

## 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







# Sydney Bloods get together to talk footy!

Left to Right: Jarrad McVeigh, Jude Bolton, Stephen Doyle, Lewis Roberts-Thomson, Tadhg Kennelly, Nic Fosdike, Michael O'Loughlin and Brett Kirk.

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

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## 1981-82 WAS A MOST UNCERTAIN TIME FOR THE BLOODS

By Mike Coward

Forty years after its extinction was writ large the Bloods family are celebrating the most improbable Ruby Anniversary.

Like the phoenix, the Club has risen from the depths of despair on the back of pioneering zeal and a resilient group of players that carried the standard of the great Australian game to a "heathen" city and new markets.

From an often ridiculed Club full of passion and hope but without a future, the reincarnated Swans have evolved into one of the most powerful, influential and admired clubs in the AFL.

Unwanted in Melbourne by the then Victorian Football League (VFL) and its most arrogant constituents, the Sydney Swans have established stability and enjoyed success beyond imagination during the harrowing, bitter, divided days of the Club's final years



#### **BLOODS FOR LIFE**







Our loyal Bloods supporters were prepared to fight for their Club

based in Melbourne.

After the bleakness of the 20th century which produced just three premierships from 11 Grand Finals, the Bloods have triumphed in two of five Grand Finals since 2005.

Such consistency ultimately led to the current membership of 60,000. Furthermore the Swans are regularly adopted as a sentimental second-team by rabid followers of other clubs.

This is a far cry from the 763 members (and 1340 proxies) who, at the height of the unrest and division that almost tore the Club apart 41 years ago, cast votes at a meeting at the Caulfield Town Hall called to determine the future of South Melbourne.

The Club, with a rich history dating back to 1874, was riven by the determination of the then Victorian Football League and its acolytes to relocate the Club to Sydney.

While the incumbent and far-sighted club administration and a majority of players emphatically endorsed the initiative, a hard core of staunch and very well intentioned supporters were outraged and formed the Keep South at South movement.

Alan Killigrew, the renowned hot-gospellng coach of the 1950s and 1960s, famously observed: "There are limited things people fight for. Football is an emotional game. People strike blows for it. Blokes will fight over religion, over their wives and children, over politics, over their country and over football."

While all involved ultimately wanted the same thing, the fight for the future of the Swans was fast, furious and hurtful and left many scars. Families were split and lives disrupted as the war raged through a series of public and private meetings and walkouts, a special election, a succession of administration

upheavals, a protracted players' strike and a coaching conflict before the decision was finally made to move north.

On 14 October 1981, the VFL directors made the historic decision to order South Melbourne to leave Melbourne and play 11 home games in Sydney in 1982. The dye was cast and the Club effectively had no choice.

VFL president, Dr Allen Aylett declared: "There is no doubt this was one of the biggest decisions the VFL as a corporate body has ever taken."

Indeed, it was the first giant stride towards a National Competition and in 1990 the VFL changed its name to the AFL.

The transition period was fraught for the new Sydney Swans with the VFL's "out of sight, out of mind" attitude infuriating club management and under-resourced coach Rick Quade and his hard core band of players.

While the club was beset with financial issues well into the 1980s and beyond, Quade and his young and ambitious team demonstrated remarkable resilience to finish seventh in 1982 - two games out of the final five. And, for good measure, in July had the distinction of winning the Escort Cup, the Club's first title since the night championship of 1960.

A new standard was set and for all the angst and uncertainty of the previous 15 months the portents were encouraging.

In this issue, Bloods For Life looks back at the period leading up to the relocation of home games in 1982 from the perspective of the coach, the players and the administrators. These were the ones on the frontline of this most extraordinary time in the Club's history.

We would like to hear from you & receive your feedback





#### **CAPTAIN BLOOD**

The Sydney Swans recently announced that the great Josh Kennedy was passing the Co-Captaincy baton to Callum Mills for season 2022.

Following is Callum's speech at the 2022 Guernsey Presentation.

Good evening and welcome everyone.

I would like to start by saying what a privilege and honour it is to be here as a new Co-Captain of this great Football Club. I would also like to make mention of the great contribution Josh Kennedy made during his time as captain. Thank you Joey for your unwavering commitment and impact you have had not only on me but on our entire Club. The echoes of your leadership will be felt for a long time to come.

Tonight is an important night, as we not only bookmark the start of a new season,

but we also celebrate and welcome our new players and family to our Club. A Club rich in history that has been built off the back of hard work and resilience. Being here tonight is an incredible achievement, something you and your families should be and I'm sure are extremely proud of. So in saying that, I would like to officially like to welcome, Angus Sheldrick, Matt Roberts, Lachie Rankin, Pete Ladhams, Corey Warner, Paddy McCartin and Lachie McAndrew as well as your families to the South Melbourne - Sydney Swans Football Club.

At my first Guernsey presentation my family were told "There is no better Club he could be at, your son is in good hands". That statement still rings true to this day. Your son could not be in a better place. He has arrived at a Club that is entering an era that I believe can be one of the most exciting since our relocation to Sydney 40 years ago.



Today we re-created the iconic photo of the first Sydney Swans team of 1982 in front of the Opera House. As we stood there, I could not help but reflect on how the first Sydney team felt at that time. With the controversial move to Sydney and the Club split in two, the upcoming season I'm sure must have brought on feelings of uncertainty and angst. The united and ready group that stood there today, highlights how far the Club has come

and how fortunate this playing group is today. This history is not lost on us, nor is the sacrifice from those involved in our 40 years in Sydney.

So when you receive your jumper, take it with PRIDE.

RESPECT it for its history. But take it knowing that you have the ability to write a new chapter- one that has the potential to be spoken about for years to come. We are



**BLOOD** 



If I reflect on the season just past for a moment,

and we make no apologies for it. You must be relentless in everything you do, to help us achieve the ultimate team success. Your journey will not be easy. However, the more you give to this jumper the more you will get out of your experience and career.

If I reflect on the season just past for a moment, the various challenges and hubs we had to navigate, shone a light on how the heavy lifting has been done by those off the field. It takes more than just the players to win on the weekend, it takes an entire football club. Our Club is made up of more than just

That is the reason I stand here today so excited for the opportunity that we have as a team now. The strength and resilience shown by our community in the face of adversity and chaos was a true inspiration and was a key pillar in getting us back to finals football. Examples of this were easy to find. I look to our Football Department and staff who uprooted their lives and left families behind, and did everything possible to support us. I look to our loyal sponsors, sticking by us whilst they navigated one of the most uncertain economic climates. I look to

And I look to our families, who held the fort at home, then to pack their bags and chase us around the country. And look no further than our members and fans, the backbone of this Football Club, whose support and passion was felt like never before.

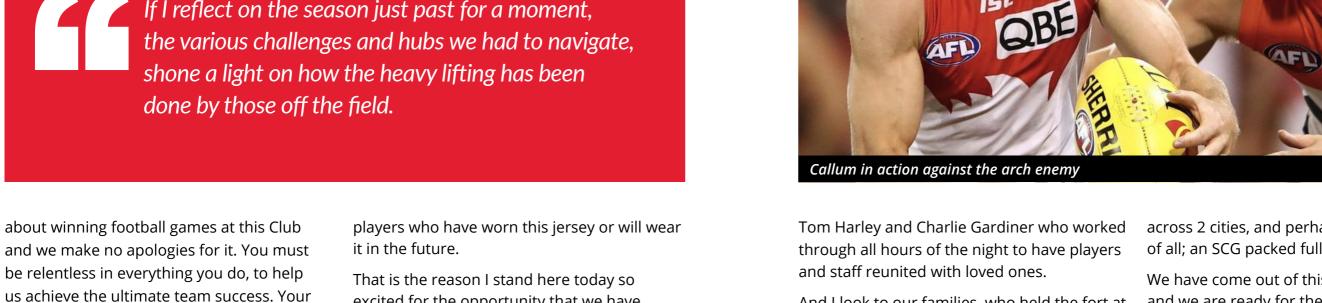
We all play a part in this exciting time and have so much to look forward to. A group that is hungry for success, a new multi-million dollar world class facility, A new AFLW team, A new away jersey that honours our rich history

across 2 cities, and perhaps the most exciting of all; an SCG packed full of red and white.

We have come out of this experience thriving and we are ready for the challenges that lie ahead. Now it's our turn to give back to you, our amazing Football Club and community. We will make you proud every time we step on the field; and we will play with the same passion and commitment you have shown us.

Thank you and see you all for Round 1. V

We would like to hear from vou & receive your feedback



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#### **BLOODS** IN THE **COMMUNITY**

#### **AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS**

Bloods For Life were very well represented in the recent Australia Day Honours List, with Barb Cullen, Liz Ann Macgregor and Cath Cox being recognized for outstanding contributions in their respective fields.

Barb Cullen, the Club's historian and a member of the Bloods For Life team, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to Australian Rules history.

Swans Ambassadors, Liz Ann Macgregor and Cath Cox were both made Members of the Order of Australia (AM), Liz Ann for her significant service to the arts - museums and galleries - through leadership roles, and Cath for her significant services to the game of Netball as a player and a coach.

Congratulations ladies, well done and most deserved!

CLICK HERE for the Club's acknowledgement to Barb, Liz Ann and Cath.









#### **ASHES GLORY FOR MEG LANNING!**

Big Bloods For Life congratulations to Swans Ambassador and Australian Women's Cricket Captain, Meg Lanning for the recent Ashes triumph over England.

In the multi-format series, Australia clinched the Ashes with a clean sweep of the one-day matches, winning the Third ODI by eight wickets, which featured an unbeaten 90-run partnership by the old firm of Meg and Ellyse Perry.

The series was highlighted by the amazing Test Match at Manuka Oval, set alight by a daring and sporting declaration by Captain Lanning which culminated in an exciting finish.



Australian Captain Meg Lanning with the Ashes Series trophy after the win over England.



#### **BLOODS IN THE COMMUNITY**

#### **COLIN SEERY**

A very well respected football person, Colin Seery joined the Sydney Swans as General Manager Football in 1997 from the Carlton Football Club where he was the Head of Football Rehabilitation and the senior runner.

His senior football career began at an early age when he was recruited by North Melbourne from St Albans Football Club as an outstanding 16 year old football talent. Colin played for the Kangaroos in 1976 and for Footscray in 1980-81. However, serious injuries were to curtail his career as a player.

At the Swans, he played a lead role in the development of all aspects the Club's football department, and go on to become Deputy CEO in 2000 and was the CEO of the Club when he left in 2003.

In his time at the Club, Colin played a key role during a significant period of growth for the Club, and in particular resetting the playing list following the Grand Final appearance in 1996.

During his time in charge, the Club recruited many players that would become the cornerstone of the drought-breaking 2005 Premiership triumph, among them should be Adam Goodes, Nic Fosdike, Jude Bolton, Brett Kirk, Jason Ball, Ryan O'Keefe, Tadhg Kennelly, Paul Williams, Barry Hall, Nick Davis, Luke Ablett, and Amon Buchanan.



