

Official Club Season Guide

TIGER TALK

2017



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STRONG *and* BOLD



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CLAREMONT FOOTBALL CLUB INC.



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HARRIS HAS THE MIDAS TOUCH



MURPHY REMAINS AT THE HELM



CLAREMONT SALUTES A CHAMPION

2017 YEARLY PLANNER

	DAY	ROUND	EVENT	GAME	LOCATION	TIME
MARCH	Sat, 18th	Round 1		EFFC v CFC	East Fremantle Oval	2.15pm
	Sat, 25th	Round 2		CFC	BYE	
APRIL	Sat, 1st	Round 3		PFC v CFC	Lathlain Park	1.40pm *7MATE
	Fri, 7th	Round 4	Fathering Project	EPFC v CFC	Leederville Oval	7.10pm
	Fri, 14th	Round 5	Easter	SFFC v CFC	Fremantle Oval	4.15pm
	Sat, 22nd	Round 6	ANZAC	CFC v SFC	East Fremantle Oval	2.15pm
MAY	Sat, 29th	Round 7		SDFC v CFC	Steele Blue Oval	2.15pm
	Sat, 6th	Round 8		CFC v PFC	Fremantle Oval	2.15pm
	Sat, 13th	Round 9		CFC v PFC	Fremantle Oval	7.10pm
	Sat, 20th	Round 10	Men's Health	WPFC v CFC	HBF Arena Joondalup	2.15pm
	Sat, 27th		State Round	CFC	BYE	
JUNE	Sat, 3rd	Round 11	WA Round	CFC	BYE	
	Sat, 10th		Opening Day			1.45pm
	Sat, 10th	Round 12	Count me in Round	CFC v EFFC	Claremont Oval	2.15pm
	Sat, 17th	Round 13		CFC v SDFC	Claremont Oval	2.15pm
	Sat, 24th		Proudie's Day			
	Sat, 24th	Round 14		CFC v WPFC	Claremont Oval	2.15pm
JULY	Sat, 1st	Round 15		PTFC v CFC	Bendigo Bank Stadium	2.15pm
	Sat, 8th	Round 16	NAIDOC Round	CFC v SFFC	Claremont Oval	1.40pm *7MATE
	Sat, 15th	Round 17		SFC v CFC	Esperance	2.15pm
	Sat, 22nd	Round 18		CFC	BYE	
	Sat, 29th	Round 19		CFC v EPFC	Claremont Oval	2.15pm
AUGUST	Sat, 5th	Round 20		PFC v CFC	Lathlain Park	2.15pm
	Sat, 12th		CFC Ladies Day			1.40pm *7MATE
	Sat, 12th	Round 21		CFC v SFFC	Claremont Oval	2.15pm
	Sat, 19th	Round 22		SDFC v CFC	Steel Blue Oval	2.15pm
	Sat, 19th		Banquet Auction		Club Function Room	
OCT SEPT	Sat, 26th	Round 23		CFC v WPFC	Claremont Oval	2.15pm
	Sun, 24th	WAFL	WAFL FINALS GRAND FINAL	TBC	DOMAIN STADIUM	
OCT	Fri, 6th		E.B Cook Medal		Club Function Room	

HOME GAME	AWAY GAME	BYE ROUND	CFC EVENT	BROADCAST GAME	WAFL FINALS
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Special thank you to Michael O'Brien and Peter Chalmers - volunteer Club photographers



The commercial areas within our new building are fully tenanted thanks to our hard-working vice-president Grant Povey.

As we move back to Davies Road our emphasis will be to become a community based club and I encourage all members to assist us in this transition.

Our aim is to broaden:

- club membership
- the use of our new facilities and
- sponsorship

I am confident under our new coach Darren Harris we will be successful in all grades despite the fact we will not play our first home game until the second week of June.

I take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers for their hard work over the past three years in the period we have been playing at the Showgrounds.

In conclusion, I would like to say 2017 will be a challenging year in different ways, but I assure all members that, with your support and our dedicated directors and staff, we will overcome those challenges and become the most successful community football club in WA.

