



1934—2016

HALL *of* FAME

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Swan Districts Football Club: Hall of Fame

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President's Welcome

Peter Hodyl



Since inception in 1934, the Swan Districts Football Club has been etched deep in Western Australian Football history. Significant achievements and events highlighted by Premierships, Sandover Medals and breathtaking displays by our champions have resulted in 'The Mighty Black and Whites' earning a special place in Western Australian Football folklore.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the absolute selfless dedication of many loyal people including Players, Coaches, Trainers, Administrators and Volunteers. Numbers are in their many hundreds however a distinguished selection deserve special acknowledgement in recognition of truly exceptional contribution to our club's rich history.

To be recognised in the Swan Districts Hall of Fame is one of the highest honours the club can bestow. It ensures recipients will be forever remembered for their efforts which cement the Swan Districts Football Club firmly into Western Australian Football History.

Sincere thanks to all contributors to what has been an exhausting task to research and identify 26 individuals and one iconic moment that meet the criteria to be inducted into the inaugural Hall of Fame in 2016.

Bob Bryant

1934-1978

- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1949.
- National Football League Certificate of Merit 1970.



Born in Ballarat (Victoria), Bob's fledging football career ended in 1915 as a result of injuries sustained during the ill-fated Gallipoli landing. On moving to Western Australia, he was a founding member of Swans in 1934 and over time became one of the best known and well liked identities at Bassendean Oval.

Described as "everything at Swans but President," over many years Bob served as head trainer, organising secretary of the juniors, timekeeper, social club treasurer, assistant secretary and property steward.

For his unswerving commitment Bob was awarded a Swans long service certificate, made a Bassendean juniors Life Member and patron and in 1949 was made a Life Member of Swans. As further recognition of his lifetime of service to community football and Swan Districts, Bob was awarded a national Football League Certificate of Merit in 1970.



Ted Holdsworth

1935-1938, 1940-1941, 1945-1947

- 142 League games.
- 534 goals.
- Leading goal kicker 1936-38, 1940-41, and 1945.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1945.
- Represented Western Australia in 1938, 1946.
- SDFC Coach in 1952.
- WAFL Life Member 1966.
- National Football League Certificate of Merit 1981.
- SDFC Team of the Century 1934-2000.

In a war interrupted career Ted Holdsworth became Swans first specialist goal sneak, with a total of 534 goals kicked in only seven seasons (he played his last two seasons at full back).

Described as having a very accurate kick with a strong overhead mark, Ted was our first player to kick a century of goals, kicking 109 in 1937 (being scored in only 14 games before a season ending injury) and 116 in 1938. He was our leading goalkicker in six seasons, but at the end of his career requested a move to full back, where he continued to play at a high level: he has the rare distinction of representing WA at both full forward and full back. After retiring he coached the League side in 1952 and spent 17 years serving the club in various administrative roles, including Vice-President.

Lal Mosey

1934-1941

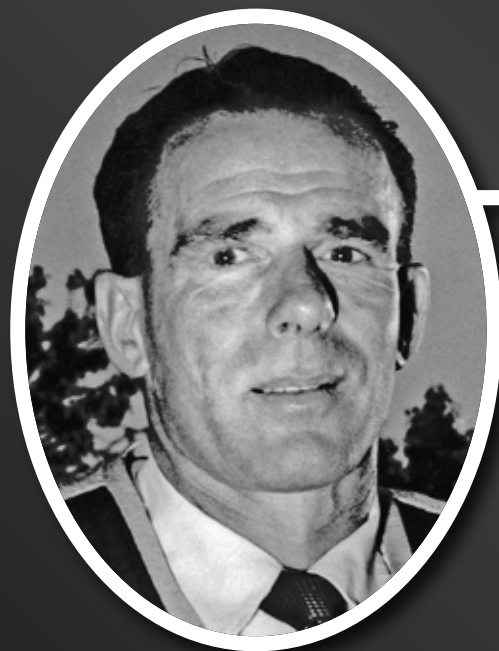
- 157 League games.
- 14 goals.
- SDFC Captain Coach 1941.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1942.
- Represented Western Australia 1938 (2 games).



A member of Swans inaugural team in 1934, Lal was also a member of Swans first winning team at Bassendean Oval on 5 May 1934 when the mighty Black & Whites soundly defeated Subiaco.

Lal was recruited from the Bassendean PSA Football Club and despite a war interrupted career still managed 157 senior games for Swans before retiring after coaching Swans in 1941.

Lal was the first Swans player to play 100 games and then 150 games and became the first player to be made a Life Member. After retiring from Swans, Lal became a League umpire from 1942-46 and actually umpired Swans first losing Grand Final when the club went down to East Fremantle by 40 points in 1943.



Tom Moiler

1935, 1937-1941

- 87 League games.
- 30 goals.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1954.

The irony of Tom Moiler's lifelong love of Swans was that as a lightly built youngster he was told in 1934 that he would not make the then fledging club's training list. Disappointed, Tom went back to the Midland amateurs and although missing three games still managed to win the Fairest & Best Award for the year. He returned to Swans in 1935 and made his League debut, then added a further 86 games in 1937-41, with the second World War interrupting his playing career.

Tom's service to Swans did not end there and it is through his long record of service in administration for the club, from 1947 to 1970, that he is also greatly remembered.

He was instrumental in the recruitment of both Haydn Bunton and Bill Walker to Swans, convincing both to sign after passing them an envelope containing an undisclosed amount of money as a sign on fee!

