailto:info@bloodsforlife.com)

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