Kevin Somes, President

MESSAGE
FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the year we can establish ourselves as the No. 1 WAFL club.

Our first game back at Claremont Oval will be against East Fremantle on June 10, 2017.

The new club build is behind schedule but in line with budget, a wonderful achievement by the building committee.



MESSAGE
FROM THE CEO

There is an air of excitement and anticipation around the Club as we approach our first game against East Fremantle.

Senior coach Darren Harris provided a great insight into his coaching philosophies at the Season Launch held at the Showgrounds on Wednesday 8 March. He told the audience of some 200 guests that he has been impressed with the level of commitment and enthusiasm shown by the players and is delighted with the standard of preparation of the playing group.

Darren announced the Leadership Group of Tom Lee, Beau Maister, Aaron Holt, Ryan Lim, Ryan Neates, vice-captain Ian Richardson and captain Jake Murphy. Congratulations Jake on your reappointment as captain and we wish you and all the players every success for the season.

Our Corporate Classic sponsors were drawn at the Season Launch and I'm pleased to advise that Reden Pty Ltd won the Key Partner Sponsorship package valued at \$12,500, William Porteous Properties International and BJ's Timber Flooring won the Partnership Sponsorship packages valued at \$4,650 and Ryan and Durey Solicitors and APV Constructions won the Partnership sponsorship packages valued at \$4,500. Jaxon Crabb, our match day ball legend for 2017, was presented with a match day ball at the Season Launch and spoke of how humbled he was to receive such an honour.

The Football Department under the leadership of Darcy Coffey has worked hard during the off season in recruiting quality players to the club, organising pre-season training under trying circumstances and coordinating our metropolitan and regional talent development programs. There is enormous depth and talent within our playing group from the youth squads through to our senior squad.

Off the field our Administration team of Jessie Fear and Emily Harvey have been busy revising and promoting membership packages, renewing and seeking new sponsors, developing a range of merchandise and generally preparing for the move to our new clubrooms. Sarah Birkbeck has joined the Administration team as the club's accountant in a part time capacity.

I would like to thank all of our existing sponsors who have renewed their sponsorship of the club. Your continuing support is much appreciated.

We have secured a number of new sponsors, including Willie Creek Pearls, CM Accounting, Zorzi Builders, Blackburne Developments and Burley Sekem. I welcome them to the club and look forward to a long and mutually rewarding association.

You will be aware that construction of our new Clubrooms is running behind schedule and we have made the decision to reschedule our early home game fixtures with our first home game now scheduled for 10 June against East Fremantle.

Whilst this is disappointing and is a disruption to our season, particularly from the coaches and players perspective I would like to thank all our members, sponsors, supporters and the playing group for your patience and understanding. I can assure you that the new clubrooms will provide an amazing match day experience with superb facilities and service.

As well as the Claremont Football Club facilities the new building contains five tenancy areas all of which have been let.

Revo Fitness will operate the fitness centre, Katrina Sykes will operate the café to be known as Hello Tiger and club physiotherapist, Anthony McEvoy will operate the physiotherapy and medical centre under the banner of Lifesport Claremont. Two further areas have been let to Travel Tree Australasia Pty Ltd and Taf Capital Pty Ltd.

The food and beverage services have been contracted out to a consortium comprising Soiree Catering and Heyder and Shears Catering and will be known as The Claremont Kitchen. The income generated from the tenants and caterers will provide financial security for the Club into the future.

We are entering a new and exciting era for the Claremont Football Club and I look forward to sharing this experience with you all.

Finally I would like to thank and congratulate club BDO Jessie Fear and club Life Member Ken Casellas for compiling this magnificent Tiger Talk Season Guide.

Graham Moss, CEO



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SUCCESS THROUGH UNDERSTANDING

MESSAGE
FROM THE COACH

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to the Claremont Football Club for the opportunity to coach such a great club with an impressive history. I take that responsibility very seriously and do feel privileged. I will give it my best.

