



Detailed Citations – 1941-1990

Syd Felstead

Syd Felstead had a tremendous impact on football in the St George region of Sydney. He played 128 senior games at St George AFC, but his most significant contributions were off the field. He was President of St George from 1955-1974, ushering an era of strength for the Dragons. He was also instrumental in setting up the junior program in the region. Felstead also secured Olds Park as an AFL venue which today remains one of the city's most important grounds. He served on the League executive for many years and was awarded an AFL Merit Award in 1963.

Bill Elliott

Bill Elliott's impact on football in Newcastle was so profound the AFL Hunter Central Coast's Black Diamond Cup competition's best and fairest bears his name: the Elliot-Davey Medal. He was heavily involved in reforming the Newcastle league in 1948. Elliott was a star captain-coach for Mayfield in the early 1950s and was league secretary during the same period. He was then president of the league in the 1970s and was recognised as maintaining the enthusiasm for the three competing clubs and building momentum for further clubs to return to the league. He was awarded an AFL Merit Award in 1956.

Jack Armstrong

Jack Armstrong had a long playing career in Sydney which was complemented by a significant period as an umpire, officiating 105 first-grade matches. He was born and raised in Coolamon but came to Sydney following World War II to the South Sydney Club. He then moved to Newtown and played at Liverpool, winning best and fairest awards at each three clubs across more than 300 games before finishing his playing days as a 47-year-old. He represented NSW on five occasions, is a Life Member of AFL NSW/ACT and the NSW AFL Umpires Association.

Jack Dean

In a playing career spanning 20 years, Jack Dean played more than 400 matches including 310 games for Eastern Suburbs, 45 for Sydney Naval, 40 for Ardlethan and 25 for NSW. He was the most dominant ruck of the era and made an impact on the national stage, winning the divisional best player award in matches against Australian Amateurs, Queensland and ACT at the 1958 national carnival. Following his 1966 retirement, Jack Dean was a state selector for 12 years. He was president of Eastern Suburbs from 1970-1982 in a golden era for the club. He received an AFL Merit Award for service to the game in 1977.

The best player each season at UNSW-Eastern Suburbs is awarded the Jack Dean medal.

Ray Tunbridge

Ray Tunbridge was a player, coach and effective administrator. He played a key role forming the South Coast league, which commenced in 1969, as well as the Wollongong Lions and Port Kembla senior football clubs. He was also responsible for introducing Australian football into school sporting programs and helping establish six local junior clubs in the Illawarra. Ray is a Life Member of Wollongong AFC, Port Kembla AFC as well as AFL South Coast. The Ray Tunbridge Medal is awarded to AFL South Coast's best and fairest male player each season.

Garry O'Connell OAM

Garry O'Connell committed 70 years of his life to the Hume Football League. He is synonymous with the Osborne club where he served as president for more than 20 years and held other official roles. During his association with the club, it netted 22 premierships including 17 over the time he led the club. O'Connell also spent seventeen years as Hume League president from 1983-1999. In 1996 he was awarded an AFL Merit Award. He received an Order of Australia medal in 2011 for services to the game. He is a life member of the Osborne club and the Hume league.

Jim & Edna Daniher

Jim and Edna Daniher worked tirelessly for football in the Northern Riverina over a 60-year period in a full range of capacities both on and off the field. Jim was a star player, racking up an estimated 400 games for Ungarie between 1946-1973. He played in five premiership teams and was captain for four of them. Jim Daniher was the standout player of his era; he also represented Riverina against Great Britain in rugby league. Edna Daniher was a major support for Jim in his administrative work, managing the correct processes for recording keeping, player clearances and other records. She was a continuous, helpful presence at Ungarie matches even though she and Jim were raising a family of 11. Edna Daniher was awarded the AFL Football Woman of the Year in 2004.

Bill Hart

After playing two seasons for St George in 1946-1947, Bill Hart moved to the Western Suburbs club upon its formation in 1948. He then joined the committee in 1954 as secretary, a position he held

until 1965. He played a major role in the formation of the Western Suburbs licenced club. and later, as a board member of the NSW AFL, arranged funding for the purchase of its own premises in Chippendale. Hart became President of the NSW ANFL in 1966 and held office until 1978. One of his major initiatives was the introduction of VFL exhibition matches in Sydney in the 1960s to promote stronger interest in the game.