Perhaps his greatest recruit was John Longmire. Colin was instrumental in enticing John out of the media and into an Assistant Coaching role at the Club in 2001. It's fair to say this was the beginning of something special, with the Club still reaping the rewards.

He was also heavily involved in the development of the game in Sydney and was a Director of the NSW-ACT AFL Foundation.

Post football, Colin has worked within the Australian health sector for nearly 20 years in senior executive roles with both private and not-for-profit organisations.

He is currently the CEO of Lifeline Australia,

an outstanding organisation that provides compassionate support for people in crisis. Lifeline is Australia's leading suicide prevention service, formed through a partnership of 11,000 committed staff and volunteers and 40 member centres located in communities around the nation.

Colin has been in this role for 3 years and during this time the growth in the extent of services provided has been significant.

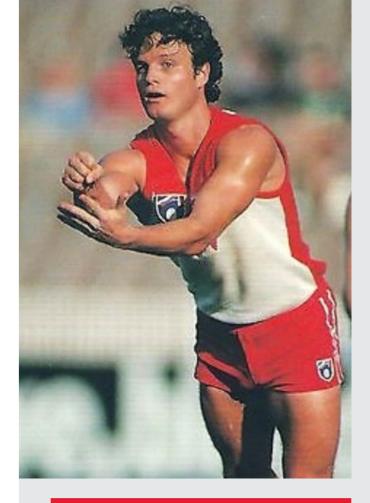
Click on the link below to see the vast array of crisis support services available through Lifeline to people Australia-wide on a 24/7 basis.

#### 

#### **Our Services - Lifeline Australia**

Colin continues to follow footy and the fortunes of the Club. He facilitated the Charity partnership between Lifeline and the AFL with a key component being the Swans and GWS Giants Derbies which will be played for the Lifeline Cup. The first of these games will occur in Round 1 of this season.

Colin and wife Liz live in Sydney. Son Brent lives and works in London and his daughter Alanna has remained in Sydney and is married to former Swans player Heath James.



#### **SCOTT WATTERS**

Another former Swan doing great community work is Scott Watters and his LifeChanger organisation.

In an AFL career of 109 games, Scott played 37 games for the Swans in 1993-94. He then moved into coaching with senior roles at Subiaco, the WA state side, and for St Kilda in the AFL in 2012-2013.

These days, Scott and wife Emily and their 3 boys, Seb (18), Josh (15) and Ollie (13) live in Cabarita in northern NSW. All of the boys are training as part of the Gold Coast Suns Academy and loving the challenges that sport brings.

The other great passion in Scott's life is LifeChanger, a registered charity he founded in 2016 with former Australian Ironman Champion, Trevor Hendy.

With many young people struggling and not reaching their potential, the statistics surrounding youth issues were confronting and Scott felt change was



needed. LifeChanger is a mental health and wellbeing program that empowers and builds thriving resilient youth in Australia and New Zealand.

With Scott as CEO and driving force, LifeChanger has experienced significant growth in the reach of its programs and the number of young lives impacted. In 2022 th ey are running programs for approximately 20,000 youths and 3,000 local mentors.

Click on the following link for an overview of the youth programs, support services and workshops offered by LifeChanger throughout the country.

#### To view LifeChanger programs



You will note that the Senior Programs Facilitator for LifeChanger featured in the video is another former Swan in Trent Dennis-Lane.

While he doesn't follow the game as closely as he did as a player or a coach, Scott does keep an eye on the Swans from a distance: "What the club has achieved from some challenging pioneering years is nothing short of amazing and something everyone should be incredibly proud of. One of the great Australian sporting clubs!"

And Bloods For Life are proud of the work you are doing for the youth of today.

#### **BLOODS IN THE COMMUNITY**

#### **TROY GRAY**

Originally from Leeton, Troy Gray played 51 games and kicked 24 goals for the Sydney Swans between 1992 and 1996. As fate would have it, his AFL career would unfortunately come to an end after a further 9 games for St Kilda in 1997. More on that a bit later.

Following his time in football, Troy has been entrenched in the television industry for almost 20 years. He has created, produced and presented multiple award-winning TV shows across a number of formats – both in Australia and internationally, working alongside some of the biggest names in television, sport, music and philanthropy.

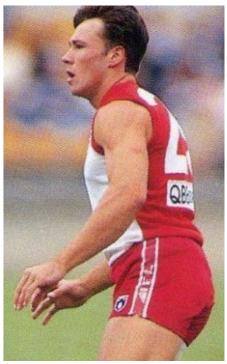
In addition to his growing media career, Troy has embarked on a very personal crusade finding the courage to talk openly about his father Alan's suicide in 1994. Only now at 49 he is coming to terms with this tragedy.

To say his dad Alan's passing was a shock to Troy would be a massive understatement and something that has had a long-lasting impact.

A suicide note was left but in his grieving state Troy discarded it without reading it something he now regrets.

This tragedy has had a profound impact on





Troy and his family.

Troy was traded to St. Kilda at the end of 1996 before he cut short his career to cope with the emotional anguish of his father's suicide.

For 27 years Troy would not talk about the death of his father, not even to his closest family and friends.

Now Troy wants to see an end to the taboo associated with suicide, and wants others that might be in his shoes - or those who might be contemplating suicide - to know there is help.

With suicide the leading cause of death of Australians aged 15-49 years of age, affecting all genders and ethnicities, Troy wants to Strike Out Suicide via his crusade to get thousands of people across the nation completing daily boxing bag strikes to raise money for Gotcha4Life, an Australian mental fitness charity taking action to engage,

educate and empower suicide.

With the generous support of celebrities and prominent sporting stars including Bloods Paul Roos and Michael O'Loughlin, Troy is bringing awareness to the growing incidence of suicide, in addition to removing the stigma, dispelling the myths, and educating the public.

Troy would love your support on this campaign.

CLICK HERE for more details on Strike-out-suicide.



You can also contact Troy on 0411 171 703 or at troy@troygray.com.au

We would like to hear from you & receive your feedback





## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? STEVE WRIGHT

By Jim Main



PLAYED
1979-92

GAMES | 246

GOALS | 247

NUMBER
26

Brilliant rover Steve Wright, now regarded as Swan royalty, was one the youngest players in red and white the day in 1982 when the Swans played their first official "home" match against Melbourne at the SCG.

The Swans, as South Melbourne, had played two games at the SCG over the previous two seasons, but this match was their first in the flight north.

Wright had just turned 21 when he ran onto the SCG for one of the most significant matches in VFL/AFL history.

The youngest Swan that day was talented goalsneak Silvio Foschini at just 18 years of age.

Whereas Foschini debuted in 1981, Wright had had three seasons under his belt after

being recruited from suburban club Oakleigh Districts.

Tied to the Swans under suburban zoning, Wright had been an outstanding junior and before he joined South he trained with Victorian Football Association clubs Sandringham and Port Melbourne.

However, he was a class above VFA level and he soon made his mark with the Swans and had racked up 55 games to the start of the 1982 season.

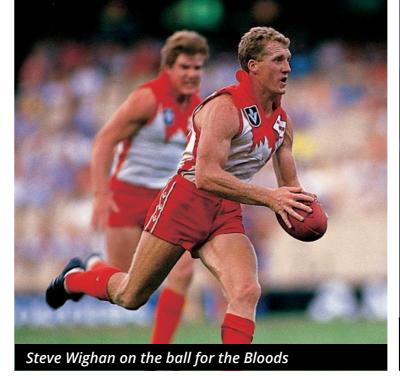
The 1981 season was traumatic for everyone connected with the Swans, but especially for Wright.

He explained: "There was all this talk about the club relocating to Sydney and it affected me probably more than most as I was still trying to establish myself in football and, for me, there were other issues.

"When the Keep South At South group won control I lost my job and my car. I was employed by the club in a development role and the car was part of that job."

Wright was featured in media reports of the time as a youngster whose career was in jeopardy because of the very real possibility that the club could fold.

"Most of the players were jubilant at the news





we would be playing in Sydney after all and I just could not wait to get into full training," he said.

Surprisingly, Wright was not nervous in the lead-up to the 1982 season-opener against Melbourne.

"I knew how important this match was for the club's future, but I was never the nervous type and I just wanted to play well.

Wright recalled that when the Swans took the field he sensed an unusual atmosphere. He explained: "Running onto the ground in a match in Victoria I could tell that the crowd was excited and the roar could be deafening.

"When I ran onto the ground in that match against Melbourne there was a much more subdued atmosphere as if the crowd did not know how to react.

"But it wasn't long before most of the crowd was behind us and we got a real boost when Colin Hounsell kicked a running goal (therefore the first as the Sydney "home" team).

The media generally rated Wright as best player on the ground in the Swans' 29-point victory. "I don't know about that," Wright modestly suggested. "I just wanted to do my bit."

"It was a huge relief to win and we sang the club song more robustly than in most other

wins. And it then was on to the after-match function at Lady (Mary) Fairfax's Home. It was a real eye-opener for me as a young fellow from the suburbs of Melbourne."

The Swans this season are celebrating their 40 years in Sydney and Wright did far more than most in his efforts to build the foundations.

When he retired in 1992 as a dual Club Best and Fairest winner (1985 and 1990) he was rated among the greatest of Swan players. He is a member of the Swans Team of the Century and was inducted into the Hall Of Fame in 2011.

He then had a long and distinguished coaching career including as senior coach with Clarence in the Tasmanian Football League where he was Captain-Coach of premiership sides in 1993 and 1994, and with Central Districts (1995-96) in the SANFL. He was also Coach of the NSW/ACT Rams, and various other clubs.

He and wife Kerrie now live on Victoria's Phillip Island and he works there as a parks ranger with duties including looking after the island's penguins and koalas – and he follows his beloved Swans just as diligently.

"I spent 14 seasons with the Swans, so they represent a large chunk of my life," he said. "I had wonderful times and played with many great players." \textstyle \tex



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

Each issue will have the views of a former Bloods great on pertinent footy matters. Part of this role is to anoint the guest writer for the next edition.



## SWANS LEGEND RICK QUADE

and the tumultuous 1981-82 period.

By Mike Coward

Rick Quade, the first coach of the Sydney Swans, is a kindly, God-fearing soul to whom forgiveness is a natural instinct.

That said, such admirable qualities cannot erase the memory of the most traumatic period of his 71 years - the despair and acrimony at the South Melbourne Football Club that ultimately led to the bloody rebirth of the Bloods in 1982.

Quade, who served the club as player, captain, coach,

chairman of selectors and match committee and board member for 38 years from 1970, occupies a unique position in the sterling if turbulent 148-year history of the club.

At the time of his retirement, renowned club chairman, Richard Colless, publicly and loudly declared: "Without him we would not exist today."

The thought of being martyred horrifies Quade whose humility is as well known and documented as his achievements as a player, coach, administrator and mentor.

He is always quick to point out that without the unconditional commitment provided by stalwarts including Barry Lyons, Tony Franklin, Dean Moore, Greg Miller, and Ray Ball the celebrated transfiguration of the club would not have occurred.