John (Jack) Murray

1935-1940, 1945-1949

- 170 League games.
- 37 goals.
- Swan Medallist 1939, 1947.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1947.
- Represented Western Australia in 1937-39 and 1947 (9 games).
- SDFC Team of the Century 1934-2000.



In a war interrupted career, the much feared John “Granite” Murray established a reputation as a one of the hardest and toughest players of that period. Making his name as a hard-nosed defender, he was selected in the back pocket for Swans Team of the Century and in Swans “Best of 75 Years” as the centre half back. However, when required, he was also more than handy as a ruckman.

Returning to football after the war he soon showed his class, by representing WA in the 1947 Carnival team, 10 years after first representing the State. His nine State games are best remembered for some uncompromising physical clashes with Victoria’s Jack “Captain Blood” Dyer, with no backward steps taken by either player!

After retiring as a player he coached the Reserves team in seasons 1950-54.

Joe Pearce

1939-1951



- 91 League games.
- 29 goals.
- Swan Medallist 1949, 1950.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 2006.
- Represented Western Australia in 1950 (2 games).

In a war interrupted career Joe still made an indelible mark on the Swans Football Club which was recognised through Life Membership in 2006 and commencement of the Joe Pearce Courage Award in 1990.

After being recruited from the wheatbelt in 1939 Joe's career was interrupted in his first season when he joined the AIF's infantry force and was ultimately stationed in Singapore. On the fall of Singapore, Joe was imprisoned in the infamous Changi prison and worked for three years on the even more infamous Burma Railway.

After returning to WA, Joe underwent three years of recuperation before recommencing his career with Swans – going on to win consecutive Swan Medals and representing his state in two games.

After retiring from Swans in 1951, Joe went back to the bush and continued playing with Moulyinning until he was 50 years old and also coached that team's seniors to twelve Premierships in 20 years.

Duggan Anderson

1945-1956



- 210 League games.
- 32 goals.
- Swan Medallist 1946, 1948, 1951.
- SDFC Club Captain 1951-52.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1955.
- Represented Western Australia in 1946, 1948, 1950, 1952 (6 games).
- WA Football Hall of Fame 2011.
- SDFC Team of the Century 1934-2000.

Tall and strongly-built with an excellent high mark and a long driving kick, Duggan Anderson was an intelligent player who read the play superbly and was ideally suited to the key defensive role of centre half back.

He made his state debut in 1946 and won the first of his three Swan Medals the same year. After a saw milling accident in January 1947 cost him all four fingers from his left hand he defied the odds by playing in round one of that season. Although his ball handling style had to be modified he could still mark well although he preferred to spoil the ball and gather it in at ground level. Using this method he regained his key defensive position in State teams in 1950 and 1952 and in 1956 became the first Swans player to play 200 games. After retiring as a player he joined the club committee in 1957, serving as Vice President from 1959-66.



Tim Barker

1944-1959

- 239 League games.
- 22 goals.
- Swan Medallist in 1952.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1957.
- Represented Western Australia in 1953-54 and 1956 (5 games).
- SDFC Club Captain 1957 (part) and 1958.

One of the great full backs for Swans, Tim had an interrupted career: after debuting in 1944, he missed the 1945 and 1946 seasons but still went on to play 239 games. For many years this was the Swans games record, until overtaken by Bill Walker.

In his era Tim played against many fine opponents such as Bernie Naylor, John Gerovich and Ray Scott in an era when the Swans backline was often under immense pressure.

Tim represented Western Australia on five occasions, including the 1956 ANFC carnival in Perth and highlighted a fine career with his Swan Medal in 1952 and club captaincy for part of 1957 and all of 1958.

John Cooper

1951-1958

- 122 League games.
- 4 goals.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1969.
- President of Swans 1976-82.
- WAFL Life Member 1981.
- WAFC Commissioner 1988-89.
- WA Football Hall of Fame 2010.
- National Football League Certificate of Merit 1993.
- Order of Australia 2000.



As a player, John Cooper is remembered as a tough and dependable back pocket specialist for Swans. Unfortunately, his playing days coincided with a decade in which the League side finished no higher than 6th: perhaps the reason why John Todd describes “Coop” as one of the best players to ever stand the mark!

On retiring as a player, in 1959 he coached the Colts team. But it was as an administrator that John really made his mark. After serving as Treasurer (1957-60), then Secretary (1967-70), he eventually became President (1976-82): here he was responsible for bringing John Todd to Bassendean, and also for standing firm and keeping him there in 1977-81, despite much pressure from within the club. The culmination of that resolve and hard work came in 1982, with Swans fourth Premiership and the first for 19 years.

His tireless contribution to football administration was later recognised by a term as a WAFC commissioner (1988-89), a National Football League Certificate of Merit (1993), an Order of Australia (2000) and WA Football Hall of Fame induction (2010).



Ron Jose

1947-2007

Ron was born in South Melbourne and remained a Victorian until World War II when he was posted to WA through army service.