Jack Luhrs

Originally from Whitton, Jack Luhrs also played for East Sydney (1947-48) and Griffith (1949-55) but it was his role in the media as a radio match caller and newspaper reporter where he made his name. Luhrs played 100 games for the Griffith Swans including the club's break-through 1952 premiership win over Whitton. He won the club's best and fairest award that year. After his playing days, Luhrs served the Swans as a president and on the committee. Luhrs called and reported on games in the MIA from 1955 to 1990 and had a voice instantly recognisable to those in the region.

Harry Gardiner

There are few people who will ever play as much senior football as Harry Gardiner, who amassed 546 games, 425 of them for Culcairn. He played in five premierships for Culcairn (1952-54, 1963 & 1968) and two for Jindera (1956-57). Gardiner also coached Rand for three seasons from 1958-60. He also claimed a record four Baz Medals for the Farrer league's best and fairest player and was twice runner-up. Gardiner was Farrer's leading goal kicker in 1963 and a multiple best and fairest winner at Culcairn. In 2000 he was awarded life membership of the Culcairn Football Club.

Bert Schmidt

Bert Schmidt was "Mr Football" in the Riverina from the 1950s to 1980 during which time he had a profound influence on the game. He called Farrer football on radio 2WG for 20 years from 1958-1977. He was the founding editor of match day programs for the Farrer league and South West league in 1960. He also played a major role in setting up the Riverina Australian Football Club, a licensed clubs founded in 1971 – he was its founding chairman. Schmidt was also a member of the Wagga Australian Football Promotions Committee from 1968-1977 which conceptualised and started for school competitions. The best player in the Farrer league reserve grade grand final is awarded the Schmidt-Nitschke medal.

John Yates

John Yates was a highly influential figure in the Riverina, who played 170 games for Yerong Creek and was part of its 1954 premiership team. He was integral to the amalgamation of The Rock and Yerong Creek in 1964 and was a selector and on the club's committee from 1973-1980. From here, he became president of Farrer FNL from 1981 to 1988 which joined NSW AFL. He was on the NSW AFL Commission from 1988 to 1994 including Chief Commissioner (1991-1998), and a Sydney Swans director from 1994 to 2004. He is a life member of the Farrer League, AFL NSW/ACT and the Sydney Swans.

Ossie Grose

When John “Ossie” Grose came to Sydney from Kempsey with his family and settled in Erskineville he had not previously played Australian football. However, his speed, skills and courage enabled him to quickly adapt to the Australian game. A diminutive 5’2” (157cm) rover, Ossie was a key player in the Blood-Stained Angels premiership team of 1942 continuing to play in another three premierships for Newtown between 1945-47 when the club dominated the Sydney competition. Ossie played over 300 games for the Newtown club and represented NSW on twelve occasions including the 1947 national carnival in Hobart and the 1950 carnival in Brisbane.

Bill Barton

Bill Barton played 484 matches over a 26-year period in the Hume League, Farrer and Ovens and Murray Leagues. He also managed two matches for North Melbourne, one each in 1955 and 1956. He was a sought-after player and coach starting at Mangoplah-Cookardina, managing to win four premierships over the period from 1967-77 coaching Jindera, Burrumbuttock and Walla Walla, taking his tally to seven across his career. Barton also played plenty of representative football for Ovens and Murray, Farrer – a side he captained – and Hume Football League, for which he was captain and coach.

Stan Hague

Stan Hague is a legend in Northern Riverina as a player and a coach. He started with Rand in southern NSW playing for 25 years before retiring aged 44. Moving to take up a farm at Tullibigeal, Hague was appointed non-playing of the Northern Riverina representative coach from 1982-1985; he also coached Lake Cargelligo in 1987. On top of playing and coaching, Hague was an accomplished administrator as the Northern Riverina’s president from 1989 to 2005 and worked tirelessly to keep the league viable. He was honoured with life membership of the Northern Riverina Football League.

Mervyn Wegener

Merv Wegener was a giant of the Hume League taking to the field in his first senior match at the age of 16. The early start is a clear indication of his talent, which during a senior career spanning more than 350 matches (302 for Walla Walla) saw him win multiple best and fairest awards. Alongside and following his playing days was a fierce commitment to the health of football, with Wegener working hard in key administrative roles for more than five decades. His positions as president and vice president of the Hume League spanned more than 40 years and he was awarded life membership of the league.