Quade laughs now when he recalls that initially he held the record for the shortest

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

Swans legend Rick Quade, and the tumultuous 1981-82 period.





coaching stint in the history of the game.

On August 21, 1981 he was appointed by the incumbent administration led by Jack Marks and Graeme John. Two days later he was sacked and replaced by Ian Stewart by the interim Keep South at South management group.

While personally he did not want to leave Melbourne, Quade understood the move to Sydney was the one chance of survival for the Club.

The intensity of the fight for

the Club's identity and future stunned Quade. He had never before lived in a world of personal recriminations, bitterness and resentment. Lives were not lost in the struggle for South. But they were broken.

Certainly Quade and his family paid a high price for his determination to resuscitate the Club.

"You couldn't go anywhere without abuse and mockery. The ridiculing was awful,"

Ouade recalls.

The hatred manifested itself in many ways. He was snubbed at Mass by a former teammate and received streams of invective at restaurants and from passing pedestrians and motorists. On one occasion he needed to comfort his six-year-old daughter Danielle who returned home from an exclusive Catholic college with slogans scrawled on her hands.

At the time Quade said: "I just wondered about human

nature after that."

Asked to reminisce about the desperate days with the club at the brink of extinction, he said: "If the VFL had shown transparency the bitterness and acrimony and lost friendships could have been avoided."

"It was one against the other all the time. And there was the outrageous behaviour of Collingwood, Carlton and St. Kilda endeavouring to poach our players in the midst of the turmoil.

#### **RICK QUADE "HONOUR ROLE"**

- Richard Paul Quade born in 1950, the second youngest of 15 children for Mary and Leo Quade
- Spent most of his youth playing Rigby Union for St Patrick's College, Goulburn where he was a boarder
- Played senior football for Ariah Park-Mirrool (AP-M) in 1967 at age 16; played 60 games for AP-M
- AP-M Best & Fairest 1968 and 1969; Runner-Up in 1967
- Represented the South West District Football League (SWDFL) in 1968 aged 17 (the opposition full forward was Fred Longmire, father of John!)
- Kicked 101 goals in 1968 and 131 in 1969 (a SWDFL record)
- Leo Quade only agreed for Rick to go to South Melbourne because Norm Smith was Coach
- Played for South Melbourne 1970-74; 76-79
- Swans Best + Fairest 1976
- Captain of South Melbourne 1977-79.
- Represented Victoria against Tasmania 1977
- 164 senior games and 110 goals for South Melbourne
- 1980 Cazaly Award for the Most Courageous Player in the VFL
- Coach of Sydney Swans 1982-84
- Premiership Coach 1982 Escort Cup Night Premiership
- Chairman of Selectors 1981 and 1989-90; 92-93
- Sydney Swans Board of Directors 1995-2008
- Life Member of Sydney Swans Football Club
- Swans Hall of Famer
- Jack Titus Award for service to Australian Rules football
- NSW Australian Football Hall of Fame
- The Greatest NSW Team of All Time Squad

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

Swans legend Rick Quade, and the tumultuous 1981-82 period.



The facilities for the Coach were not too flash in 1982

"We were the laughing stock trying to keep the red and white alive."

At 31, and with crook knees, Quade was nine years older than the average age of his team and spontaneously acted as mentor, counsellor and surrogate father to young men all playing for their identity and future.

Quade vividly recalls the pressure building to the

opening game against Ron Barassi's Melbourne at 2.10pm on Sunday, 28 March 1982.

The day before the game Quade opened a telegram from the VFL's trouble shooter Alan Schwab which read: Good luck Rick and to your players. Nothing less than a win will be acceptable.

Quade did not show his men the message until after the

game, so memorably won 20.17 (137) to 16.12 (108).

"We were unwanted and unloved but it galvanised us," Quade remembers.

So much so that the Swans won 12 of 22 games to finish seventh just two games out of the final five. And this after losing to Geelong, Essendon, Richmond and North Melbourne by six points or less.

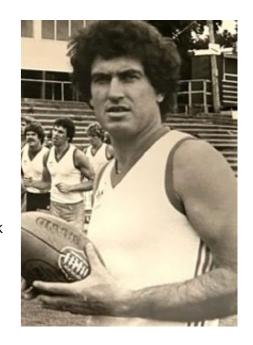
For good measure the Club also won a trophy for the first time in 22 years - the Escort Cup night championship against Barry Cable's North Melbourne (13.12.90 to 8.10.58).

The pressure never eased on Quade. His trusted lieutenant Barry Lyons, a good numbers man who knew prizemoney was on offer, came to him before the night final and said quietly: "You don't know how

much we need that money."

The winner's cheque was \$50,000 which boosted to \$105,000 the Swans winnings for the competition and, for just a moment, eased the constant financial crises confronting the Club.

More significantly Quade took heart from the achievements of 1982. His pride in his pioneering men was profound. It still is. V



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#### **HERITAGE ARTICLE:** THE THREEPEAT: 1888-90

In the second of a series of special heritage articles, Bloods for Life examines the intense rivalry of South Melbourne with **Geelong and rejoices in the Premiership** hat-trick at the close of the 1880s.

So intense was the feuding that the most outrageous tactics were employed to gain the ascendancy. The first salvo from Geelong came in June 1886 after South Melbourne had hoisted the 1885 Premiership flag.

According to the Geelong Advertiser, South was far too reliant on toughness, weight and strength and could not match Geelong's speed and stamina over the full two hours. The argument must have held some weight, as in June, the canny Southerners made sure they reached Corio Oval at 3.30pm for the match scheduled to start at 3.10pm. It was a successful ruse and the visitors were

impressive winners of a shortened match.

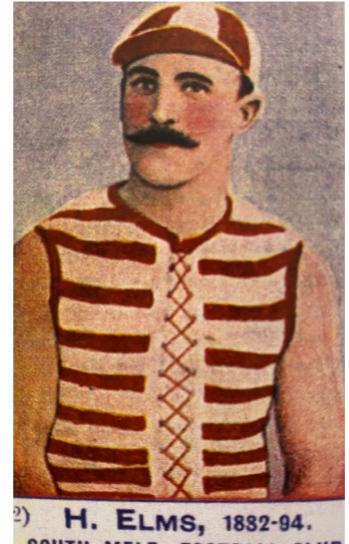
The two clubs dominated the competition and their meeting for the 1886 premiership at the South Melbourne Cricket Ground became known as The Game of the Century.

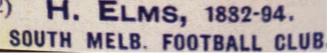
Such was community expectation that a crowd of more than 30,000 was in attendance - a startling 10 per cent of Melbourne's population.

The contentious events and tactics which invariably surrounded any meeting of the two clubs reached a new level with an attempt to derail one of the trains from Geelong carrying players and barrackers.

It did not, however, derail the Pivots or Pivotonians as Geelong were known and they inflicted South's only defeat for the season.

Disappointed but not daunted the Club then



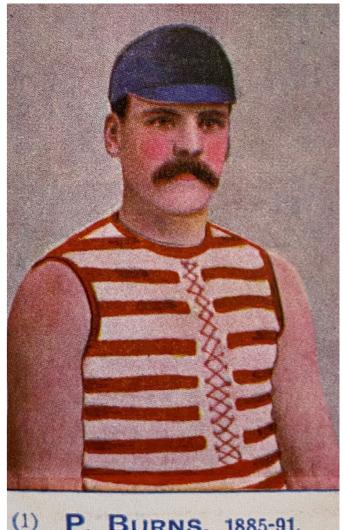


pursued the most ambitious recruiting strategy in the competition's history. Furthermore, it focused on its powerful style of play which gradually saw the decline of the less aggressive but highly-skilled style for which Geelong was renowned.

South had to settle for third place in 1887 but undeniably the club was constructing a formidable team that would include some of the 19th century's finest players.

In 1888, with Henry "Sonny" Elms at the helm, history beckoned. Backed by wealthy caterers, hoteliers and bookmakers the Club continued an aggressive recruiting drive underpinned by the healthy financial inducements it offered players.

Indisputably, the Club had led the way to semi-professionalism for the first time in



P. BURNS, 1885-91. SOUTH MELB. FOOTBALL CLUB.

Australian football. And, on occasions, full professionalism.

To rub salt into the wound the biggest signing was Geelong's star goal sneak, Tom McShane. And the imposing playing list was supported by state-of-the-art training methods and a radical health insurance scheme to cover player injuries.

The extent of the Club's further development was immediately apparent when they thrashed Geelong at Corio Oval on June 2, 1888.

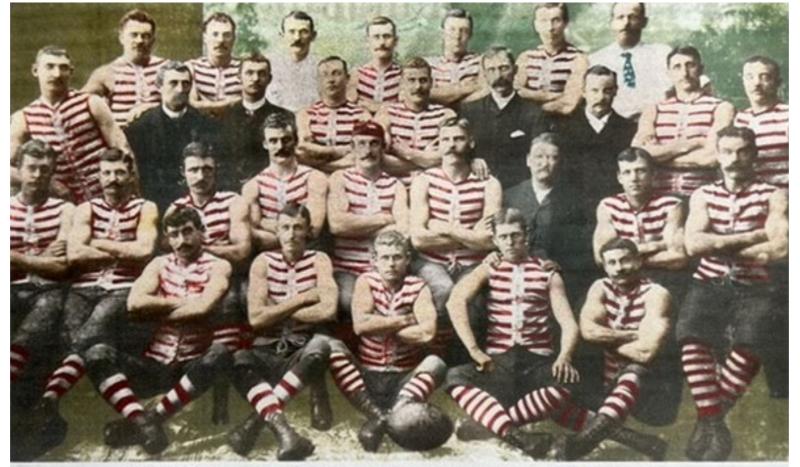
A month later at the MCG they obliterated Carlton and set the tenor for the season and, in time, the 1888 Premiership, the Club's third pennant.

At the annual general meeting in April 1889 the heady success was celebrated and 23

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#### **HERITAGE ARTICLE:**

THE THREEPEAT: 1888-903



The 1890 South Melbourne football team, (now the Sydney Swans). Back row: J Young, A Dunne, J Marshall, A Brown, E Barrett, J Middleton, R Kinnerburg. Third row: D McKay, A Major, J Sloss, W Morton, A Powell, H Sterl, A Evans, W Windley, R Doran. Second row: W Ellis, H Purdy, R Kerr, B Page, H Elms (Captain) P Burns, H Latchford, J Graham, R Talbot. Front row: J O'Meara, T Glenn, A McMurray, F Waugh, W Spence.



Premiership player Billy Spence

players were presented with their first VFA Premiership caps.

So powerful was the team there was some inevitability about consecutive premierships and emphatic wins over old and new arch rivals Geelong and Carlton and a public humiliation of Richmond (13.10 to 6 points) ensured the 1889 Premiership triumph.

By 1890 trainers were also involved in the emergent professionalism and clubs with sufficient resources enlisted specialists with specific physical training and dietary knowledge.

With such a list the Southerners did not need to recruit further but the lure of jobs, cash, travel expenses, health insurance and trophies saw more personnel arrive - often

plundered from Port Melbourne.