One of the first things I did when appointed was meet with the longer serving players and all the graduating colts. They were two very contrasting meetings with one common element. Respectful, good people. When I say contrasting you had a group of colts who had recently had success in the Grand Final. They were all a bit nervous and excited. Listened intently to the message to come to training and be their best and attack the pre-season as it was a fresh start. Don't put any limits on where they could get to this season.

The older group identified as influencers in the football club had a different approach. They wanted to know what the plan was. Challenged me strongly about what they saw as the priorities and spoke passionately about wanting success. I was impressed. I also knew I would have to be good for my word and that is was officially game on. The strength of all football teams is how demanding the leadership group are and how much they care about their team mates. Again, that is why I was impressed.

The next step was to identify the coaches who could offer the players the best opportunity to develop as footballers but more importantly as good people who would feel positive about themselves. Geoff Valentine was first to commit. Geoff is one of the best football people I have ever met. The two premierships I have coached have had Geoff as my right-hand man. He has coached for 20 years in his own right and been very successful, taking the Guildford Grammar boys to the first senior premiership since the 1950s.

Steven Trehwella has been a long-time friend and teammate and when he wanted to get involved as a backline coach I couldn't say welcome aboard quick enough. He is a three time WAFL premiership player and premiership captain. I can assure you that under his tutelage our boys will defend to the end.

I know how impressed everyone has been with Kepler Bradley and so to complement him with Andrew Embley gives us some great midfield knowledge, with both having had quality careers in the AFL. They have a great rapport with the players and are respected by the group. Craig Dalton has come across from North Beach where he coached the under 18s to a flag after three consecutive grand final appearances. He will look after the forward line. Craig has great character and I love the way he sees the game. He will be another great mentor to our young men.



Rounding out our panel are two development coaches who are also very successful WAFL players. Craig White from South Freo and Damien Condon from East Fremantle have added great value and knowledge. I am absolutely rapt with the people that will help our players be the best they can be.

Dan Jolley returns in his role as our conditioning coach and is supported by Bree Hellewell. They have done an enormous amount of work to get us prepared. Especially without a permanent facility they have been fantastic. It is a massive commitment that has been sincerely appreciated

One of my goals this year is to make a strong connection as a club this year between all grades. Once we are all under the one roof again Ross McQueen and myself will plan to build relationships at all levels, ensuring a smooth transition from colts to league and Claremont players and people for life.

Mike Foley from Leading Teams has been helping us all with our leadership program. He is a 20-year coach in his own right and had 50 caps for Australia in Rugby Union. The players are getting great benefit out of his sessions and he helped us vote for our leaders in 2017 and define our values.

The leaders voted by their peers will be led by captain Jake Murphy and vice-captain Ian Richardson. Their lieutenants will be Aaron Holt, Beau Maister, Ryan Neates, Ryan Lim and Tom Lee. Jake has been fantastic. He genuinely cares about the people at this club and has the conversations that need to be had to improve performance. Ian is also a straight shooter and tells it as it is. I am excited to work closely with this group.

While at the leadership camp in Lancelin we lined the players up from youngest to oldest. Nearly 40 of our list were under the age of 21. That is exciting for all of us but also highlights the need for strong leadership as we build relationships and help our players reach their potential.

I sincerely look forward to meeting all of you as the season gets under way. It will be great for all those people who have worked tirelessly while we wait to get into our new headquarters. I am quite amazed that there has hardly been a mention of what has been a very difficult time over the past few years which says a lot about the character and quality of the Claremont people.

Go Well
Darren Harris

BRADLEY'S SAGE ADVICE
BY KEN CASELLAS

Kepler Bradley, coach of the Claremont reserves side, is excited at the talent at the club this year and he predicts that the coaches will have an extremely tough task in selecting the league and reserves sides.

Competition for places will be fierce. But Bradley has a message for those unlucky to miss selection: "Don't despair. Last year I dropped Lachie Martinis and Isaac Devitt-Boyd for about six weeks. They went back to amateurs and improved and came back in and played in the premiership side.