Ellis Noack

Across 470 games, Ellis Noack was one of the best and most durable ruckmen to have played in

Sydney. He began his senior football at Arian Park (1953-56) before moving to Sydney where he played for multiple clubs from 1957-1980, including several seasons alongside his sons at Campbelltown. Noack won multiple club best and fairest awards and represented NSW on eight occasions. Clubs he played for included Eastern Suburbs, St George, Newtown, Southern Districts and South Sydney. Following his playing days, Ellis Noack worked in various administration roles for Liverpool and Campbelltown clubs.

Peter Carroll

Peter Carroll has virtually done it all for the Coreen Football Club as well as for the Coreen & District Football League. Across 25 seasons and 370 games (1954-1978), he won eight club best and fairest awards, four league best and fairests, and won four premierships including one as coach. He spent 15 years as Coreen's club president and was the Coreen League President for 18 years. He was a highly respected person in football and was made a Coreen league life member in 1999.

Lindsay Norman

Lindsay Norman devoted over fifty years' service to the Coreen Football league as a player and as an administrator. He played for Daysdale from 1955 including premiership teams in 1961-62-64. His first office bearing role was as Secretary of the Daysdale Football Club from 1959-1966. Following this, he was secretary of the Coreen league from 1977 until the league was disbanded in 2007. Norman was a strong advocate for the Coreen league's involvement in NSW. His life membership of the Coreen league was honoured by the Hume league in 2009. Norman was awarded an AFL Merit award in 1997.

Brian Lenton

A star player in the Riverina with Whitton and in Sydney with Western Suburbs, including playing for NSW, Brian Lenton was named as Western Suburbs' fullback in its Team of the Century. However, Lenton made his biggest impact on football in NSW in north west NSW. Lenton was the Gunnedah Bulldogs' inaugural captain/coach in 1977 and coached for 10 of the next 15 years. He won the competition's best and fairest in 1979. Lenton played a significant role creating the North West league in 1978. He was also a long-term president at Gunnedah and received an AFL Merit Award in 1988. He still does the time-keeping for Gunnedah on match days.

Allan Jeans

Allan Jeans is one of the most highly regarded and respected coaches in AFL/VFL history. He played 77 games for St Kilda until 1959, before taking over the coaching reins at the Saints in 1961. He remained there until 1976, orchestrating the club's most successful period, including winning its first and only flag, in 1966. After a 332-game coaching career at St Kilda, Jeans returned to coach at Hawthorn in 1981, where he coached until 1990 with premierships in 1983, 1986 and 1989. He finished his coaching days with a one-year stint at Richmond in 1992. He began his football at

Tocumwal, and then moved to Finley playing in the 1954 premierships team. He also successfully coached NSW in 1979-80.

Tom Carroll

An exquisite talent, Tom Carroll was a leading goal kicker in the Riverina and in the VFL. After starting in 1956 at the age of 17 he played full forward in Ganmain's 1956-57 premierships and kicked 103 goals in 1960. Recruited by Carlton he played 55 games for the Blues from 1961-63 and won the Coleman medal in his debut season with 54 goals and was Carlton's top goal scorer for each of his three years on the list. At the end of 1963, Carroll returned to the family's farm at Ganmain. He took over as captain-coach and led the Maroons to premierships in 1964 and 1965 topping the goalkicking in both seasons. He took on the Grong Grong Matong coaching role from 1968 to 1970, and then returned to Ganmain as non-playing coach in 1980.

Ian Granland

At the age of 17 Ian Granland began his stellar football administration career as secretary of South Sydney and is still highly involved in the game as president of the NSW Australian Football Society. A transfer in the police force in 1975 saw the Vietnam veteran move to the Central Coast where he was instrumental in the formation of the local football league. He played a strong hand in the establishment of Killarney Vale AFC and served the club in multiple capacities. Additionally, he was a founding member of the Black Diamond AFL (BDAFL) in 2000. He served as CEO of NSW AFL from 1986 to 1990 during which time he reunited the disparate football bodies in NSW under a commission structure. Granland was made a life member of NSW AFL in 1990 and received an AFL Merit Award in 2003.