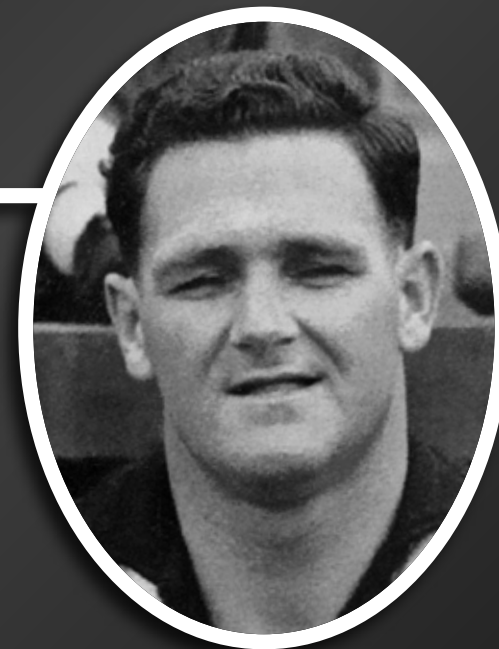
Ron's initial sporting loves were cycling and boxing in which he practised competitively having many successful bouts. His introduction to football was coaching the Bellevue Temperance team in 1947 and from there evolved into a tireless volunteer in the Swans junior council founding the Midvale JFC and the Bellevue Rovers and the Midland Sunday League. He also coached the Swans reserves in 1955-56, coached the Swans junior combined sides during 1962-64 and the Swans combined U/17's in 1984, managed the Swans colts team through 1985-2000 and was Swans inter-change steward through 2001-2007.

Ron received seven life memberships for his service and contribution to sport in the Swan District and none were more deserving than the one he received for his 35 years as President of the Midvale Junior Football Club.

Joe Lawson

1955-1966

- 235 League games.
- 16 goals.
- Swan Medallist 1958.
- Member of the 1961, 1962 and 1963 Premiership teams.
- SDFC Club Captain 1959 (part).
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1965.
- Represented Western Australia in 1959 (1 game).
- SDFC Team of the Century 1934-2000.



Making his debut (at full forward) in 1955, on moving to defence Joe Lawson was then a vital part of Swans emergence as a powerhouse in the early 1960's, playing in all three Premiership sides and establishing a reputation as a tough and uncompromising full back, who ran straight at the ball and opponent. However, his robust play belied his skill; he was an excellent running drop kick exponent throughout his career.

With a total of 235 league games, a Swan Medal in 1958 and State representation in 1959, Joe is well remembered as a fine custodian, and the second of our great full backs (after Tim Barker) to play over 200 games. He was suitably acknowledged with inclusion in the Swans Districts Team of the Century at full back.

Keith Slater

1955-1958, 1960-1963, 1967



- 167 League games.
- 201 goals.
- Swan Medallist 1956-57, 1960.
- Member of the 1961, 1962 and 1963 Premiership teams.
- Simpson Medallist 1961 Grand Final.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1973.
- Represented Western Australia in 1956-57, 1960-63, 1967 (15 games). (Also represented WA 6 times while captain-coach of Subiaco, 1964-66.)
- WA Football Hall of Fame 2004.
- SDFC Team of the Century 1934-2000.

Keith (Spud) Slater was a product of the Midland district, commencing his career with Swans in 1955 where he quickly established himself as one of the leading ruckman in Western Australia. His performance against Polly Farmer in the 1961 Grand Final (playing with a broken rib) is still talked about, and acknowledged through his winning of the Simpson Medal for that game.

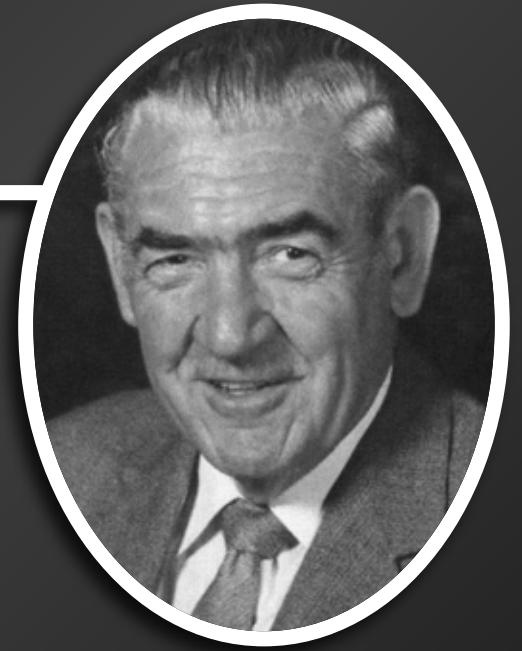
A member of the historic Premiership sides of 1961-63, he also represented WA in a total of 21 games from 1956-67. The winner of three Swan Medals, Keith also came third in the Sandover Medal on three occasions. He also coached the Reserves team in 1958, 1962-63, 1968 and 1971-72.

Keith was an integral part of the first golden era of Swans and also excelled at baseball and cricket: he represented Western Australia in the Claxton Shield and the Sheffield Shield and in 1959 played one Test match for Australia.

Stan Moses

1951-1997

- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1960.
- WAFL Life Member 1976.
- National Football League Certificate of Merit 1994.
- Order of Australia 2011.



Stan Moses was an absolute stalwart of Swan Districts and WA football. As the Colts coach in 1957-58, he was immediately successful, winning Premierships in both years. He then coached the Reserves in 1959-60, but really left his mark as a long term administrator. Taking over as President in 1968, he worked tirelessly to bring together the Swans Members Club and the Football Club, which paved the way for creating a united body, which was instrumental in the eventual successful application for a liquor licence.

In addition to his term as President, Stan also served as a recruiting officer, selector, committee member, WAFL delegate and general manager (1971-79). In addition, he also served as President of the Swans Past Players and Officials Association and the Junior Council. With such a long record of service, he was duly recognised with a National Football League Certificate of Merit in 1994 and an Order of Australia in 2011.