On May 24 undefeated South and unbeaten Essendon drew such a crowd - estimated at more than 30,000 - the picket fence at the East Melbourne Cricket Ground collapsed. Fans sat on the boundary line for the riveting drawn encounter.

The lead-up to the 1890 premiership featured one of the most famous encounters of the 19th century - the "coffin match" at the MCG on August 2.

The clash between the formidable Southerners and Carlton was so named because of the actions of a band of disgruntled Carlton supporters who mocked their team by circling the ground carrying a coffin painted red and white.

With only minutes remaining Archie McMurray marked 80 yards from goal. As he placed the ball to take his kick Peter Burns sauntered from the centre towards goal. McMurray took his cue, passed the ball to Burns who from 70 yards out place kicked the winning goal.

Some scribes called it the greatest goal of the 19th century. Certainly the kick provided a fitting climax to a thrilling match. The crowd of 33,000 was officially confirmed a world record for a sporting contest - exceeding the mark set for the English football match between Aston Villa and Preston North End in 1888.

Come the last week of September a third consecutive premiership was celebrated by the Southerners before they headed to Adelaide to overcome Norwood for the Championship of Australia on October 7.

Over these three extraordinary seasons the Club was led by Sonny Elms (inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2011) and vice-captain Peter Burns (elevated to Legend status in 2017). Sonny would go on to coach the Club to the Premiership in 1918 in partnership with former teammate Herb Howson.

Bloods For Life would like to acknowledge Dr Mark Pennings whose research was the basis of much of the information in this article. Our game owes him and many of his collaborators an enormous debt of gratitude. Mark spent 12 years undertaking the basic research that resulted in the first volume of his five edition anthology of the "Origins of Australian Football: Victoria's Early History" in 2012. ▼

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#### **BLOODS FOR LIFE PROFILE**

#### DEAN MOORE

By Richard Colless



A genial soul raised by a courageous widowed mother in country Victoria, Moore redefined resilience to ensure the dreams of true believers eventually were realised.

To perfectly complement a business degree from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology he demonstrated a steely resolve and persistence to oversee the radical transplantation of the club.

He may have been designated "team manager" in 1982, but in reality he was a logistics guru. Hopelessly under-resourced, he organised accommodation and employment for disoriented players and set in place the infrastructure for the Swans to be in Sydney full-time from 1983.

Whenever inaugural coach Rick Quade is lauded for the club's composure in the crisis he quickly deflects the attention and lustily sings the praises of his first indefatigable lieutenant.

Moore left the Swans in 1984 to return to



Melbourne to work with the VFL as secretary of the Victorian Metropolitan Football League and later was appointed AFL Football Projects Manager.

He rejoined the Swans as General Manager, Football in 2009 alongside chief executive officer, Andrew Ireland, for what he has often described as "five amazing years", culminating in the Premiership for his Football Department in 2012.

Since 2015 he has held an integral consultancy role assisting the club on the ambitious Royal Hall of Industries project.

Given his curriculum vitae, passion for the game and unique place in the club's history, it was apposite for Moore to address the ambitious class of 2022 and propose the Toast to the Club as it enters its 148th year

This was his stirring call to arms.

Toast to the Sydney Swans: Dean Moore 23 February 2022

It is my absolute privilege and honour to stand before you tonight to toast the Sydney Swans



A tense Coach's Box 1982: from left Rick Quade, Tony Franklin (obscured), Ron Thomas, Francis Jackson and Dean Moore

Football Club. One of the oldest sporting clubs in the world. Established in 1874.

My first involvement with the Club was 105 years later, in May of 1979. Back then it was of course the South Melbourne Football Club. Lakeside Oval, Aughtie Drive, South Melbourne. I had accepted the position of Assistant to the General Manager, or Club Secretary as it was in those days. Straight out of university, first job, loved football. How good.

Shortly after starting it become clear that the role required my attendance on match day. Saturday afternoon 2pm. I had naively assumed it was a Monday to Friday, 9-5 role. How wrong. At the time, playing football for my local club was the centre of my universe and retiring at the age of 21 for work was just not going to happen. I would need to resign. Enter Ian Stewart. The Senior Coach. Triple Brownlow medallist. Football royalty. Engaging, charismatic, persuasive, almost hypnotic. And wise. My playing career was over and my journey with the Swans had begun.

The point of the story is the Club changed

my life. For the better, even though I didn't necessarily know it at the time. It set me on a completely different course to that I had imagined. It enabled me to meet some amazing people. Not only great players. Great people. People who care. Care about the club and genuinely care about others. It would give me opportunities and let me experience things that I could only dream about. I love this Club and will be forever grateful for what it has given me.

And to the young players in the room, some who have just been presented with their first Sydney Swans guernsey, I can say from the heart the more you give of yourself to this Club the more you will get back. Open yourself fully to what it has to offer. You might feel emotionally exposed and more vulnerable, but you will be richer for the experience.

In our 40th year in Sydney, I thought it appropriate to briefly reflect on the move from South Melbourne. Important to remember where you have come from.

By the early eighties the outlook for South

#### **BLOODS FOR LIFE PROFILE DEAN MOORE**

Melbourne was bleak. The last premiership was 1933. Only 2 finals matches (we lost both) since the infamous 1945 Bloodbath Grand Final. Less than 3000 members, stagnant revenue, sizeable debt, ongoing annual operating losses, Lakeside Oval in a state of disrepair. It was a grim situation. The Club appeared doomed.

Sydney offered hope, but it was a bold and divisive decision. It sparked a bitter struggle between two factions who both loved their Club. The pragmatists who saw Sydney as the only chance of survival. And the Keep South at South movement who saw Sydney as the end of the club. Friendships were broken, families divided. This was an emotionally charged time.

The VFL supported and in many ways engineered the move. It was the first step in their vision for a National Competition. However, the relocation was totally underprepared, under-funded, and under-resourced. Unbelievably there was no venture capital by the VFL. No short or long-term investment strategy. Their belief was the game itself was so good. And Sydney was a lucrative market there for the taking. Compare that to the support provided by the AFL to the expansion clubs of today.

In a very fundamental sense, the Club arrived in Sydney and simply did not have the money required to properly establish and run a VFL club in a new market.

Finding suitable accommodation and employment for players in a very short



2012 Premiership triumph: Kinnear Beatson, Andrew Ireland, John Blakey and Dean Moore

time frame was an immediate and pressing challenge. Back then players had full time jobs away from football. Many players were leaving well paid secure jobs without any guaranteed employment in Sydney. The story of players being greeted on arrival in Sydney with a yellow pages to help look for housing, jobs and schools for kids is slightly embellished but there is also an element of truth.

Facilities were basically non-existent. No dedicated training ground. Training on the SCG was simply out of the question. No gymnasium. We were training nomads. Finding grounds wherever we could. SCG No 2 when it wasn't being used for cricket or as a car park. Centennial Park. The Army Barracks. Showground. Erskineville Oval. Anywhere.

The Club had to find medical staff, trainers, property stewards. All the football club staffing and infrastructure taken for granted in Melbourne simply did not exist. We literally had to start from scratch in a new frontier that had very little understanding, or interest in our game.

On reflection it's amazing the Club survived.

The resilience and commitment of those involved was crucial. Players, coaches, staff deeply committed to the cause made a significant and lasting contribution. Driven by a lack of success and bitter struggle with the Keep South at South group, there was a fierce resolve to make it work. The sort of resolve that laid the foundation upon which the Bloods Culture was built.

To Andrew Pridham, the Board, Tom and all the staff, John, Charlie, and the Football Department and of course the players, you are wonderful custodians of this Club, and we are excited at what the future holds. A strong Academy, dynamic Foundation, AFLW team on the way. All bodes well.

Add to this, the Royal Hall of Industries facility and what it will bring to the Club and wider community. It promises to set a new benchmark for sporting facilities in this country. It will capture the future and appeal to the next generation. And at the same time respect and protect the legacy of the past. It will be unique in world sport – nothing like it anywhere. One of the oldest sporting clubs in the world in one of Sydney's oldest heritagesignificant buildings. In the heart of Moore Park. Visiting will be a spiritual like experience for the Swans faithful. We've come a long, long way from our very humble beginnings.

And so, on the eve of our 40th year in Sydney, as we toast this great club in this great city, let us acknowledge and celebrate its history and all those who have walked this path before us. Let us pay tribute to the club's great players and great moments that we all hold so dearly.

The "I see it, but I don't believe it" moments. The "here it is" moments. The "what a team, that culture, the Bloods" moments. The "cometh the hour cometh the champion" moments. The "grand final from the top shelf" moments. All "dead set massive moments" that stay in our hearts forever.

Let us also salute the Club's resilience. Its ability to endure in the face of great adversity. Its longevity. Its courage. The courage to relocate to Sydney. Its values and what it stands for. Its strength to call out wrongs and lead by example. Its empathy and its caring. Its honesty. The honesty and accountability of sustained high-level performance by the team over a long period.

And let us never forget the impact it has on people's lives - the joy, the hope, anticipation, sense of belonging, the respect, the pride, the love. This club has the power to change people's lives.

In closing I respectfully speak on behalf of the entire Swans family and wish John and the team all the very best as they prepare to write another chapter in the story that is, the Sydney Swans Football Club. Please be upstanding and raise your glasses.

To the Sydney Swans. **Y** 

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#### THE NEW AND THE OLD



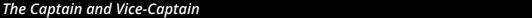
The 2021 Sydney Swans players, coaches and Football Department personnel pictured in front of the restored South Melbourne Grandstand at the Lake Oval.



#### SWANS INVADE SYDNEY

by Jim Main







Jacko and the Tilt go at it!

It is beyond doubt that Sunday, March 28, 1982, is one of the most important dates in VFL/AFL history.

It was the day South Melbourne made the flight north to later become the Sydney Swans.

The Swans ran onto the SCG for their opening round match against Melbourne that day and the club was still officially known as South Melbourne.

Would this red-letter day stamp itself as the foundation stone for a bright new future or the collapse of the dream for a national competition?

Make no mistake, the Swans' move to Sydney not only represented a bright new future for the club founded in 1874, but also was the

stepping stone for the emergence of new clubs in the competition so that games now are played right across this big, broad land, and not just in Victoria.

And, making the Swans' task in Sydney all the more difficult, all players remained in Melbourne and trained at the club's old traditional home of the Lake Oval and flying into Sydney for their "home" matches at the SCG.

The Swans were blessed with mild weather and no hint of rain for the big match. However, they had one hurdle in the lead-up to the match, with named full-back Barry Beecroft pulling out of the side through injury and replaced by Anthony Daniher.

Beecroft, recruited from Victorian amateur club

Ormond, had made his debut with the Swans in 1973 but moved to West Australian club Claremont before returning to South at the start of the 1982 season.

The red and white swarmed all over the Demons in the first quarter through long kicking and playing through the centre corridor rather than the wings.

Rover Steve Wright was South's best player from start to finish and had a brilliant first quarter to set the Swans up for victory.