Sid Robins

The Griffith-born defender enjoyed a prolific and successful time with the Griffith Swans from 1963 to 1980 clocking up a club record 317 first team appearances. He is widely regarded as the club's best ever player. He won the club's best and fairest from 1969-1972, was the South West League's Gammage Medallist in 1972. He was a member of the Swans 1968 premierships side. In 2014 he was selected at centre half-back in Griffith Swans' 'Team of the Century'.

Ross Elwin

Ross Elwin was a star player in the Barellan League and South West Districts Football League from where he was recruited by South Melbourne in 1968. A knee injury ended Elwin's VFL career in 1970 and he returned to play with Leeton. This kicked off a series of coaching stints across the Farrer and Riverina leagues. Ross Elwin also coached the Riverina Little League team to represent South Melbourne in the VFL for 10 years, instilling a passion of the game in hundreds of kids. In all, Elwin represented NSW seven times and won the award for NSW's best player in 1972. He also represented SWDFL 20 times.

Lionel Johnston

Lionel Johnston was secretary of the Broken Hill league from 1968 until 1997, when he stepped down but continued as assistant secretary and treasurer from 1998 to 2008. He was a groundsman and caretaker at Jubilee Oval from 1998 until 2013, ensuring it remained in top condition, despite the harsh far west weather. AFL Broken Hill's administration building is named Lionel Johnston House, and the league's best player award is the Lionel Johnston Medal. A tremendous administrator, Lionel was also known to be fair and honest, whose leadership has been unparalleled in Broken Hill football.

Ted Ray 1965-2005

Ted Ray had a major influence on hundreds of junior footballers throughout decades of service. He managed the NSW Teal Cup/AFL national championships teams from 1969 to 2005. Ted Ray was fondly remembered by players in the team who laud his ability to support them above and beyond, to allow them to focus on football during some of the most significant periods of their footballing lives. He served in multiple capacities for the NSW Football Union, later known as the NSW Junior Football Council. He was made a life member of NSW AFL in 1993.

Doug Priest

After starting at Holbrook in 1962, Doug Priest played in a premiership team in 1964, and then had three seasons with South Melbourne from 1966-1969 before returning to the Riverina where he had a big impact on the local footy landscape. After coaching Aria Park Mirrool for two seasons he moved to Wagga as coach of Wagga Tigers and led the club to a flag in 1975, won the Baz medal in 1977, then played in the 1978 winning team. He later served the club as president (2007-2009). However, it was at the representative level that Priest made an enormous contribution as coach to the success of both the Farrer and RFL in various championships as well as a state selector under Allan Jeans in 1979-80.

Keith and Paula Rees

Keith Rees was an institution in the Northern Riverina, having played more than 300 games for clubs in the area including Beckom, Aria Park Mirrool and Tallimba. Following an illustrious playing career, Rees began umpiring in 1991 and racked up more than two decades with a whistle. He played a critical role in ushering umpires through the ranks as the umpires' coordinator for five seasons. Rees was also the Northern Riverina Football League's treasurer (2006-2016) and president (2016-2019) and wrote the comprehensive 500-page 90-year history of the Northern Riverina Football League (2014). Paula Rees also undertook administrative work as secretary of the West Wyalong Girral Football Netball Club for five years from 2007 to 2011 and in 2020 was the treasurer of the league. She played a major role updating the history of the Northern Riverina Football League ahead for its 2024 centenary. Both Keith and Paula received life membership of the Northern Riverina Football League in 2014.

Rick Quade

Rick Quade began his senior football career at Ariah Park-Mirrool in 1967 as a 16-year-old after completing school at St Pat's Goulburn. Quade had a break-out season in 1969 booting 131 goals. South Melbourne under coach Norm Smith recruited him to the VFL in 1970. He returned to coach APM for one season in 1975 taking the Brown Bombers to a preliminary final. Quade returned to South Melbourne from 1976-79 where he captained the side for three seasons. Quade's 163-game career for South Melbourne was just the start of his impact on football. He coached the Sydney Swans from 1982-84 and was chairman of selectors in 1989-90 and 1992-93. He was a director of the board of the Sydney Swans from 1995-2008. Quade is a life member of the Sydney Swans Football Club.