Ken Bagley

1958-1970



- 232 League games.
- 90 goals.
- Member of the 1961, 1962 and 1963 Premiership teams.
- Simpson Medallist in the 1963 Grand Final.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1971.
- Represented Western Australia 1961-66 (16 games).
- WA Football Hall of Fame 2004.
- SDFC Team of the Century 1934-2000.

Rated as one of the very best players of the 1960s by Haydn Bunton, Ken Bagley was a dynamic left footer who played in virtually every position at Swans but excelled across the centre and also at centre half back and centre half forward.

His key playing strengths were an outstanding aerial ability and kicking prowess, both supported by an ability to excel in big games: he took 10 first quarter marks in the 1961 Grand Final (on his 21st birthday!) and won the 1963 Grand Final Simpson Medal, where his dominant display helped Eric Gorman kick nine goals to set up the Premiership hat trick.

His 16 State games rank second for the most by a Swans player; not surprisingly he attracted plenty of interest from VFL clubs, especially Geelong, but he remained at Swans for his whole career. He coached the Colts in 1965 and the Reserves in 1973.

Fred Castledine

1958-1967, 1969

- 162 League games.
- 27 goals.
- Member of the 1961, 1962 and 1963 Premiership teams.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1980.
- Represented Western Australia in 1961-64 (4 games).
- SDFC Captain Coach in 1965-67.
- SDFC Team of the Century 1934-2000.



Fred Castledine debuted in 1958 as ruckman, but really hit his straps in 1959 at centre half forward under the mentoring of then Senior coach Percy Johnson. The arrival of Haydn Bunton at Swans in 1961 then brought the best out of Fred and a sterling career followed.

He soon became a multi position player who led by example, developing an intimidating presence and a powerful determination to succeed. He could kick well with both feet and his tactical role in negating Polly Farmer's influence in the 1961 Grand Final is well remembered.

Fred was appointed as captain-coach of Swans in 1965 and took the team to the Grand Final that year, but unfortunately missed the game because of a broken ankle. After suffering a number of injuries in the latter part of his career, he retired in 1969 after 163 games. He also coached the Colts in 1962 and the Reserves in 1964 (Premiers).

Tony Nesbit

1958-1970



- 233 League games.
- 158 goals.
- Member of the 1961, 1962 and 1963 Premiership teams.
- Swan Medallist in 1964.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1968.
- Represented Western Australia in 1963-65 (8 games).
- SDFC Captain Coach in 1968.
- SDFC Team of the Century 1934-2000.

Tony Nesbit commenced his career with Swans in 1958 and made an immediate impression by winning the Best First Year player trophy. His “run all day” style of play saw him make the ruck rover position his own, and when changing in the back pocket he ably assisted our great full backs of that era, Tim Barker and then Joe Lawson, in team defence.

He was a vital component of Swans first hat trick of Premierships: indeed, his tough and fearless play was a key factor in Keith Slater’s ruck dominance of Polly Farmer in the 1961 Grand Final against East Perth.

Winner of the Swan Medal in 1964, Nesbit served as Swans’ vice-captain in 1965-66 and was captain-coach in 1968. Along with Keith Slater and Bill Walker he comprises the first ruck in the official Swan Districts ‘Team of the Century.’ He also coached the Colts in 1961-63-64 and the Reserves in 1965-66.

Haydn Bunton

1961-1964



- 89 League games.
- 112 goals.
- Member of the 1961, 1962 and 1963 Premierships teams.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1998.
- Swan Medallist 1961-63.
- Sandover Medallist 1962.
- Represented Western Australia in 1961-64 (11 games).
- SDFC Captain Coach in 1961-64.
- SDFC Premiership Coach 1961-63.
- All Australian Team 1956.
- Australian Football Hall of Fame (Coach) 1996.
- WA Institute of Sport Hall of Champions 2003.
- WA Football Hall of Fame Legend 2004.
- SDFC Team of the Century 1934-2000.

The son of Haydn Bunton Sr., the legendary three times winner of both the Sandover and Brownlow Medals, Haydn Bunton Jr. forged his own football identity despite a serious childhood disease and a knee injury suffered in a car accident in 1959 that would have ended most other player's careers.

Commencing his career in SA with North Adelaide in 1954 at the age of 17, two years later he made the All Australian side (1956) and then began his coaching career with Norwood (1957), taking them to the Grand Final in 1958.

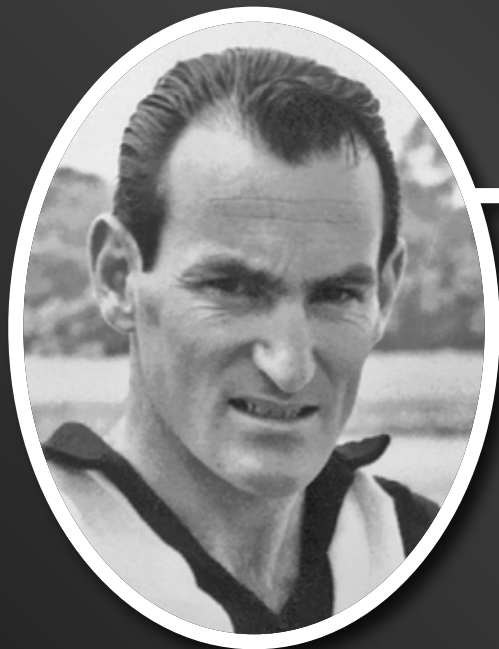
When brought to Swans in 1961 as Captain Coach, he immediately created history with his leadership and coaching prowess, leading the club to three successive Premierships, including the first ever in club history.