"If things don't go your way early on, don't drop your bundle. There's always going to be light at the end of the tunnel. There's always going to be injuries and form drop. You must be ready to come in and play well when the opportunity presents itself.

"We've got so much depth in the senior squad and form will play a big part in who plays and who doesn't. That's the nature of footy. You're going to have four to five blokes missing out at each level ... and that's just the way it goes. We've let all players know what they have to do and what is at stake. They've got to put their best foot forward."

Bradley, a former West Perth and Claremont player at WAFL level and a splendid performer in AFL ranks with Essendon and the Fremantle Dockers, made a tremendous start to his coaching career last year when he guided the Claremont reserves to the premiership.

Apart from coaching the reserves again this year he will assist Andrew Embley with the league midfield squad, concentrating on helping with the development of the ruckmen.

"This has been the most positive and enjoyable pre-season," Bradley said. "The coaches have brought new ideas and have really refreshed the group. So, the boys are really ready to rock'nroll. We're pretty excited to see where the group is at."



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Bradley said that the stand-outs among the younger players during the pre-season included Matt Guelfi, Tom Lawrence and Bailey Banfield.

Guelfi continues to impress and by the end of the season I hope he's back in AFL draft calculations," he said. "Banfield is in a similar situation. He always wants to learn and to improve. He's amongst our best 22.

"Lawrence has come up from the colts and should hold down a position in the reserves before pushing for league selection. He's a centre-half-back who could develop into a centre-half-forward."

2017 TEAM LIST

MEET THE PLAYERS

1 **RYAN NEATES**
 HT: 170 cm
 WT: 70 kg
 POSITION: FWD/MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: 94

2 **KEIFER YU**
 HT: 179 cm
 WT: 80 kg
 POSITION: UTILITY
 LEAGUE GAMES: 64

3 **TOMMY LEE**
 HT: 194 cm
 WT: 94 kg
 POSITION: FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: 52

4 **IAN RICHARDSON**
 HT: 181 cm
 WT: 82 kg
 POSITION: FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: 170

5 **JAKE MURPHY (C)**
 HT: 177 cm
 WT: 81 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: 123

6 **RYAN LIM**
 HT: 186 cm
 WT: 79 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: 38

7 **JACK BRADSHAW**
 HT: 180 cm
 WT: 74 kg
 POSITION: FWD/MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: 93

8 **AARON HOLT**
 HT: 183 cm
 WT: 83 kg
 POSITION: UTILITY
 LEAGUE GAMES: 63

9 **MATTHEW DAVIES**
 HT: 186 cm
 WT: 90 kg
 POSITION: BACK
 LEAGUE GAMES: 81

10 **JACK RICHARDSON**
 HT: 186 cm
 WT: 80 kg
 POSITION: FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: 25

11 **JYE BOLTON**
 HT: 187 cm
 WT: 86 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: 20

12 **ANTHONY MORABITO**
 HT: 191 cm
 WT: 98 kg
 POSITION: UTILITY
 LEAGUE GAMES: 52

13 **JARED HARDISTY**
 HT: 179 cm
 WT: 88 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: 20

14 **TOM LEDGER**
 HT: 179 cm
 WT: 79 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: 56

15 **HAYDN BUSER**
 HT: 191 cm
 WT: 90 kg
 POSITION: BACK
 LEAGUE GAMES: 72

16 **CHARLIE LE FANU**
 HT: 183 cm
 WT: 79 kg
 POSITION: BACK
 LEAGUE GAMES: 44

17 **DYLAN ROSS**
 HT: 192 cm
 WT: 87 kg
 POSITION: BACK
 LEAGUE GAMES: 77

18 **BAILEY ROGERS**
 HT: 185 cm
 WT: 78 kg
 POSITION: MID/BACK
 LEAGUE GAMES: 23

19 **NICK WINMAR**
 HT: 189 cm
 WT: 87 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: 22

20 **MATT GUELFİ**
 HT: 184 cm
 WT: 79 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: 5

21 **ZAC LANGDON**
 HT: 175 cm
 WT: 75 kg
 POSITION: MID/FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: 11