Bert Haynes

Bert Haynes chalked up 360 games for Holbrook and booted over 700 goals. He was captain-coach in 1977-78 and in 1981, played in the 1970 premierships team and was club best and fairest four times. The towering ruck-forward was awarded the Upper Murray League's best and fairest player in 1976 when coaching Tumbarumba. A true gentle giant, Haynes' strengths were the way he read the game and his big engine. When his playing days finished, Bert became president of Holbrook Football Club serving for ten years. He also served as vice-president of the Hume Football League from 2005-2013.

Leanne Imrie

Leanne Imrie is a passionate and long-standing office bearer in the Northern Riverina Football League as well as for the Tullibigeal Australian Football Netball Club. She has given more than 30 years of service to the club, including as its secretary from 1999-2001 and then from 2011 to present. She brings the same dedication and energy to her roles for the Northern Riverina Football League, which have included secretary from 2001-2010, then treasurer and secretary /treasurer since 2016. She is a life member of both the Northern Riverina league and the Tullibigeal FNC.

Laurie Pendrick

In some circles Laurie Pendrick is regarded as the best player from the Riverina to never play elite football. Pendrick started at Turvey Park in 1968; in 1973, he crossed to North Wagga as an assistant coach and it was there he played his most memorable football. Pendrick was a dominant figure, with his most prolific season coming in 1977 when he bagged 132 goals. He represented the Riverina on numerous occasions as a player, captain and coach, leading the team to a state championship in 1987. Pendrick played in three premierships with North Wagga and won two league best and fairest awards. He also coached Newtown in 1980 and Collingullie 1996-98. But it was as captain and full-forward for NSW against Fitzroy in 1979 in a pre-season competition when he booted six goals that he is best remembered.

Greg Harris

Greg Harris has the unique distinction of having played first-grade football in Australia's three major football codes in Sydney. Harris began his senior sporting career playing AFL for the St George club in Sydney while still at high school. Following stints in rugby union and rugby league, Harris returned to the footy field in 1979 with East Sydney and took over as captain-coach in 1981 leading the Bulldogs to three premierships in a row. He was also captain and coach of the NSW State team in 1982. Harris was NSW AFL Development manager from 1986-1988. For seasons 1989-1991 he coached the Sydney Swans under-19 team, and then, was the chairman of selectors at the Swans from 1994 to 1996.

Greg Verdon

Greg Verdon has played a significant role shaping how footy looks in southern NSW as an administrator. He played and administered at a number of clubs in the region; from 1970 to 1982 he played at The Rock Yerong Creek and Turvey Park, was the playing coach at Goulburn Swans, and captain coach of Deniliquin Rovers. After his playing days, Verdon went on to be president of the Deniliquin Rovers, president of the Farrer Football League, chair of the MVAFA, and chair of the Southern Regional AFL Board. In all, Verdon spent more than 25 years as chair or president of football organisations in NSW.

John Sullivan

John Sullivan umpired more than 1,000 matches in the field and as a goal umpire around the Hunter and Central Coast. He was a multiple winner of umpire of the year in the Hunter Central Coast league, and has goal umpired countless Black Diamond Cup grand finals. He served on the committee for the Newcastle Central Coast Umpires Association including president from 2000-2005. Sullivan was elected as a life member of the NCUAA in 2000 and was named a Legend in 2015. Sullivan was elected life member of AFL Hunter Coast 2004 and awarded an AFL Merit Award in 2017.

Ross Henshaw

Hailing from Albury, Ross Henshaw played 167 games for North Melbourne across 12 years. Tough, brave and dashing, he played the majority of his games in the back pocket, including the winning grand finals of 1975 against Hawthorn, and 1977 against Collingwood. Henshaw, who hailed originally from North Albury, also played in the losing Grand Finals of 1976 and 1978, both of which were against Hawthorn. Not the most spectacular or flamboyant of players, he was nevertheless a highly effective cog in Ron Barassi's Kangaroo machine. He was named in the back pocket in the NSW Greatest Team.

Mark Rendell

Mark Rendell was originally from Canberra, but it was as an umpire in AFL Sydney where he made his greatest contribution to the sport. A life member of AFL Sydney, Rendell umpired 416 senior

games from 1973-1995. He was highly involved in the NSW Umpires Association from 1976 until 1994 including terms as president (7 years) and treasurer (8 years). On the field, Rendell umpired Sydney's first grade grand final on seven occasions and was selected for a number of interstate and inter-league games. He is a life member of the NSW Australian Football Umpires' Association.

