



Detailed Citations – 1991-present

John Longmire

John Longmire was an outstanding player with North Melbourne in the club's greatest era and that has been equalled by his coaching career at the Sydney that has made him one of NSW's greatest ever contributors. Longmire, recruited from Corowa-Rutherglen, was a standout goalkicker for the Roos, kicking 98 goals in 1990 at only 19 years of age to win the Coleman Medal as well as North Melbourne's best and fairest award. His stellar career, which included kicking eight goals in NSW's shock win over Victoria in 1990 at the SCG, was cruelled by a knee injury in 1996. However, Longmire returned to play in the 1999 premiership. It was not the only time he tasted a premiership though, steering the Swans to victory in 2012 in just his second season in the top job. His side made the grand final in 2014, 2016 and 2022, being beaten on each occasion. He was named in the forward line in the NSW Greatest Team.

Wayne Carey

From North Wagga to North Melbourne, Wayne Carey is known only as "The King" to a generation of football fans. Widely regarded as NSW's greatest football export, Carey played 272 games for the Kangaroos and Adelaide, booting 727 goals. His marking ability was extraordinary as was his ability to command the ball and deliver for his team on the biggest stage. Carey is in the AFL's Hall of Fame and has an incredible playing record which includes two premierships (1996, 1999), seven All Australians and four North Melbourne best and fairest awards. He was selected as captain and centre half-forward in the NSW Greatest Team.

Paul Kelly

Paul Kelly's legend for the Sydney Swans goes beyond his 234 matches. Kelly spent 10 seasons as captain of the Swans, a record at the club. He is a Brownlow Medallist (1995), three-time All Australian, four-time Swans' best and fairest, and an AFL Hall of Fame inductee. At 179cm, Kelly was not a big player on the field, but the boy from Wagga Tigers knew how to impose himself on any contest, which was recognised by his peers, voting him the AFLPA Robert Rose Most Courageous

Player Award five times. There is no doubt he earned his “Captain Courageous” title, which he is still referred to more than two decades after his retirement. He was selected as vice-captain of the NSW Greatest Team.

Maurice Goolagong

Maurice Goolagong is a football legend on the Central Coast, particularly at the Terrigal-Avoca Panthers. He was the first player to kick more than 1,000 goals in the Black Diamond competition – a feat he achieved in 2011 – and was subsequently labelled the “Park footy Plugger”. The hulking full forward’s accuracy was, perhaps, his greatest asset. In one season, Goolagong recorded 112.13, kicking at a shade under 90 per cent accuracy. A humble champion, Goolagong put his stunning record in front of goal down to living near to a footy oval as a kid, in Barellan in the western Riverina.

Christine Burrows

Christine Burrows continues to be one of NSW’s greatest contributors to umpiring as a mentor and as a coach. She has a Level 3 coaching qualification which qualifies her as an elite/high performance coach. Burrows’ umpiring career began in 1997 as a junior umpire coach in the Greater Western Sydney Football Association; after more than a decade she became the AFL Sydney Umpiring Development coach. Following a move to the Central Coast, Burrows became the Black Diamond AFL’s Head Umpiring coach in 2013, the first female head coach of a senior umpiring group in the state. This role continued through until the present. She was elected as a life member of the Newcastle Central Coast Umpiring Association in 2019.

Frank Kalayzich

Frank Kalayzich umpired a record 514 senior matches in the AFL Sydney competition including eleven grand finals, which is also a record. He started out in the Manly-Warringah juniors in 1978 and progressed to senior ranks with his first appointment in 1986. Additionally, he umpired VFL Under 19 and Reserve grade matches for a total of 650 games. Because of this monumental effort with the whistle, Kalayzich is an AFL Sydney life member and an NSW Umpire Association life member. He has been a coach for AFL-listed umpires and is currently the coach of Sydney-based VFL umpires.

Patrick O’Donoghue

Patrick O’Donoghue is a legend in umpiring circles who has dedicated himself to the craft for three decades across the Riverina and the Central Coast. He umpired more than 500 games including more than 20 senior grand finals and 10 representative games. O’Donoghue won a Golden Whistle with the Central Coast Umpires and has been named Umpire of the Year by the Riverina AFL Umpires Association three times. He’s a life member of the Riverina AFL Umpires Association. He continues to coach and mentor junior umpires.