Haydn brought to Swans (and in later stints at Subiaco and Norwood) innovative coaching and a determination that anything and everything is possible in football.

Three Swan Medals, a Sandover Medal, 11 State games and three Premierships in only four years at Swans speaks volumes to the status of Haydn as a player and coach.

Bill Walker

1961-1976



- 305 League games.
- 461 goals.
- Member of the 1961, 1962 and 1963 Premierships teams.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1977.
- Swan Medallist 1965-66, 1968-70.
- Sandover Medallist 1965-67, 1970.
- Leading goal kicker 1961.
- Represented Western Australia in 1962-70, 1973 (21 games).
- Simpson Medallist 1967 (vs. South Australia).
- SDFC Captain Coach 1969-71.
- SDFC Captain 1969-75.
- All Australian Team 1969.
- Australian Football Hall of Fame 1996.
- WA Institute of Sport Hall of Champions 1987.
- WA Football Hall of Fame Legend 2004.
- SDFC Team of the Century 1934-2000.
- Order of Australia 1982.
- President of Swans 1983-95.
- Bill Walker Room opened at Subiaco Oval 2000.

Playing a record 305 league games for Swans, the boy from Narembeen created an indelible mark on the history of the football club during his playing career. Combining an unparalleled ball sense with excellent disposal skills, Bill joined Swans in 1961 (supposedly for one year only!), ended up kicking 5.5 in the inaugural 1961 Premiership and combined with Haydn Bunton Jr. for four seasons as one of the greatest roving combinations in Australian football history.

Apart from his 1965-67 and 1970 Sandover Medals (the only four time winner of this award), he also finished second (1968) and fifth (1969) and averaged a record 19.3 votes per year during that period. His five Swan medals are also a club record (with Travis Edmonds).

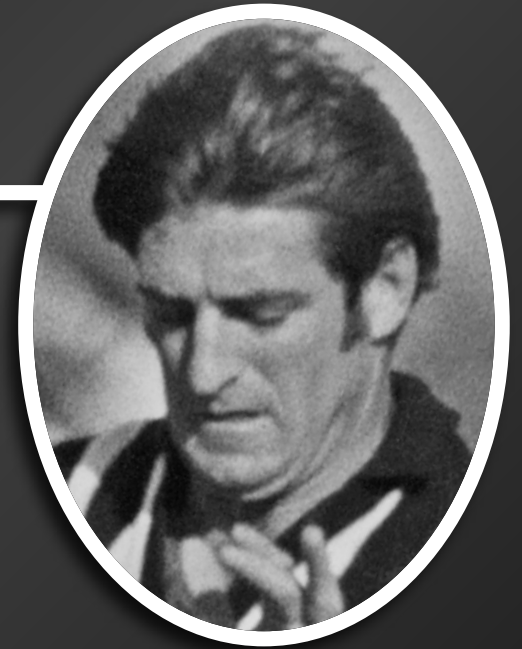
After his playing days finished in 1976, Bill then put plenty back into Swans by serving as a Director (1978-82) and then President (1983-95) for a total of 18 years, which included the 1982-84 and 1990 Premierships.

With just about every award possible from his football career, it is very difficult to sum up in a few words Bill's contribution to Swans and our great game. Perhaps it is enough to say "his record says it all."

Stan Nowotny

1969-1983

- 278 League games.
- 100 goals.
- Swan Medallist 1974.
- Member of the 1982 and 1983 Premiership teams.
- SDFC Club Captain 1977-81.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1983.
- Represented Western Australia in 1974-76, 1978-80 (76 games).
- WA Football Hall of Fame 2015.



A rugged, no nonsense player, Stan Nowotny was recruited to Swans through the Ashfield Junior Football Club. He made his League debut in 1969, and played a total of 278 club and seven appearances for Western Australia over the ensuing 14 seasons.

For much of his career (the first 150 odd games) he played as a half back flanker, before developing into an outstanding ruck-rover, then to cap off his versatility he made the change to become a key forward in the latter stages of his career. Well known for a somewhat awkward kicking style, he finished his career with an impressive 100 goals, testament to his will and desire to play to the best of his ability for the team.

Winner of the Swan Medal in 1974, he was also runner-up for the Sandover Medal in 1974-75. He was a much admired Captain of the club from 1977-81, and fittingly finished his career as a dual Premiership player. He is placed second on the games played record (behind Bill Walker) for the club.



Ron Boucher

1971-1976 and 1978-1984

- 193 League games.
- 87 goals.
- Swan Medallist in 1982.
- Member of the 1982 and 1983 Premiership teams.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1983.
- Represented Western Australia in 1980, 1983 (2 games).
- SDFC Team of the Century 1934-2000.

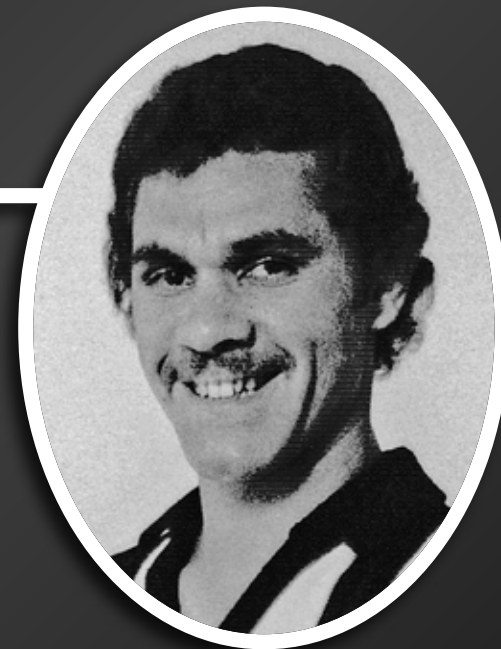
Ron first arrived at Swans in 1971 from the North Albany Football Club and was quickly christened “Roo” because of his apparent resemblance to the lean Aussie kangaroo dog. During this early part of his career his lean build and gentle demeanour saw him on the wrong side of a few “knocks and mixers.”