Rod Gillett

Rod Gillett has been a key administrator in NSW since he began as a student at the University of New England in 1974 and took on the presidency of the New England League. Upon moving to the Riverina in 1979, Gillett became involved in the Central Riverina league and played a vital role in the expansion of the NSW Country AFL including as president. Moving to Sydney in 1984 after a period of involvement in AFL North Coast he became President of the NSW AFL in 1986 and served on the NSW AFL Commission from 1987-1989. As the state delegate to the national governing body, his legacy was the inclusion of the first-ever NSW origin team at the 1988 Bicentennial carnival and ensuring leagues based in NSW became affiliated with the NSW body. He was elected a NSW AFL life member in 1989.

Mark Maclure

Plucked from East Sydney after winning the Sydney competition reserve grade best and fairest award as a 17-year-old, Mark Maclure played 243 VFL games with Carlton, winning three premierships. He received the Best Clubman Award in 1981, a premiership year, and repeated the honour in 1986, his penultimate season. Following his playing career, Maclure was an assistant coach at the Brisbane Bears and the Sydney Swans but has become a mainstay on radio and TV as a commentator. He was selected as an interchange player for the NSW Greatest Team.

Rod Carter

Rod Carter played a significant role in the growth and development of the game in NSW. He played 293 games of VFL football for Fitzroy (76) and South Melbourne/Sydney (216). He was used mostly at full-back and was renowned as one of the hardest players to score on even by the power forwards in that era like Ablett, Dunstall and Lockett. Following his retirement from elite football, Carter coached Sydney University to its first-ever AFL Sydney flag in 1992. As Development manager for NSW AFL he revitalised the State's junior representative programs and also devised the Paul Kelly Cup.

Kevin Taylor

Kevin Taylor played an important role for football in Sydney as an administrator and in the media. He was treasurer of NSW AFL in the late 1970s. Taylor was easily recognised by football fans in the 1980s as he hosted a panel discussion televised at half time of VFL matches on Channel 7 or Channel 9. He also had segments on all major Sydney radio stations in Sydney promoting Sydney Football League fixtures. Further to TV and radio, Taylor produced the NSW AFL/SFL Record in the 1970s and 1980s. He started *Footystats* in 1984 and produced it until his death in 2018.

Wayne Walker

Wayne Walker began his senior career at Central Broken Hill in 1975 where he would play 149 games including five premierships. He moved to North Broken Hill in 1985 as playing coach where he played 202 games and winning four premierships before he retired in 1996. He won the Middleton Medal as the best player in the competition in three times, with the first coming 1978 and the final in 1995 – an incredible demonstration of longevity. He retired in 1996 and stayed in football as an AFL development officer in the Far West and coaching the PSSA football team at the state carnival. Walker was a key player in NSW's monumental win over the VFA at Lavington in 1987.

Peter Johns

Peter Johns is regarded as one of the most enduring players in Broken Hills across the 1970s and 1980s. He played in three premierships (including coach one) and won seven best and fairest awards across 319 games for South Broken Hill. Johns coached South from 1991-1994 and spent 24 years on the club's board from 1980, holding various office roles. One of his crowning achievements was in 1980 when he won the Middleton Medal as best player in the competition.

Terry Daniher

The bulk of Terry Daniher's 313-game AFL/VFL career was for Essendon, but before switch to the red and black, the Ungarie product mustered 19 games and 22 goals for South Melbourne. Daniher was skipper of Essendon's 1984 and 1985 premierships, its best and fairest in 1982 and twice topped the club's goalkicking list. He represented NSW four times (all as skipper) including wins over WA, Victoria and Queensland. Daniher was named as captain of the 1988 All-Australian team at the 1988 national carnival. Like his brothers he started playing footy at Ungarie where he played in the 1974 premiership team and won the competition best and fairest aged 16. He was selected on the half-forward flank in the NSW Greatest Team. Daniher is also a member of the AFL's Hall of Fame.

Neale Daniher

Neale Daniher had an injury-riddled playing career, managing just 82 matches for Essendon between 1979-1990. However, his football ability and brain were never questioned and his 15-year coaching career showed why. He was head coach at Melbourne from 1998-2007, ushering the Dees into the 2000 grand final. After his coaching career, Daniher became West Coast's general manager of operations. He stood down from the role after the 2013 season due to his challenges with motor neurone disease. His advocacy and fund raising through charity Fight MND has become stuff of legend, with millions of dollars raised annually for research into the disease largely thanks to the Big Freeze match held on the Queen's/King's Birthday weekend.