Richard Colless

Richard Colless became chair of the Sydney Swans in 1993 and immediately had an enormous influence on football in NSW. When he joined, time the club was in a dire position on and off the field. In 20 years as the club's chair, he turned around its fortunes, collecting two premierships out of four grand final appearances. Colless also had a major influence on the governance of the game across the state. In 1997, he chaired a taskforce to review the game in NSW and the ACT. Following this, he was chair of the inaugural NSW/ACT Commission which reshaped the development of the game at the grassroots. Colless is a life member of the Sydney Swans, a life member of the AFL and still chairs the Sydney Swans Hall of Fame selection committee. As patron of the NSW Australian Football History Society, he was the driving force in the selection of Greatest NSW Team and creation of Carey-Bunton Medal/Bill Mohr Medal/Jimmy Stiff Medals.

Brad Aiken

Brad Aiken is one of Collingullie's great champions, having played more than 300 games and collected eight premierships along the way. In these premierships (six Farrer league and two Riverina Football League), he was voted best on ground four times. Aiken is one of the most prolific medal winners in the Riverina, collecting four Gerald Clear Medals in the Farrer league and one Jim Quinn Medal in the RFL. He has won five Collingullie best and fairest awards, coached the club, and played in NSW and Farrer League representative teams on countless occasions. He is co-coach again this season of The Rock-Yerong Creek and coached the Magpies to a flag in the Farrer league last season.

Leo Barry

From Deniliquin, Leo Barry played 237 games for the Sydney Swans which included the 2005 premiership. Despite starting as a forward, Barry became an outstanding defender and was instrumental in shutting down his opponent every week, firmly entrenching him as part of the revered "Bloods culture" under Paul Roos. He will forever be remembered in the Swans' pantheon for his pack mark deep in the backline in the 2005 grand final which secured his team's grand final narrow victory. Barry was selected as full-back in the NSW Greatest Team. He is currently a board member of the Sydney Swans Football Club.

Gerry Griffiths

Gerry Griffiths was the president of Tamworth AFL (now AFL North West) from its 1997 reincarnation until 2007, overseeing its growth from four 12-a-side teams to seven teams based in the region. Following his presidency, Griffiths remained on executive and was an active umpire until his passing in 2016. His sound fiscal management established a viable League in a football frontier, and his indefatigable administrative toil established a viable competition, laying a platform for continued growth into junior and women's football. Griffiths was named the league's inaugural life member and the league's goal scoring award is named after him.

Yvette Andrews

Yvette Andrews played a lead role in the formation of the Sydney Women's Football League in 1999. She was the founding secretary of the SWAFL and has introduced hundreds of women and girls to the sport. She won the SWAFL's inaugural premiership in 2000 with the Western Wolves and then again in 2006 when she coached the side to victory. She was also a member of the SWAFL's team of the decade 2000-2010. She represented NSW on four occasions Andrews was appointed to the inaugural AFL National Women's Advisory Committee in 2002-2003. Andrews also played a role in the Giants' inception as part of its advisory committee and continues to be active in Sydney football.

Brett Kirk

A proud North Albury product, Brett Kirk, played 241 games for the Sydney Swans. He is one of the best-loved Swans of all time, whose courageous attack on the football was complemented by his cool head. Kirk played 200 consecutive matches and won two Bob Skilton Medals as the Swans' best and fairest, was All-Australian in 2004, captained the Swans for four seasons and was named the AFLPA's Robert Rose Award in 2006 as the AFL's most courageous player. In retirement, Kirk has been an assistant coach at Fremantle and Sydney. He now serves the Swans as head of Player Well-being and Development. He was selected as a ruck-rover in the NSW Greatest Team.

Mark McVeigh

Mark McVeigh grew up in Killarney Vale and played for the Bombers until he was 13. Then, to get exposure to stronger opposition, he moved to Pennant Hills. He returned to the Bombers of another kind – Essendon – taken at pick nine in the 1998 draft where he played 232 games. Always a leader at Essendon, McVeigh's post-playing career saw him pursue a coaching career. First it was developmental roles with the Rams, then on to the GIANTS, where he spent eight seasons (2015-2022) eventually landing as caretaker senior coach in 2022. He is now an assistant coach of the Sydney Swans.