South led by nine points at the first break and then ran the Demons ragged in the second quarter to kick seven goals and lead by 28 points at half-time.

The Swans seemed set to notch an easy win

but had not counted on a fierce comeback by the Demons from late in the third quarter.

Melbourne reduced the Swans' lead to 17 points by the end of the third quarter and was far from finished as it pummelled the Swan defence over the first half of the final quarter.

South briefly looked as if it would fold under the pressure but Mark Browning and Barry Round were magnificent in defence, with Round particularly outstanding.

He proved to be a human road block as he constantly outmarked his opponents close to goal.

Finally, South rallied with late goals from Silvio Foschini and Dennis Carroll. The Swans won by 29 points and jubilant young supporters



#### **SWANS INVADE SYDNEY**

mobbed the players as they marched triumphantly off the ground.

Swan coach Rick Quade, whose nerves made him physically ill before the game, said in victory: "After what they (the players) have been through there was a tremendous amount of pressure on the players to do well. It would have to take three or four goals off any side."

The Swans' acting administrator Alan Schwab (on loan from the VFL), said prophetically: "South could be a great club in this city if everything is done the right way."

Highly-respected sports journalist Ron Carter wrote in Melbourne's "Age" newspaper: "This was a massive win for the VFL's venture into this Rugby city."

Melbourne coach Ron Barassi was scathing in his assessment of the Demons and said: We had guys who may as well not have been there. I feel like cutting somebody's throat."

The Swan rooms were packed with well-wishers after the game, with the cheering led by number one men's ticket-holder and future Prime Minister Bob Hawke leading the way.

From there, the celebrations continued at the luxurious home of number one women's ticketholder Lady Mary Fairfax.

It was a lavish function, with oysters, brandied marshmallows and Black Forest cake among the delicacies, and guests quaffed fine wine with a magnificent view of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in the background.

As club captain Round quipped: "It sure beat pies 'n' sauce in the South rooms".

The Swans finished a respectable seventh in 1982 and moved lock, stock and barrel to Sydney from 1983. And Schwab's crystal ball-reading was on the money, with the Sydney Swans winning the 2005 and 2012 premierships.

It has been 40 years since the dramatic move north and the Sydney Swans now are widely recognised as one of the most progressive clubs in the AFL. **Y** 

We would like to hear from you & receive your feedback





#### **MATCH DETAILS**

#### **SWANS**

3.6 10.7 14.9 20.17 (137)

#### **MELBOURNE**

2.3 5.8 11.10 16.12 (108)

#### THE SWANS' LINE-UP:

B: David Ackerly, Rod Carter, Max Kruse

HB: Dennis Carroll,
Anthony Daniher,
Mark Browning

C: Colin Hounsell, Greg Smith, David Rhys-Jones

HF: Paul Morwood, Max James, Tony Morwood

F: Stephen Allender, John Roberts, Silvio Foschini

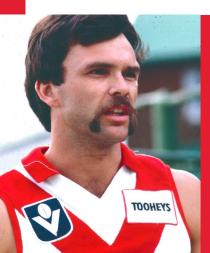
FOLL: Barry Round, Bernie Evans, Steve Wright

INTER: Wayne Carroll, Brett Scott





## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? DAVID ACKERLEY



**PLAYED** 1979-85

**GAMES** | 138

GOALS | 12

**NUMBER** 42 (1979) 9 (1980-85)

David Ackerly commenced his football career at the Altona North Brooklyn Youth junior club which was within the Swans zone. He was a footballing prodigy who played in the Under 19s as a fifteen-year-old under the tutelage of Swans great John Heriot.

John says "He was the best player for his age I had ever seen. Rather than play him on a wing or a forward pocket such was his leg speed and skill I played him in the centre."

Under coach Ian Stewart he debuted in the Swans senior side in 1979 as an 18-year-old.

David looks back on 1979 as an exciting time

for him and says he owes a great debt of gratitude to Francis Jackson for his promotion to the senior side. Jackson was a senior player at the time, rehabilitating from a knee injury, and coached David in his Under 19s games that year.

Remarkably in the following year aged 19 he won the Club Best & Fairest after having played only 33 games. He remains the youngest player in the Club's history to achieve this (pipping the great Bobby Skilton by 18 days).

David was an incredibly consistent performer in the Best & Fairest Award, winning again in 1982 and being second in 1984 and third in 1981. He was selected in the 1982 and 1984 All Australian teams, and has been inducted into the Swans Hall of Fame.

David was considered the complete package quick, skilful, strong overhead, with an innate sense of anticipation. He brought a new dimension to the role of a back pocket. His blistering pace and precise disposal was the prototype for today's running defender.

He was a member of the team that played the last game in Melbourne as the South Melbourne Football Club and the first team



that played in Sydney as the Sydney Swans.

David concedes that there were some players who were absolutely opposed to moving games to Sydney whilst others saw it as an opportunity to save the red and white and were convinced that the move to Sydney was the only viable option. "I know there were many people hurt during this period, but I do hope that time has healed those wounds and that everyone associated with the club during that period can be proud of their involvement and especially of where the club currently stands."

During this period, David believes the "battles" that were fought consolidated the playing

group, and that combined with spending so much time travelling as a group had a profound impact on the relationships the players shared.

Looking back over his career with the Bloods, David says that he has been privileged to play with an outstanding group of people, and that the stand out for him was the Escort Cup Night Premiership win in 1982. "It confirmed that we were good enough to challenge at the highest level."

After his time with the Swans, David played 53 games for North Melbourne in 1986-89, then had 2 years at Williamstown in the VFA where Barry Round was the playing coach, which he



#### WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**DAVID ACKERLEY** 

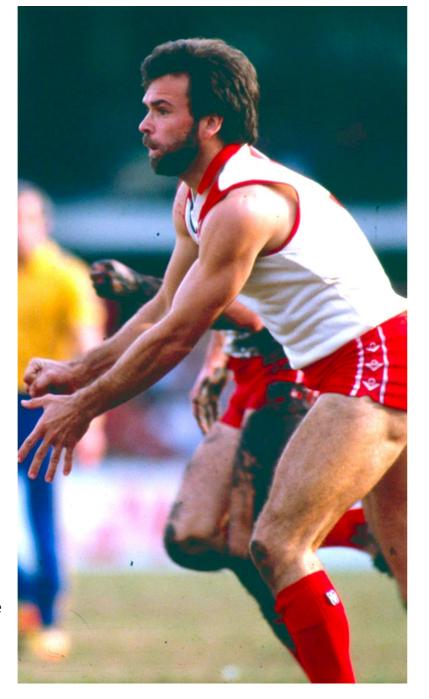
described as great fun. He also had 3 years coaching in the TAC cup competition at the Oakleigh Chargers.

One of his fondest memories from football was actually playing a game in the Williamstown CYMs 4ths with his son in 2021. "We won, and I didn't get injured.... that's a success in anyones book!"

Post his footy career, David has been a Physical Education teacher, including the last 28 years at Wesley College Melbourne. He retired from teaching at the end of 2021 and now enjoys bike riding, on the road or in the dirt. He looks forward to getting into the Aussie outback in the very near future.

David loves the fact that the Club recreated the iconic photo from 1982 on the steps of the Opera House as part of the 2022 jumper presentation and that Rick Quade was the special guest presenter. "It fills me with great pride that the club is so successful, yet there is always a strong recognition of the past, not just the past 40 years, but well beyond that time".

David hasn't watched a lot of footy in recent times, although now he has retired says there can be no excuse. He does keep his eye on the Swans performances, and is really excited to see the Club join the AFLW competition later in 2022.





GLEN WHEATLEY

Best known for his partnership with Australian music icon John Farnham, Glenn Wheatley was a passionate supporter and former owner of the Sydney Swans. All who knew him were deeply shocked and saddened by his death on 1 February this year.

Glenn's love of the Swans was well known and he was a regular at games and Club functions for many years. He was part of the consortium of business people who effectively saved the Club from folding in the early 1990s.

His pleasant demeanour and cheery disposition will be sadly missed.

Please click on the link below for the Club's tribute to the late, great Glenn Wheatley.

CLICK HERE for the Sydney
Swans tribute to Glenn Wheatley



#### **BERNIE JEFFREY**

The Club was also saddened by the recent passing of former player, Bernie Jeffrey. Bernie was a veteran of the Navy, and was known as the "Man-Mountain from South" when he debuted in 1956.

For the Club's tribute to Bernie Jeffrey, please click on the link below.

CLICK HERE for the Sydney
Swans tribute to Bernie Jeffrey







Season 2022 is a significant one for our Club. It marks 40 years since we moved to Sydney and 10 years since our team brought home the 2012 Premiership Cup.

Coinciding with the significance of the year, we have recently announced that we will wear our iconic red-V guernsey for all Victorian games going forward. The change is a significant one, and one that has been driven by players to honour the connection to our Club's history.

The team was certainly overwhelmed by the support we received through our extended stay in Melbourne last season, and we look forward to strengthening those connections when we celebrate Heritage Week and Swans Hall of Fame in Melbourne later this year.

This year shapes as one of the most

Swans legend Josh "Joey" Kennedy

transformative in our Club's storied history. By the year's end we will have continued our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, moved into a new Sydney Swans HQ and played our first game in the AFLW competition.

Preparations for that inaugural AFLW game have commenced in earnest and we are committed to ensuring our team will have every chance of success from the start.

We are extremely fortunate to have Scott Gowans as our inaugural AFLW Coach. Scott brings enormous experience and expertise in the women's game having been the inaugural AFLW coach for North Melbourne, along with holding senior assistant roles at Carlton and Collingwood. He joins Kate Mahony, our Executive GM AFLW, and together they are hard at work building our list.

A lack of suitable facilities slowed our entry into AFLW, however, with construction now underway on the new Sydney Swans HQ at the iconic Royal Hall of Industries, our women's team will share a world-class training facility alongside the Sydney Swans men's team. The project is one of the most significant undertakings since the club relocated from Melbourne and will ensure our long-term future in the heart of Sydney's Moore Park sporting precinct.

On the field, our men's team has been hard at work over summer. After returning to finals last season and seeing the emergence of our young players we have plenty of reason to be optimistic about the year ahead.

We've recently announced a change in the captaincy with Callum Mills taking the baton from outgoing captain Josh Kennedy. Callum joins Dane Rampe and Luke Parker as cocaptains for 2022, and he becomes our

youngest captain since another number 14, Paul Kelly.

Josh will continue to play a significant role as a member of the Leadership Group. He has been an exemplar of club values whilst maintaining his elite on-field form since taking over the captaincy in 2017. His selfless approach to developing Callum over the past 12 to 18 months speaks volumes. Rounding out the player leadership group is Tom Papley, Harry Cunningham and Lance Franklin.

As far as milestones go, they don't come much bigger than the history making moment before Lance, who is set to become just the sixth player in the history of our game to reach 1000 goals. He needs just five more goals to get there, and we'd certainly love to see him do it in Sydney early in the season.