Neil Cordy

Neil Cordy played 235 matches for Footscray and Sydney, and represented NSW in the State of

Origin matches in 1988 and 1990. Cordy predominantly played in defence and was reliable against any type of forward. After retiring from playing VFL/AFL football, Cordy played several seasons for East Sydney.

After his playing career, Cordy became a media personality both as a journalist and TV presenter. He had long stints as a boundary rider for TV networks, was a mainstay on Sports Tonight and also a prominent football writer for *The Daily Telegraph*. He currently writes for *The Code* sport published by News Corp.

Rod Podbury

Rod Podbury was a force in the Sydney Football League in the 1980s. He won four Phelan Medals as the league's best and fairest player, was runner-up once and third on two occasions. Podbury played with Bankstown, but it was Campbelltown where he had his greatest successes playing in four consecutive premierships from 1986 to 1989. Podbury represented NSW on six occasions. The award for the best player in the AFL Sydney grand final each season is named the Rod Podbury medal.

Anthony Daniher

Anthony Daniher played 233 elite games of VFL/AFL, first with South Melbourne/Sydney Swans, then at Essendon when joined his brothers Terry, Neil and Chris. Daniher always elevated his game when playing for NSW in state of origin matches. His role in the backline was pivotal in the state's golden run of success in 1988, 1990 and 1992 when the Sky Blues defeated Western Australia, Victoria and Queensland. "Ants" also started his football at Ungarie but transferred to Turvey Park in 1979 to study wool classing at the Wagga TAFE, and then was recruited to the Swans from Ganmain at the end of the 1981 season. He was regarded as one of the best defenders of his era.

Chris Daniher

Chris Daniher had a long and distinguished career as a footballer both at the elite and community level. He played 124 games for Essendon and was part of the side's 1993 premiership. However, it is perhaps the Northern Riverina League where his legacy will burn brightest. From a talented schoolboy to a hardened stalwart, Daniher gave his all for multiple clubs in the Riverina, particularly Ungarie, where he was best and fairest six times, won two premierships and was playing coach. Daniher won the Northern Riverina League's best and fairest player four times and was playing coach of Ungarie in 2009-10 followed by a role as non-playing coach of MCUE. Daniher returned to Ungarie as a player in 2015.

Dennis Carroll

Dennis Carroll carved out a sensational career with South Melbourne/Sydney Swans, amassing 219 games and being honoured as captain from 1986-1992. A member of the Swans' Team of the Century and named half back flank in the NSW Greatest Team, Carroll was a glorious kick who

represented both Victoria and NSW. Carroll also coached the Swans reserve grade into a grand final in 1995. He worked as a Development officer with the NSW AFL upon his relocation to Sydney, and after a lengthy stint in the motor trade, finished his professional career back at the Swans working in player welfare.

Alan Simpson

Alan was a foundation Member of the Merimbula Diggers Football Club established in 1983. He was president of the club for five years and now a life member of the club as well as AFL Sapphire. Simpson was also a foundation member of the Sapphire Coast Umpires Association, serving as its president for 10 years. He was a foundation member of the Berrambool Sports Ground and played a significant role setting up the AFL ground from 1987-89. Following 10 years as the complex's president and 25 years as a voluntary groundskeeper, the main pavilion at the complex is named in Simpson's honour.

Greg Wollaston

Greg Wollaston is a life member of AFL Sapphire Coast following four decades of dedicated service to footy in the region. Wollaston joined the Merimbula Diggers in 1983 for its first season in the newly formed competition. A gun player and leader, he was selected as captain of the Sapphire Coast's representative side in 1987. Wollaston served on the Diggers' board for over twenty years as well as holding executive positions. He has also served on the Sapphire Coast's board as general manager and chair. Wollaston remains active on game days, goal umpiring and acting as head coach of the umpires.