Lenny Hayes

Few names are as revered in elite AFL football like 297-gamer, Lenny Hayes. Hayes is a three-time All Australian, Norm Smith Medalist (2010 drawn grand final), and three-time Trevor Barker Medalist as St Kilda's best and fairest. The tackling machine grew up in Eastwood and played his junior footy at Pennant Hills. His breakout season in 1998 for the NSW/ACT Rams in the U18 TAC Cup saw him win the Morrish Medal as best player in the league. He was drafted by St Kilda at pick 11 in the following draft. He was selected in the centre for the NSW Greatest Team. He is currently an assistant coach at St Kilda after a stint at the GWS Giants.

Michaela Freckman

Michaela Freckman is a legend of women's footy in Sydney. She played more than 300 games in the SWAFL and AFL Sydney, captained Western Suburbs and won three premierships. Michaela represented NSW in the national championships on four occasions and also played for the NSW Masters' side three times. She was instrumental in setting up the junior girls' program at the Inner West Magpies. She continues her commitment to expanding the grassroots of AFL as a player and coach with the Orange Tigers in the Central West league.

Melinda Hyland

Melinda Hyland has done just about everything in football as player, volunteer, administrator, coach and advocate for the game. She is the first woman in NSW to play 350 games predominantly for the Riverina Lions and Sydney University, and more recently North Wagga, as well as multiple state and other representative matches. Hyland has won multiple best and fairests and has coached at various levels, from Auskick to schools and through to seniors. She has been a committee member and president across multiple regions, clubs and agencies from Sydney to the Riverina spanning two decades.

Tracey Kick

Tracey Kick is the leading coach of women's football from the foundation era. She began her football with Balmain in 2002, where over eleven years she played, was the women's club's president and won two premierships as coach. Kick then moved to UNSW-Eastern Suburbs where she coached the premier division women's team to three premierships. Kick was the NSW Women's State coach from 2011 – 2013, assistant coach of NSW/ACT in 2015, and AFLW assistant coach at the GWS Giants in 2018. She has also coached the Masters NSW women to 3 national titles. Kick was the assistant coach of the first representative women's team to complete in a Masters International Rules series against Ireland.

Jarrad McVeigh

From the Central Coast but playing much of his junior football with Pennant Hills, Jarrad McVeigh is one of Sydney Swans' most recognisable champions. He played 324 matches for the Swans, captaining the side from 2011-16 (including the 2012 premiership). McVeigh won two Bob Skilton Medals (2008 and 2013) and was All Australian in 2013. He is currently an assistant coach at the Sydney Swans. McVeigh was listed on a half-back flank in the NSW Greatest Team.

Jemma Still

Jemma Still's contributions on the field is matched by her contributions off it. The 250-gamer won five premierships, was NSW captain in 2001 and 2008-2009, and was selected in the SWAFL's Team of the Decade in the 2000s as well as the AFL Women's Sydney Team of the Year on five occasions. She was selected in the All-Australian team on 2 occasions. She spent two of her eight years on the

SWAFL committee as its president, organised the 2006 national championships and continues to undertake multiple roles at the UNSW-Eastern Suburbs Bulldogs.

Kieren Jack

Kieren Jack is a Sydney Swans premiership player (2012) who captained the side from 2013-16, won the 2010 Bob Skilton Medal and was all Australian in 2013. In his early career, Jack was often referenced alongside his father, a rugby league legend. However, he became a sports star in his own right, carving out 256 inspirational matches. Jack began playing footy at primary school in Auskick and then progressed through the junior ranks at Pennant Hills. He was named on the interchange bench for the NSW Greatest Team.

Amanda Farrugia

Amanda Farrugia is best known as the first locally grown AFLW star playing for the GWS Giants. She was its inaugural captain and played all possible games during her three seasons with the club as captain. Farrugia was a standout performer in AFL Sydney ranks, winning three Mostyn Medals for the league's best and fairest player in premier division, playing for Macquarie University, and more recently, Macquarie University-Parramatta Goannas. She is actively involved in attracting young women and girls in western Sydney through initiatives such as the Amanda Farrugia Cup for girls in years 7 & 8 at secondary schools. She also coaches her school team, Our Lady of Mercy College in Parramatta.