22 **TOM SHANAHAN**
 HT: 185 cm
 WT: 81 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: 21

24 **MITCH ANDREWS**
 HT: 196 cm
 WT: 92 kg
 POSITION: RUCK
 LEAGUE GAMES: 96

25 **JESSE LAURIE**
 HT: 186 cm
 WT: 87 kg
 POSITION: BACK
 LEAGUE GAMES: 68

26 **ANTON HAMP**
 HT: 190 cm
 WT: 85 kg
 POSITION: UTILITY
 LEAGUE GAMES: 89

27 **ALEX MANUEL**
 HT: 188 cm
 WT: 80 kg
 POSITION: FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: 7

28 **MATT PALFREY**
 HT: 185 cm
 WT: 74 kg
 POSITION: UTILITY
 LEAGUE GAMES: 14

29 **MAX BENTLEY**
 HT: 182 cm
 WT: 80 kg
 POSITION: BACK/MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: 9

31 **MORGAN DAVIES**
 HT: 182 cm
 WT: 75kg
 POSITION: MID/FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: 5

32 **RYAN MURPHY**
 HT: 170 cm
 WT: 70 kg
 POSITION: BACK
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

33 **BEN HIGGS**
 HT: 193 cm
 WT: 82 kg
 POSITION: FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: 3

34 **BAILEY BANFIELD**
 HT: 188 cm
 WT: 87 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: 2

35 **JUSTIN SPEED**
 HT: 190 cm
 WT: 93 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: 8

36 **JOHN WILLIAMS**
 HT: 189 cm
 WT: 84 kg
 POSITION: UTILITY
 LEAGUE GAMES: 45

37 **HARRY MCCrackEN**
 HT: 181 cm
 WT: 78 kg
 POSITION: MID/BACK
 LEAGUE GAMES: 16

38 **JACK GRIFFITHS**
 HT: 180 cm
 WT: 80 kg
 POSITION: BACK
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

45 **FRASER GILBERT**
 HT: 192 cm
 WT: 85 kg
 POSITION: BACK
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

46 **BRETT WILSON**
 HT: 177 cm
 WT: 76 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

47 **ADEN WILKINS**
 HT: 190 cm
 WT: 84 kg
 POSITION: BACK
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

39 **LUKE MADDOCK**
 HT: 192 cm
 WT: 92 kg
 POSITION: BACK
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

40 **EDDIE SIMPSON**
 HT: 197 cm
 WT: 96 kg
 POSITION: FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

41 **SAM BEVAN**
 HT: 185 cm
 WT: 81 kg
 POSITION: FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: 21

48 **DAVID EHLERS**
 HT: 194 cm
 WT: 82 kg
 POSITION: FWD/RUCK
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

49 **MASON WHITEHEAD**
 HT: 178 cm
 WT: 72 kg
 POSITION: BACK/MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

50 **JEREMY GODDARD**
 HT: 202 cm
 WT: 95 kg
 POSITION: RUCK
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

42 **BEAU MAISTER**
 HT: 194 cm
 WT: 94 kg
 POSITION: FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: 129

43 **LACHIE MARTINIS**
 HT: 184 cm
 WT: 76 kg
 POSITION: BACK
 LEAGUE GAMES: 96

44 **GERRICK WEEDON**
 HT: 186 cm
 WT: 87 kg
 POSITION: FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: 50

51 **MATT EHLERS**
 HT: 194 cm
 WT: 79 kg
 POSITION: FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

52 **CJ OAKLEY**
 HT: 168 cm
 WT: 65 kg
 POSITION: FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: 1

53 **BEN MUSITANO**
 HT: 182 cm
 WT: 75 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

54 **HARRY SINCLAIR**
 HT: 185 cm
 WT: 82 kg
 POSITION: BACK
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

55 **JACOB SIDERIS**
 HT: 165 cm
 WT: 67 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

57 **JOSH BENNETT**
 HT: 177 cm
 WT: 73 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

58 **BAILEY BENNETT**
 HT: 176 cm
 WT: 75 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