Tony Lockett

"There's only one Tony Lockett" the crowd would cheer when the power forward turned it on for the Sydney Swans. Plugger moved from St Kilda to the Emerald City for the 1995 season and although he only played 98 of his 281 games in the red and white, he made an indelible impact on the Swans. He is the goals record holder with 1,360, a five-time All Australian, Brownlow Medallist (1987), Bob Skilton Medallist (1995), AFL Hall of Famer, and Team of the Century member for St Kilda and the Swans. Lockett kicked more than 100 goals in a season on six occasions (three times for Sydney), but it was his point after the siren in the 1996 preliminary final at the SCG to get the Swans into the grand final that was one of his fans' most cherished moments. Another famed moment on the SCG was Plugger's 1300th goal, which also broke Gordon Coventry's longstanding goal record and sent fans into a pitch invasion rivalled only by Lance Franklin's in 2022.

Geoff Day

Geoff Day has done it all for football in the central west, starting in 1984 as a player for Cowra, where he would eventually play more than 400 games and win three premierships for the Blues. Day's contributions go beyond playing. He has umpired since 1985, was Cowra's Club Secretary for more than 35 years, was AFL Central West's Secretary for more than 10 years and was an Auskick

coordinator and coach for more than 10 years. Day has been a stalwart in the central west since the league's inception and has been instrumental in the region's football success.

David Murphy

David Murphy was born in Finley but was picked up by the Sydney Swans from Turvey Park. A pacy wingman, Murphy played 156 games for the Swans and was named All Australian in 1988 following a terrific national carnival representing NSW. Following his playing career, Murphy coached Campbelltown to an AFL Sydney premiership in 1994. He was an assistant coach of the NSW/ACT Rams and then coached St Ignatius Riverview from 2005 to 2021. Murphy was named in the Swans' Team of the Century, Swans' Hall of Fame and is a member of the NSW Greatest Team squad.

Shane Lenon

Shane Lenon was a highly respected player and is a coach who is regarded as one of the Riverina's greatest. He has won 12 premierships (seven playing, five non-playing), four league best and fairests (two Jim Quinn Medals, an Azzi Medal and the Gerald Clear Medal) and eight first grade club best and fairest awards. His addresses while coaching are stuff of legend and his devotion to the game has seen him playing multiple roles on game day, including umpiring junior matches. "Sparks" coached Marrar to a premiership in 2022, and this season is back coaching Collingullie in the Riverina Football League.

Craig Davis

Craig Davis spent the better part of two decades putting his heart and soul into NSW footy. He played a total of 163 games with Carlton, North Melbourne, Collingwood, and the Sydney Swans but it was his off-field role in the state to which we owe a debt of gratitude. After an assistant coaching role at the Swans, Davis became the NSW AFL development manager from 1988-90 before he stepped up as its general manager from 1991-2000. Davis was the driving force behind NSW's stunning win over Victoria in 1990. He continues to coach and mentor juniors at the Maroubra Saints junior footy club.

Tim Beard

Tim Beard has umpired more than 500 games in the Riverina and been a coach and administrator for the Riverina Umpires Association for many years. His talent was clear early, graduating from a boundary umpire to first grade official after just one season. He has officiated at more than 20 senior grand finals, Shell Cup, Teal Cup, as well as state and national country championships. Beard was voted Riverina Umpires Association's Umpire of the Year on five occasions. He is a life member of the RUA following more than 20 years' service as secretary, vice president, treasurer and coach. He is still umpiring!

David Boulton

David Boulton is a legend on the Sapphire Coast, having been part of the league since 1987, initially, as a player, and then as an umpire. He's officiated more than 600 games across multiple divisions including 10 senior grand finals. He is a life member of the league following long stints as the Sapphire Coast Umpires Association's president and its umpiring coach. The region's annual Golden Whistle award is named after David Boulton.

Jim and Jill Woodlock

Jim and Jill have each contributed more than 30 years of service and support growing the game on the North Coast. Jill co-founded junior football in Coffs Harbour in 1988 and was the competition's vice president and treasurer from 1988 to 2004, when she then took on multiple roles in the senior AFL North Coast competition. Jim had multiple stints as president of AFL North Coast, totalling around 15 years of service. He was a regional director for Northern NSW (1993-97). Jim and Jill were instrumental setting up the North Coast Umpires' Association in 2000 and both are still actively involved in its affairs. They were both rewarded for their service by AFL North Coast – the best player on the ground in the men's senior grand final is awarded, the Woodlock Medal.