I look forward to seeing you at the footy during the season – we are certainly in for a big year ahead. ▼

Cheer, cheer

Tom Harley CEO, Sydney Swans









#### **NEW HOME ON TRACK**

Builders FDC have been in the building business for a long time, but the Royal Hall of Industries project has quickly become one of the construction company's most interesting builds to date.

Maintaining the iconic building's heritage significance while creating a world-class facility has brought about its challenges, as it pushes towards the October 2022 finish line.

"We're about a quarter of the way through the build, and we're tracking to get the Swans in by the end of the year, which is our major milestone," FDC Project Director George Pavlakos said.

"Each project has its own challenges. This is certainly one of our most exciting projects we've been involved in. You're dealing with existing heritage significant areas of the building, the multiple uses of the facility, and not just being an office fit out – there are also the sports facilities, the gyms, the academies, commercial kitchens, cafes and more. It's got everything you can build in the one facility, plus the combination of the new build outside. We're really creating this site as its own entity."

The progress is visible both inside and outside of the building, with extensive development across the ground floor, basement excavation and a new mezzanine. Services are in the process of being bumped in, while further trenching and pipe work is evident at the southern end.

"The in-ground infrastructure is complete. The structural elements both inside and outside are now predominantly done, which includes all our footings, our piles, all the way up to the mezzanine structure, which is a concrete structure surrounding the internal perimeter of RHI. Our lift shafts, remediation to the existing windows and roof are well underway, leaving predominantly the fit-out internally to complete," Pavlakos said

"Outside is tracking well too. We've had a couple of minor delays but we're at a similar status to inside the building in terms of all the infrastructure going down, like the storm water and sewer pipes going in at the moment."

Adding to the already complex build, every improvement made to Royal Hall of Industries must be capable of being returned to its original state.

"RHI is not heritage listed, but it's in a heritage significant area, and elements of the building

being so old have heritage significance, so we are trying to maintain that. Part of the development application approval was to ensure we could maintain all those elements without interrupting them, with also the intent that anything we do is reversible at the completion of the lease to return it to its original state. Those elements include all the windows, the existing glass, ensuring the new structure can be separated from the existing structure, so it's reversible at any point in time." \textstyle{\textstyle{V}}

Click on the Link below for latest gallery of what the new Sydney Swans HQ will look like.

Visit the Sydney Swans HQ





#### **BLOODS FOR LIFE PROFILE**

#### STEVE TAUBERT

By Richard Colless



Stephen Taubert, universally known as "Taubo", became a Blood at arguably the most pivotal moment in the Club's evolution - 1982.

He was already a senior player in his 29th year and, according to astrologists, entering his Saturn Return which promises a more enriching stage of life. And so it proved.

The most rounded and genial of ruckman, Taubo had started his football career in Melbourne more than a decade earlier.

A graduate of Melbourne High School, an academically selective secondary school, he attended Rusden Teachers College before he joined the Melbourne High School Old Boys Football Club in the Victorian Amateur Football Association (VAFA).

He played 42 games with MHOB and in 1972 won Victorian Amateur selection and attracted the attention of Richmond which he joined the following year. Taubo made his senior debut in 1974, a premiership year for the Tigers, but despite appearing in the last two home and away season games, was not picked for the finals.

However, in the Australian Club Championship which followed the Grand Final, Taubo kicked nine of Richmond's 34 goals against a combined Tasmanian Premiers team.

He crossed to Essendon midway through 1977 and two seasons later finally got to experience finals football. He played 64 matches for the Bombers primarily as a ruckman who could be pushed back in defence.

While playing in the VFL in Melbourne, Taubo worked as a teacher in roles that prepared him well for nearly four decades in the Australian football system in Sydney.

While he became a Blood in 1982 he started

the year tied to Essendon and playing as the back-up ruckman to champion Simon Madden.

As a postscript to the infamous trade of the Daniher brothers to Essendon for Neville Fields in 1978, a deal was struck after round two whereby Fields returned to Essendon in return for Taubo who made his debut in a big win over Fitzroy at the SCG in round four.

In joining the fledgling Swans, Taubo and his wife Julie took a giant leap of faith.

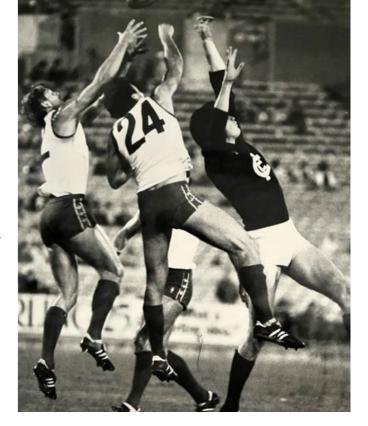
Inaugural Sydney coach Rick Quade, has always been deeply grateful for Taubo's contribution during the most challenging phase in the Club's history:

"Taubo was terrific in keeping everyone positive about the full move to Sydney in 1983. The promised land it was not! Taubo and Julie were great in looking after many of the younger players, in particular Dennis Carroll, Anthony Daniher, David Murphy, Stevie Wright and Brett Scott. He was like an extra coach. He had a great knowledge of opposition sides and how they played.

He was a true mentor to young players and to older players as well. He drew on and shared his experiences at successful clubs in Richmond and Essendon. He played an important role in implementing what has become known as the revered Bloods culture.

In short he was and remains a great clubman. His contribution was invaluable to the success we enjoy today."

He played his best football in Sydney with vintage performances coming in his final season at the age of 31. In all previous seasons, Taubo polled in only two Brownlow Medal counts. But In 1984 he received



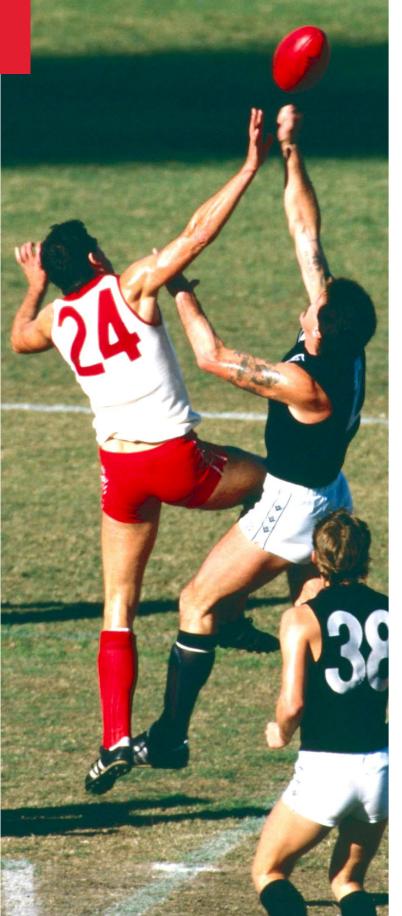
15 votes, with four 'best-on-ground" performances and finished fourth to easily be the Club's leading vote getter.

He retired at the end of the 1984 season, after 123 senior games - 44 with the Swans - and kicking 70 goals.

From 1987-89 Taubo was captain-coach of St George in the Sydney Football League (SFL) and in 1987 took the club to a Grand Final following semi final and preliminary final wins against traditional nemesis, East Sydney.

In probably the most brutal grand final ever played in the SFL, Campbelltown adopted tactics not in keeping with the rules or the spirit of the game and won easily. There were 48 reports and which consequently led to the introduction of the send-off rule. In 1988 the club missed the finals on percentage and in 1989 lost in the first semi-final to North Shore.

In 1998-99 Taubo assumed the role of coach of the NSW Teal Cup Team (which combines players from NSW Rams/Murray Bushrangers/ Bendigo Pioneers) and saw 9 players drafted onto senior AFL lists: Nick Davis, Craig Bolton, Mark McVeigh, Lenny Hayes, Ray Hall, Mark Alvey, Dean Solomon, Aaron Henneman and Ben Fixter.



#### **BLOODS FOR LIFE PROFILE**

#### **STEVE TAUBERT**

Simultaneously Taubo returned to the Swans as ruck coach, overseeing players such as Greg Stafford, Jason Ball, Stephen Doyle, Darren Jolly, Mike Pyke, Mark Seaby, Shane Mumford, and Sam Naismith. He is highly credited by the players, particularly Darren Jolly, who came to Sydney unproven at senior level, and novice Mike Pyke, who reached Sydney as a total unknown from Canadian rugby union.

Even even after leaving the club for Collingwood in 2010, Jolly continued to seek advice from Taubo.

However, it was the development of Pyke into a premiership ruckman that underpinned his exceptional qualities as a coach and earned him the sobriquet of 'Ruck Whisperer.'

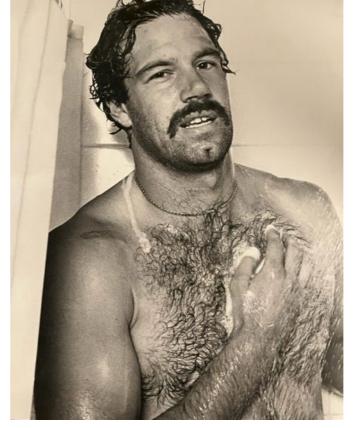
In 2008 at the age of 24, Mike Pyke committed to a career with the Swans after playing four years of professional rugby representing Canada (which included a famous try against the All Blacks).

Pyke understood he needed to cram a decade's worth of knowledge into a pre-season to have any chance of making it as a ruckman - which realistically was the only position available to him. Taubo was fundamental to Mike's prospects of defying colossal odds.

Pyke remembered:

"First and foremost, Taubo cared deeply for all his players on a personal level, football was second, and he maintains many player connections post football.

He was extremely open and honest with his players, and where we needed to improve. For



example, in my second year, I didn't make the first round 22 as I was behind Shane Mumford and Mark Seaby and he encouraged me to consider other clubs. He knew I was good enough but that I needed to recognise the challenge from Mummy and Seabs given the commitment the club had made to them. This instilled a lot of confidence in me.

He spent countless hours on the phone, watching footage, and facilitating extra training, including some mornings spent in the SCG car park when training grounds were unavailable.

He often stated that "your career is on the line" during quarter, half and three-quarter time; this had mixed results.

He pushed his players mentally and physically in training which ultimately battle hardened us. He took his football and his players seriously but could have a laugh too.

Taubo recognised that players owe football, the club and supporters the utmost respect but he understood that football wasn't life or death".

Senior Coach John Longmire, and a long-time colleague always delights in lauding Taubo' commitment to his craft and to the Club.



"He liked the term "ruck whisperer." And he was. He has an absolute passion for developing the big man ruck craft. Taubo believed that the skill required to be a ruck technician was probably under appreciated by those that never practiced the craft.

He spent hours at the club working with the rucks both on the track and reviewing video. He became close confidantes of the players with whom he worked. Still to this day he works with the young developing rucks coming through the Academy.

Taubo's personality made him a unique and much-loved character around the club. He loved the interstate travel and banter within the group.

The players and staff also enjoyed many laughs with Taubo over the years that importantly kept the lighter side of professional sport front and centre. HIs storytelling ability is legendry.

`His passion for teaching ruck craft was only matched by his passion for the buffets on interstate trips!," Longmire quipped.