59 **TOM LAWRENCE**
 HT: 189 cm
 WT: 79 kg
 POSITION: FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

60 **DYLAN SMALLWOOD**
 HT: 194 cm
 WT: 78 kg
 POSITION: BACK
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

61 **JAKE STERGIU**
 HT: 182 cm
 WT: 73 kg
 POSITION: BACK/MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

62 **LACHIE TWEEDIE**
 HT: 179 cm
 WT: 72 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

63 **DYLAN HOLT**
 HT: 183 cm
 WT: 78 kg
 POSITION: FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

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64 **COREY MITCHELL**
 HT: 165 cm
 WT: 60 kg
 POSITION: FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

65 **OLIVER EASTLAND**
 HT: 196 cm
 WT: 90 kg
 POSITION: RUCK/FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

66 **BEN RUSHFORTH**
 HT: 178 cm
 WT: 75 kg
 POSITION: BACK
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

67 **SHAQ MORTON**
 HT: 175 cm
 WT: 75 kg
 POSITION: BACK
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

68 **TYSON ENGLAND**
 HT: 180 cm
 WT: 77 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

70 **HARRISON WROTH**
 HT: 182 cm
 WT: 76 kg
 POSITION: WING/BACK
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

71 **JACOB DELAPORTE**
 HT: 190 cm
 WT: 80 kg
 POSITION: BACK
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

72 **BEN DELAPORTE**
 HT: 196 cm
 WT: 84 kg
 POSITION: MID/FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

73 **KAIDEN GILBERT**
 HT: 195 cm
 WT: 89 kg
 POSITION: FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

74 **CAM QUENBY**
 HT: 178 cm
 WT: 85 kg
 POSITION: BACK
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

MURPHY REMAINS AT THE HELM
 BY KEN CASELLAS

Inspirational midfielder Jake Murphy will lead the Claremont league side into battle again this season, with brilliant forward Ian Richardson his deputy.

This will be the fourth year in a row that the 27-year-old Murphy will be captain of the Tigers. In the 91-year history of Claremont only two men have been captain of the club for more than four years --- Graham Moss and George Moloney.

Moss, the 1976 Brownlow medallist when he was captain of Essendon, was the Claremont leader for seven seasons and Moloney, the 1936 Sandover medallist, led the Tigers for five years.

Sonny Maffina, the 1949 Sandover medallist, and Jaxon Crabb, winner of the Sandover Medal in 2005, each led Claremont for four seasons.

Murphy, a tigerish left-footer, was a member of the West Australian under-16 side and under-18 squad and was co-captain with Jess Laurie of the Claremont colts in 2008. He made his league debut against South Fremantle at Fremantle Oval on August 30, 2008.

A league premiership player in 2011 and 2012, Murphy has made 114 league appearances as well as playing in nine Foxtel Cup matches and one match for Western Australia. He won the E. B. Cook Medal as Claremont's fairest-and-best league player in 2013 when he finished third in the Sandover Medal.

Murphy and Richardson will head a leadership group of Ryan Neates, Beau Maister, Aaron Holt, Tom Lee and Ryan Lim.



CONDON AND WHITE ARE ON BOARD

BY KEN CASELLAS

Completing Claremont's senior coaching panel in 2017 are multiple WAFL premiership players Damien Condon (50) and Craig White (32).

Victorian-born Condon played for Camberwell and Port Melbourne in the VFA competition and was a member of East Fremantle league premiership sides in 1992, 1994 and 1998. He played at full-back, centre-half-back, centre-half-forward and full-forward and also was a member of winning West Australian sides against South Australia in 1993 and 1994.

In 2000 Condon was an assistant coach at Subiaco and played 18 matches for the Lions that season.

White, a skilful half-forward and half-back flanker, hails from Williams and played 192 league matches for South Fremantle before his retirement at the end of the 2015 season.

He played in four premiership sides for the Bulldogs --- 2003 (colts), 2004 (reserves) and 2005 and 2009 (league).



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KEN CASELLAS TALKS TO THE COACHES...