Roo missed the 1977 season after a difference of opinion with senior coach John Todd but they quickly made up and he returned in 1978 much stronger and more determined to succeed. During the next seven years he established a fearsome reputation as a very hard, tough and physical player who could dominate play as a knock ruckman but also create goals when resting up forward.

A member of Swans 1982 and 1983 Premiership sides, plus the achievements of the 1982 Swan Medal and State representation on two occasions highlight an impressive playing career for Ron “Roo” Boucher.

Keith Narkle

1971-1985

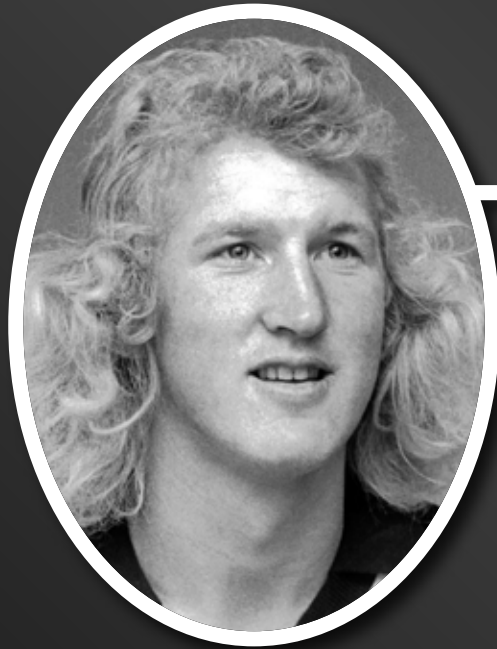


- 254 League games.
- 162 goals.
- Member of the 1982, 1983 and 1984 Premiership teams.
- Swan Medallist in 1977, 1978 and 1984.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1983.
- SDFC Club Captain 1983 (part)-84.
- Represented Western Australia in 1977, 1979 (3 games).
- SDFC Team of the Century 1934-2000.

Despite a light build, Keith Narkle was a rare talent (from Bunbury), combining tremendous pace, great agility, clean ball handling and innate ability to read the play.

Making his League debut in 1971 (he won the Colts fairest and best award in the same year), Keith's quality and perseverance as a player saw him eventually rewarded as a three times Premiership player in 1982-84, with the latter two also as Captain. He was equally at home across the centre or half forward lines, but made his name primarily as a wingman of outstanding talent, being selected in Swans 'Team of the Century' in this role.

Quiet and unassuming, Keith let his football do the talking, with three Swan Medals (the last when he was 33 in 1984, seven years after his first) and three games for Western Australian across 1977-79.



Garry Sidebottom

1973-1977, 1985-1987

- 114 League games, 104 VFL games (St Kilda 54, Geelong 7, Fitzroy 43).
- 227 goals (Swans), 145 goals (St Kilda 86, Geelong 6, Fitzroy 53).
- Swan Medallist 1976, 1985.
- Leading goal kicker 1985.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 2000.
- Represented Western Australia in 1974-80, 1983-85 (15 games).
- WA Football Hall of Fame 2011.

Coming from the famous Sidebottom family, Garry made his League debut for Swans in 1973. He was a powerfully built and skilled centre half forward and ruckman and his strength around the ground created many opportunities for team mates.

In 1976 he won the first of his two Swan Medals, then in 1978 moved to St. Kilda to begin his VFL career, where he spent eight seasons, playing 104 games for St. Kilda, Geelong and Fitzroy, including captaining St. Kilda for a season and playing finals football.

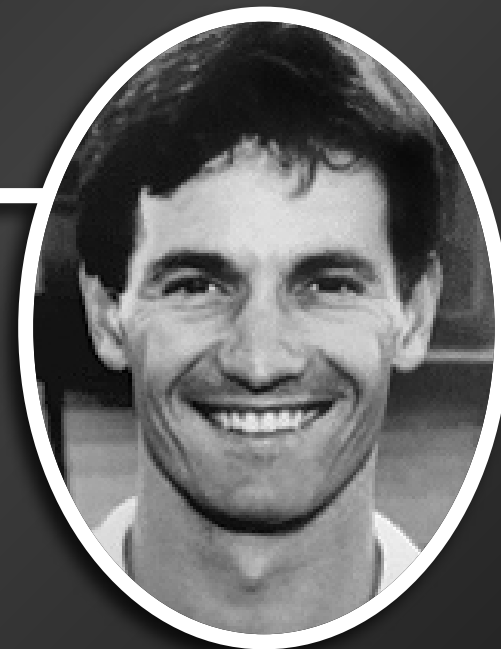
Returning to Swans in 1985 Garry was Swans leading goal scorer with 78 goals and won his second Swan Medal. He also played the last of his 15 state games and produced one of the finest individual performances in a WAFL final round game in the first semi-final against West Perth, kicking nine goals in an awesome display of strength and skill.

Retiring after an injury marred 1986 season, Garry is remembered for a career that was never far from controversy, but always epitomised by tremendous power and skill. In 2007 he returned to the club and coached the Reserves team.