After 19 seasons as the AFL's renowned ruck coach Taubo retired at the end of the 2017 home and away season. Over this time he was an integral part of Swans five AFL Grand Final appearances for two precious premierships.

Since 1989 Taubo has been the proprietor of a chain of sporting goods stores in the tough Sydney retail sector and still finds the time to act as a consultant to the Swans Academy.

Steve Taubert's contribution to the Club as a player, coach and mentor to senior and emerging players has been priceless. His impact on the players in the early days of such uncertainty can never be fully appreciated. He was a most worthy recipient of Life Membership of the Club. The Swans are a better Club for his sterling service. \mathbf{Y}

#### THE **AMBASSADORS**

#### **SAM GROTH**

Swans ambassador Sam Groth is determined to definitively establish whether sport and politics can mix.

The former international tennis player and proud Australian Davis Cup representative will be the Liberal candidate for the ultra-marginal seat of Nepean at the Victorian State election in November.

Renowned for the fastest serve ever recorded - 263kph at the ATP Challenge at Busan, Korea in 2012 - he will have the opportunity to deliver serves of a very different kind should he unseat Labor's Chris Brayne at the election.

Groth, familiar of late for his television commentary and analysis at the Australian Tennis Open, notes a few similarities between elite sport and politics.

"After all, isn't it all about winning and numbers," he asked on the eve of an emphatic win in the pre-selection battle in February.

"After two years of lockdowns in Victoria I thought all I could do was get out in front to make a difference."

Groth, whose highest world singles ranking was 53 in 2015 (doubles 24), was born in Narrandera and grew up in John Longmire territory at Corowa.

A jewellery store opposite his father's

business in Corowa was run by an uncle of Tony Lockett, who, along with Paul Kelly's mother, became a custodian when his father was unable to take him to the city to see his beloved Swans. "I can clearly remember as an eight-year-old being at VFL Park, Waverley (round four, 1996) when we beat Richmond by a point," Groth

Swans v Crows with good mate Lleyton Hewitt

at Adelaide Oval

Given the travel and tournament demands of the international tennis circuit before his retirement in 2018. Sam was not on hand for

said. "A great memory."



appearances over the past 16 years.

"I'm just hanging out for the next Grand Final appearance and, on what we saw last year, perhaps it could be this year," he added.

Sam has enormous admiration for fellow professional athletes and now has more time to join Longmire and his

men in the rooms after a match.

> When he and his wife Brittany celebrated the birth of twin boys Mason and Parker last year, Jake Lloyd ensured Swans jumpers were among the gifts heading south to the family home on the Mornington Peninsula.



Australia's 39th cricket captain Mark Taylor AO has impeccable credentials as a Swans Ambassador.

But for his precociousness as a cricketer, he may well have made the SCG his winter headquarters alongside Riverina mates Paul Hawke and David Murphy in the 1980s.

Indeed, his late father, Tony, was convinced his son's future would be as a footballer and ideally in red and white as opposed to all-white or creams.

Until the age of 11, Taylor's winter pursuit was soccer but Hawke, a friend at Mount Austin High School at Wagga, cajoled him into embracing Aussie Rules.

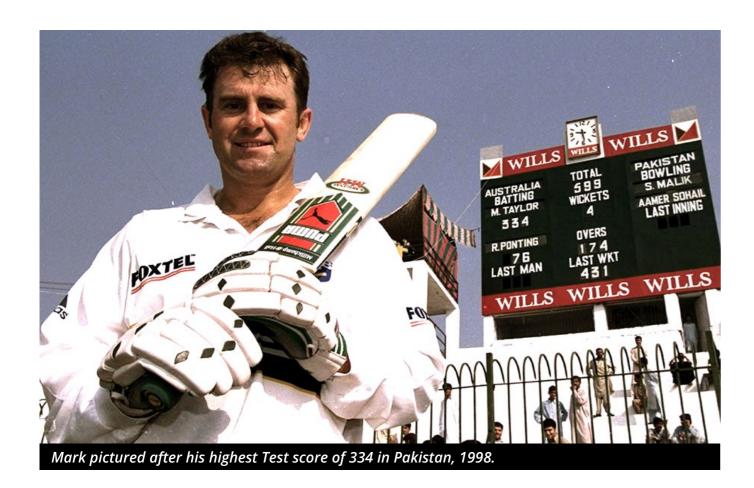
He was conspicuous in the centre for the Wagga Tigers Under-14s and at 15, when the family moved to Sydney, played in the middle or ruck-roved at St. Ives before transferring to Parramatta United and Pennant Hills.

Come 1981 he was a member of the State Under-19 team and by chance was billeted with David Rhys-Jones at the Teal Cup carnival in Melbourne.

The following year as the fledgling Swans defied incalculable odds to be



#### **THE AMBASSADORS**



competitive in their first season in Sydney, Taylor played in two curtain raisers with Parramatta United at the SCG

By the time Hawke and Murphy began fine careers with the Swans in 1984, Taylor had redirected his time and energy to cricket and to University studies for a surveying degree.

He seriously missed playing and immediately became an ardent Swans follower often offering wholehearted support alongside former Australian cricketer and noted coach Steve Rixon.

"In those days there were so few at the game we could get a beer between a goal and the bounce back in the centre," Taylor said with a laugh.

Years later he rekindled his desire to be directly involved in the game and assisted Murphy as coach of under-age teams at St. Ignatius College Riverview. His last game was in an impromptu fathers-sons match at the college.

Now in his late 50s Taylor still closely monitors the Swans. He devotes most of his leisure time to fishing the length and breadth of the country.

#### **SHANTINI NAIDOO**

The allure of the indigenous game should never be underestimated.

For South African born Swans ambassador Shanthini Naidoo, the Club has provided a priceless connection to Australian culture.

"I was converted from rugby the moment I went to my first game against Fremantle in the second round of 1996," Shanthini said.

"We lost but how lucky was I that the Swans then went on a fantastic winning streak at the SCG and were in the Grand Final that year."

Shanthini's interest in the Club now extends well beyond the progression of John Longmire's charges and the quest for an 11th premiership.

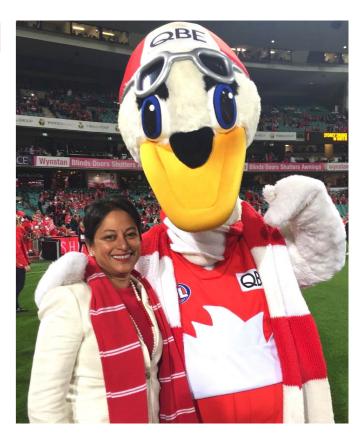
Her considerable and diverse skills in the realm of marketing, promotions and fund-raising have seen Shanthini appointed to the Board of the Sydney Swans Foundation. Among the Foundation's challenges is to raise funds for the Club's ambitious redevelopment of the Royal Hall of Industries as its state-of-the art headquarters.

Shanthini is Chief Executive Officer of St. Vincent's Curran Foudation, which fund raises for St. Vincent's Hospital and its private hospitals in Sydney and Griffith.

With experience in various roles at the National Gallery of Australia, Taronga and Western Plains Zoo, Sydney Opera House and at the 2003 Rugby World Cup, Shanthini has been struck by the unconditional professionalism at all levels of the Club.

"There are so many parallels with a team in a professional environment," Shanthini said.

"I'm very impressed by the leadership and



management of the team on and off the ground.

"Succession planning is a case in point and we've seen it again this year with the leadership transition from Kennedy to Mills; so professional and classy which reflects the Club philosophy.

"I'm also most impressed by the work of the Club and the game in indigenous matters and by the high number of women and people from the LGBTQIA community who feel welcome at the ground."

Shanthini, who in 2007 was awarded a Churchill Scholarship to study philanthropy programs in the USA and UK, is a true believer contributing significantly to the Club culture that has given her so much.

We would like to hear from you & receive your feedback











## FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

We're embarking on season 2022 in a good position, ready to build upon the learnings from a year that saw 15 wins and a return to finals. While that may have surprised some outside our footy club, we've had a strategy to continually evolve our list and believe we have some terrific young talent who now have the opportunity to take the baton and run with it.

We also know that talent alone isn't enough, and we don't want to be a team that relies on talent. The best teams do the things that don't take talent, time and time again.

Last year we were able to blood three debutants in Round 1 and had four Rising Star nominations – Errol Gulden, Braeden Campbell, Chad Warner and Justin McInerney – which was a terrific outcome and a credit to the hard work of those players. Warner and Campbell each spent a significant part of last season injured, so we're looking forward to seeing how they progress with a full pre-season under their belt.

Then there are guys like Dylan Stephens, Logan McDonald and Joel Amartey who we'll be looking to see more from this season. We need our young players to play key roles in our team and continue to improve, as that's where our leap will come from.

What has also been pleasing is seeing the next generation of players put their hands up as leaders. The likes of Tom McCartin,

James Rowbottom and Nick Blakey, along with Gulden and McInerney. At the forefront of that is Callum Mills, who will join Luke Parker and Dane Rampe as co-captains this season.

While he's only 24, Callum is a massive competitor and drives really high standards. He's shown strong leadership qualities since coming to the club from our QBE Sydney Swans Academy and those qualities have been nurtured by some of the leaders who have gone before him, including Josh Kennedy, who has been a wonderful captain for our club.

We're incredibly fortunate to have had captains of the calibre of Josh, Luke and Dane who each bring something different, but are each committed to guiding and developing our younger players.

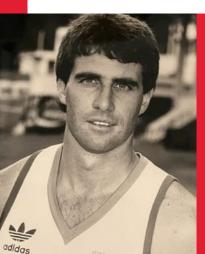
One thing we are really looking forward to this season is getting back to our home at the SCG and reconnecting with our supporters. As you will know, there's nothing like playing in front of a home crowd. Some of our young players have had little opportunity to do that on their footy journey so far and we're excited to see who will seize that opportunity.

Round 2 against Geelong is our first home game – which is fast approaching – so we hope to see you there. **Y** 

John Longmire Senior Coach, Sydney Swans



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? BRETT SCOTT



**PLAYED** 1981-87; 1989

**GAMES** | 59

GOALS | 44

**NUMBER**38 (1981-82; 1989)
6 (1982-87)

Following his debut as an 18 year-old in 1981, Brett Scott played 59 games for the Swans over eight seasons. His football career was hindered and ultimately cut short by a series of significant injuries.

Scotty had to compete for his preferred and natural position in the Centre against the sublime Greg Williams who arrived at the Club during his time.

In a special feature for Bloods For Life, Swans great Dennis Carroll looks back on the career of his teammate and great friend Brett Scott. It was late in 1982 that three young blokes drove up the Hume Highway from Melbourne in separate Holden Commodores to commence new lives as part of the Sydney Swans.

It was a memorable road trip into the great unknown by good mates Dennis Carroll, Brett Scott and David Windbanks.

Forty years on and with much water having passed under the bridge, many of those relationships have endured – in particular, my close friendship with Brett Scott.

Scotty was a prodigious talent coming through the junior ranks at The Rock Yerong Creek. As a keen football observer playing for the opposing Lockhart team, I soon realised that he was an absolute star. Everyone in the Wagga district was aware of his immense talents.

Scotty was the classical competitive centreman with a beautiful and penetrative left foot. He was light on his feet with an amazing sidestep and could leap on an opponent's shoulder from three steps. He had power to burn.

To further highlight Scotty's credentials, he was appointed the All-Australian Under-16 Captain in 1978 and made the All-Australian Teal Cup (under-18) side in 1979. Too good for the local

under-16 competition, he debuted for The Rock Yerong Creek's senior team at 16 in 1978 and was the star centreman in 1979 and 1980.

Scotty was equally adept at Rugby League, and I believe would have made the grade in Sydney as a Halfback, Five-eighth, or Fullback. For those who know or are interested in Rugby League, he would have been a hybrid of Laurie Daley (Canberra Raiders) and Terry Lamb (Canterbury Bulldogs).

It was certainly in the genes as Scotty's father, Ross, was a star League player in the 1960s for the Wagga Kangaroos and was instrumental in their premiership success throughout that period. Ross was tough and played with a dislocated shoulder for the last 20 minutes of their first premiership in 1962.

Scotty and I officially met when we arrived as young recruits at South Melbourne in late 1980 and it was evident he had the physical and mental maturity to immediately play VFL football. As expected Scotty was selected early and instantly impressed astute judges who claimed he had the ability to play 200 or more games and achieve the games highest honours. The future looked bright.

However, the footy gods were not kind. The Club and the game were robbed as Scotty's career was severely impacted by debilitating injuries which included shoulder reconstructions, knee ligaments and hamstring tendon issues. However, throughout his stop-start 59 senior games from 1981 to 1987 and then in 1989, teammates and fans were privileged to see his brilliance on many occasions.

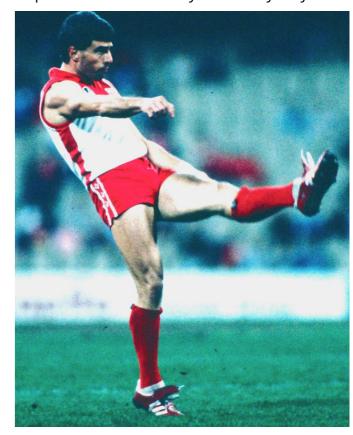
I can vividly remember two games. The first

in 1982 when we took on the might of Carlton at the SCG and Scotty blitzed a red-hot Blues midfield with 30 possessions and a goal. It was an eye catching best afield performance.

The next occasion was against Essendon in 1987 and Scotty again dominated a strong Bombers outfit with 30 plus possessions and three goals to secure three Brownlow Medal votes. This was the game in which the Club recorded its highest ever score of 36.20. (236)

{It is recommended you go to YouTube and type in Sydney v Essendon 26 July 1987}.

Scotty and I connected on arrival at the club and soon were living together at John Street, Woollahra. This mutually respectful arrangement would last for most of his nine years at the club. And while it was never really discussed, our great relationship enabled us to pool resources and buy our first Sydney



#### WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

#### **BRETT SCOTT**

property together.

As my career developed relatively smoothly, Scotty's was constantly disrupted by injury. This must have been enormously frustrating knowing he had the talent and desire to compete with the very best. I am sure Scotty went through some down times in his quieter moments but always he endeavoured to be positive.

He was a great clubman on and off the field. Scotty had - and still has - a great perspective on life underpinned by solid values and a quiet confidence. He is a fantastic listener who makes good sense when articulating a point and doesn't take himself too seriously. He is equally comfortable in group settings catching up with mates or doing his occasional 'Alby Mangels' impersonation out in the bush on his own.

Following his playing career with the Swans, Scotty put his astute footy brain to work and captain-coached Sydney University in 1990 and 1991. His skills and leadership helped establish the platform for good mate Rod "Rocket" Carter to win the Premiership in 1992.

Throughout this period the Swans were at their lowest ebb since arriving in Sydney and with Gary Buckenara's sudden early season departure in 1993, Scotty answered the Club's call. He coached the seniors for two games (notwithstanding he had a full-time job, which was unheard of among coaches in AFL at the time) before the arrival of Ron Barassi.

The under-resourced Swans suffered two big losses to Fitzroy and North Melbourne.

Brett said the only positive aspect of the

wretched episode was the AFL's realisation that prompt action was required If the Sydney concept was to survive.

"I don't think they did that earlier. They'd had a couple of half-goes; now I think they finally said: "Hey, if this is going to be a sustainable long-term project, we're going to have to put in a lot of money (not that we saw much of that!) and energy and get some really good people involved with the club, and I think you can see that attitude now with GWS and the Suns."

Scotty stayed on as an assistant for the remainder of that season which was greatly appreciated by Barassi and the Board.

Even the great Barassi's arrival in 1993 did not have an immediate impact with Sydney's losing streak extending to 26 games before a sole midseason victory over Melbourne.

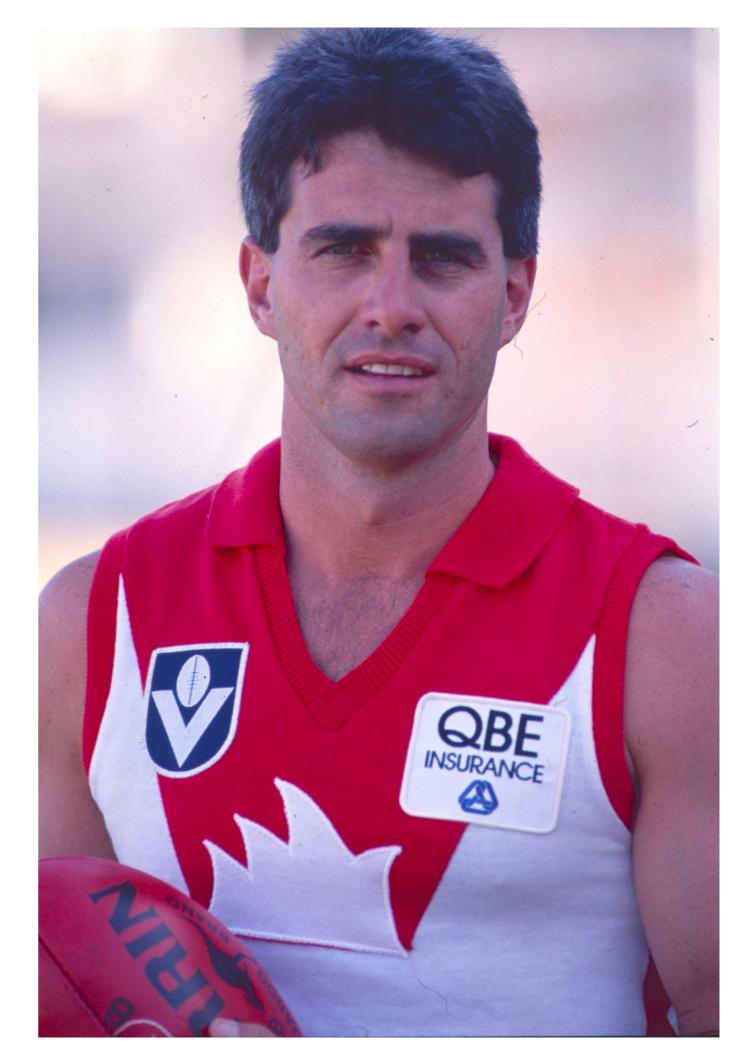
Whilst many players of our era returned or relocated interstate, Scotty made Sydney home with his Wagga sweetheart, Libby Maher and together raised 3 children - Mitchell, Georgia, and Maddison.

Scotty remains loyal to the Club and is as passionate as any supporter when cheering the current team.

Forty years have passed quickly and while we don't often see each other these days, I am very proud to say we have remained very good mates. **Y** 

We would like to hear from you & receive your feedback







#### **QUESTION 1.**

Who was the Swans player from the Round 1 team in 1982 who was recruited from the Fitzroy zone under the VFL's father/son rule?

#### **QUESTION 2.**

A) Which players representing the opposition club in Round 1 1982 went on to play for the Swans; and B) Which player representing that club had previously played with the Swans?

#### **QUESTION 3.**

Who were our Captain and Vice-Captain in 1982?

#### **QUESTION 4.**

Who was the Coach and Assistant Coach of the Swans in 1982?

#### **QUESTION 5.**

Who were the six players to debut for the Club in 1982? (Note Barry Beecroft was not one of them. Barry played for the Club in 1973-77 then returned to the club in 1982 after playing 4 seasons for Claremont in WAFL).

#### **QUESTION 6.**

Which player who represented the Club in 1982 subsequently coached another AFL club?

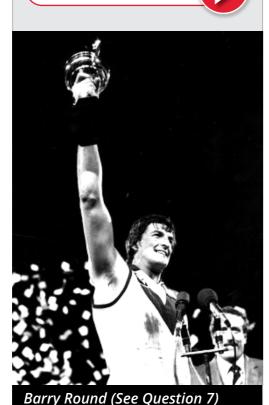
#### **QUESTION 7.**

What event did the Club win on the evening of 20<sup>th</sup> July at Waverley in front of 20,000 spectators, and who did they defeat?

#### **BONUS QUESTIONS**

- 1. Why was the game delayed with around 3 minutes to go in the final quarter?
- 2. Who kicked the last score of the game for the Swans?

View bonus answers





#### **QUESTION 8.**

Which player kicked 7 goals versus Fitzroy on June 26<sup>th</sup> 1982 at Junction Oval?

#### **QUESTION 9.**

Who won the Club's 1982 Best & Fairest and who was Runner-Up?

#### **QUESTION 10.**

How many members of the 1982 Swans list were selected in the Swans Team of the Century?

#### **QUESTION 11.**

Who was the Swans leading goal kicker for 1982?

#### **QUESTION 12.**

To the nearest thousand, how many Members did South Melbourne have at the end of the 1981 season?



#### Another John Roberts "speccie"

#### **QUESTION 13.**

How many sets of brothers and cousins were in the 1982 squad?

#### **QUESTION 14.**

Which player finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the 1982 Brownlow Medal?

#### **QUESTION 15.**

Which two players were selected in the 1982 AFL Team of the Year?

#### **QUESTION 16.**

In 1982, which Swans player was the reigning Brownlow Medallist (and the oldest ever winner of the Brownlow)?

#### **QUESTION 17.**

Of the 20 players who represented the Club in Round 1 of 1982, how many would go on and play for other VFL/AFL clubs?

#### **QUESTION 18.**

How many players from South Australia were in the Swans Round 1 team in 1982?

#### **QUESTION 19.**

Who kicked first goal for Club in Round 1 1982?

#### **QUESTION 20.**

Who was the Club's Senior Runner in 1982?

Check your answers by clicking on the icon







#### A New Beginning











## AFL PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION ALUMNI INJURY AND HARDSHIP FUND

Estalished 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 140 past players with more than \$1.1m 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**

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

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