Don Langsford

1977-1987, 1989-1990

- 237 League games.
- 60 goals.
- Member of the 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1990 Premiership teams.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1985.
- Represented Western Australia in 1983-85 (5 games).
- SDFC Team of the Century 1934-2000.



Recruited from Scotch College, Don Langsford debuted with Swan Districts in 1977 and enjoyed an auspicious 14-season career, including being a member of the inaugural 35 man squad of the West Coast Eagles.

A skilled and reliable defender, Don played much of his career across the half back line, but also on occasions as a ruck rover, and managed 60 goals during his career. Along with Don Holmes, Don is one of only two Swans players to have played in four Premiership teams.

Don was Swans Captain in 1985 and 1986 and in his career played a total of five games for WA.

John Todd



- SDFC Coach 1977-87, 1990-94, 2000-02.
- SDFC Premiership Coach 1982-84, 1990.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1987.
- WAFL Life Member 1991.
- WA Institute of Sport Hall of Champions 1997.
- Australian Football Hall of Fame 2003.
- WA Football Hall of Fame Legend 2004.
- SDFC Team of the Century 1934-2000.
- Order of Australia 1986.

It is WA football folklore that John Todd won the Sandover Medal in his first season of League football in 1955 at 17 years of age, badly injured his knee the following season, but still managed 132 games with South Fremantle (winning three Fairest and Best Awards), represented WA 13 times (including All Australian selection in 1961), coached South Fremantle (1997) and East Fremantle (1974) to Premierships and West Coast (1988) to their first final series.

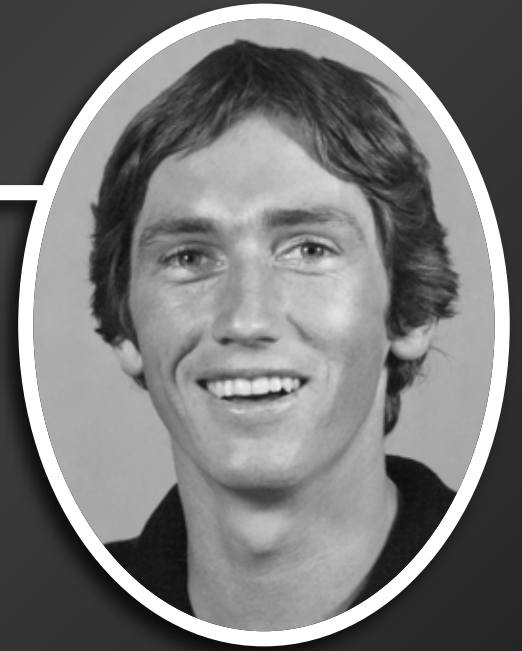
But it is the length of tenure and achievements as coach of Swans that significantly add to this imposing record. The 19 seasons he spent at Swans, coaching the club for a record 417 games, which included four wonderful Premierships (1982-84, 1990), leave him as the WAFL's longest serving and most successful coach (six Premierships).

Over his three separate coaching stints at Swans, John established his reputation as one of Western Australia's (and indeed Australia's) finest ever coaches, being rewarded with the Order of Australia in 1986, and induction into the Australian Football Hall of Fame in 2003 and WA Football Hall of Fame (Legend) in 2004.

Don Holmes

1978-1990

- 158 League games, 23 AFL games (West Coast).
- 322 goals (Swans), 40 goals (West Coast).
- Member of the 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1990 Premiership teams.
- Leading goal kicker 1986.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1989.
- Represented Western Australia in 1984 (1 game).
- SDFC Team of the Century 1934-2000.



Originally from the Bassendean Football Club, Don Holmes made his League debut for Swan Districts as a 19-year-old in 1978. As his career progressed he developed into a very versatile and dangerous player whether roving or as an opportunistic half forward flanker.

In 1984 he had one of his best seasons, booting a match winning five goals in the Grand Final and being selected that year to represent Western Australia against South Australia.

In 1987, he was an inaugural squad member with West Coast, and in three seasons played 23 AFL games and kicked 40 goals, all the while continuing to play with Swans when available. After briefly retiring in 1990, he returned in time to achieve a historic and fitting career finale by being a member of Swans upset Grand Final win over Claremont, becoming one of only two (the other being Don Langsford) four time Premiership players for the club.



Travis Edmonds

1990-2005

- 262 League games.
- 80 goals.
- Swans Medallist 1992-93, 1997, 2000-01.
- Awarded SDFC Life Membership in 1998.
- Represented Western Australia in 1992, 1994, 1997, 2001 (4 games).
- SDFC Club Captain 2000-01.

Travis played his first League game for Swans in 1990 and whilst his junior football was always at centre half forward or centre half back, because of his height coach John Todd moved him straight into the ruck for his career at Swans.

He was initially drafted by Hawthorn (1991), then West Coast (1993) and lastly by Fremantle (1995), finally making his AFL debut in round two of their inaugural season. However a serious foot injury then put him out for 10 weeks, virtually ending his AFL career.

Travis was a hard-working and mobile ruckman, who was extremely consistent in his effort and form. In addition to winning five Swan Medals, captaining the side in 2000 and 2001 and representing WA on four occasions, his 262 games placed him third on the games played honour board, as one of only four Swans players to exceed the 250 game mark.

Bob Manning, Lindsay Johnston, Keith Slater, Cyril Litterick, Fred Castledine, Ken Bagley, Eric Gorman, Max Ashworth, John Turnbull

Gary Gray, James Mitchell, Brian Gray, Graeme Devitt, Brian Page, Craig Noble, Tony Nesbit, Tony Sangalli

Max Kelleher, John Mack, Bill Walker, Haydn Bunton Jr. (Captain Coach), Percy Bright (President), Joe Lawson (Vice Captain), Keith Watt, Colin Maynard, David Thompson



1961: SWANS COMING OF AGE

There was a special feeling in the air at Bassendean Oval before the commencement of the 1961 WANFL season, hard to describe, but a buzz of excitement and anticipation in a club that had finished last the previous season.

Swans President Percy Bright, Secretary Tom Moiler and a pro-active committee had surprised the football world by securing rover Haydn Bunton Jr., already a respected coach from South Australia, to take over the coaching role for 1961. The son of football's greatest player, Victorian Haydn Bunton Sr., Haydn Bunton Jr. already had a West Australian connection through his father who played for Subiaco from 1938-41, winning three Sandover Medals to add to his three Brownlow Medals won in 1931-32 and 1935.

In another major recruiting coup, Swans had snared 19-year-old rover, Narembeen farmer Bill Walker, a player that all WAFL clubs had expressed an interest in. The quiet, determined and extremely skillful Walker initially came to Swans just to play the 1961 season and establish himself as a league footballer, seemingly oblivious to the challenges ahead in such a poorly rated side, that had won just 2 games in 1960.

Bunton brought to Swans a new style of play that included plenty of back up and running through for the handpass, plenty of handball and an early dictum that no-one apart from Keith Slater and Joe Lawson were allowed to do drop kicks. This later rule was gradually relaxed as the season progressed and Bunton himself became quite the drop kick exponent by year end.

Bunton however did not just change the way Swans played their footy. He was responsible for the introduction of the 'Fighting Swan' logo onto the jumpers and replaced the hooped black 'n' white socks with all black socks. These changes seemingly had an immediate psychological effect on the players, members and supporters, giving the club a strong identity that had perhaps been somewhat lacking in previous years.

In 1961 a total of 36 players played League football with Swans. The team had a good nucleus of experienced players from the previous season; these included Brian Gray, Wally Brown, Keith Slater, Joe Lawson, Cyril Litterick, Colin Maynard, Tony Nesbit, Ken Bagley, Dave Thompson and Fred Castledine, these players were all experienced League footballers and had completed 'their apprenticeships.' In fact, the backline in the 1961 premiership side was the same backline that played for Swans in 1960!

Haydn Bunton was astute enough to utilise their talents, plus those of many others, including John Turnbull, John Mack, Lindsay Johnston, Max Ashworth, Keith Watt, Craig Noble, and Tony Sangalli. Tasmanian centreman, Max ("Count") Kelleher was coaxed west from North Hobart specifically to provide some midfield strength at bounce downs. He became an integral part of the strong Swans side and also coached our Reserves.

Swans started the 1961 season in tentative fashion, defeating Perth by four points but then lost to East Perth the following week by 26 points. In a season where the team recorded losses in all three qualifying games to East Perth, the club eventually finished the qualifying rounds with 12 wins (and two draws) and second position on the League ladder. The campaign for Swans' first grand final and Premiership started poorly with a loss to East Perth in the second semi-final by 48 points. However, Swans bounced back well with a victory against Subiaco in the preliminary final by 16 points, setting up a Grand Final against East Perth, a team later described by Bunton as one that Swans could only beat once.

History records that on the following Saturday (October 7th 1961) history was made, as Swans recorded their first Grand Final victory against all popular perceptions. This was because the Grand Final was expected to be an East Perth cakewalk, as they had lost only two games in the season.

Swan Districts Premiership win in 1961 saw them become the first WANFL League club to win a Premiership after finishing last in the previous season.

There is no doubt that Swans' victory was as much to do with strategy as sheer determination. Swans ruckman, Keith Slater, playing with a broken rib from the second semi-final and a steely determination to nullify East Perth great Polly Farmer through a ruck strategy in partnership with Fred Castledine, Cyril Litterick and tireless ruck-rover Tony Nesbit, played a magnificent game and was awarded the 1961 Grand Final Simpson Medal.

In the pressure of the 1961 Grand Final, first-year rover Bill Walker was Swans' most effective player with team statistics revealing that 12 of 18 kicks were effective, including kicking 5 goals and 5 points.

In an era when players seldom tallied more than 20 kicks, Haydn Bunton had 25, Johnny Mack 23, Ken Bagley 21 and Max Kelleher 20, with Wally Brown close behind on 19, to all be prolific ball getters. Full-back Joe Lawson, who possessed one of the best drop-kicks in the game, found teammates 11 times from his 15 kicks.

Full forward Lindsay Johnston's brace of three goals in a short space of time seemingly rattled East Perth's defence for a period. Ken Bagley's impassable display at centre half back was a great way to celebrate his 21st birthday, despite the treatment he received from the opposition. Colin Maynard in the back pocket and Dave Thompson on the half-back flank proved to be fierce defenders as always. Experienced wingman Brian Gray, and forwards Keith Watt and Max Ashworth were effective and prominent, and the history making team were ably supported by the two ever reliable reserves, Craig Noble and Tony Sangalli.

It was a true team effort and for Swans to come from last to first in one season was testament to the new found winning attitude at the club, the product of a masterful coach and a playing group that believed in themselves and saw no limit to what could be achieved. As the Sunday Times proclaimed, it was "The Greatest Upset in League History": a most fitting way to claim the club's first ever Premiership.

1934



2016