GEOFF VALENTINE



The latent talent and the positivity among the senior playing group have greatly impressed Geoff Valentine in his role as the overall defensive coach at Claremont this year.

The 47-year-old Valentine has excellent credentials for the job.

He was born in Darwin, the family moved to Perth when he was 14 and his start in football was with North Beach in the amateurs. He was a member of a premiership side with North Beach and represented the State amateur side which defeated Victoria and clinched victory in an amateur carnival in Perth in 1991.

He joined West Perth at 22 when Jeff Gieschen joined the club as coach in 1992. That was the same year that Darren Harris started as a player at West Perth. Valentine, a half-back flanker and wingman, was a member of the West Perth league side which lost by five goals to Claremont in the 1993 WAFL grand final. He helped West Perth to win the premiership in 1995, and after the 1996 season and 56 league games he was ready for a fresh challenge and he moved to Victoria where he had three seasons with the Wodonga for one premiership.

Then he went to Sydney and coached Cambletown in the Sydney AFL (now NEAFL) competition, as well as being involved with New South Wales State teams. Valentine returned to WA in 2003 and was West Perth's backline coach when the club won the premiership that year. He continued in that capacity for two more years, as well as acting as football manager for about 18 months.

"I then got back into teaching and I've been at Guildford Grammar School for ten years as director of football and in charge of a group in the boarding house," he said. He was coach of the Guildford first 18 which won the Alcock Cup in 2015 for the first time in 57 years. In the past two years he has been the defensive coach in the WA State side.

"Claremont is a really positive place and there's a high level of energy and enthusiasm at the moment," he said. "It's an exciting time."

ANDREW EMBLEY



Andrew Embley was a brash and somewhat feisty 17-year-old when he arrived at Claremont in 1999 as a West Coast Eagles youngster under the host club arrangement with the Tigers.

He appeared in 13 league matches for Claremont before the club's affiliation with the Eagles ceased after one year. And now a far wiser and more rounded Embley is back with the Tigers after a 17-year absence.

He has decided to enter the coaching ranks and will be an assistant to Claremont's new senior coach Darren Harris, concentrating on the midfield with Kepler Bradley.

And what's the difference between the 17-year-old and the 35-year-old Embley? "Definitely a lot more wisdom and a lot more maturity," he replies.

Embley, who retired at the end of the 2013 season after an outstanding 250-game AFL career with the Eagles, highlighted by the 2006 premiership victory over the Sydney Swans and the Norm Smith Medal as the best afield on the grand final, admitted that he had no thoughts about becoming a coach.

"I had no aspirations to go down the coaching path," he said. "I have done a fair bit of media work in the past three years, WAFL games on Channel 7 and working for Triple M on AFL matches.

"But I probably missed the game a bit more than I expected ... the team environment, a football club's culture and the camaraderie ... and I started to get itchy feet half way through last year. And when I found that Darren Harris had got the job at Claremont I became interested."

Harris was an assistant to coach John Worsfold when the Eagles won the 2006 flag. "Knowing the character of the guy and what sort of coach he is prompted me to have a couple of conversations with Harro," Embley said. "I thought it would be a great opportunity at a club that has a great history and also being in a really good position to go on and have success over the next couple of years, purely because of the talent and the character in the squad and with the youth coming through."

STEVE TREWHELLA



West Perth legend Steve Trehwella has the perfect credentials for his task as senior coach Darren Harris's assistant in charge of the league side's defensive unit.

He spent the majority of his 174 league matches for West Perth in a back pocket in an outstanding career which included three fairest-and-best awards (1996, 1997 and 2000), the captaincy (2001-2003) and league premierships in 1995, 1999 and 2003.

He is looking forward to this first step back into senior football since he retired after leading West Perth to a 23-point victory over Subiaco in the 2003 grand final. He has been coaching under-age sides at North Beach for the past five years and now the 43-year-old finance broker is excited and ready as he faces his new challenge in football.

Regarding his philosophy as a defensive coach, Trehwella says: "Predominantly we want our men to beat their opponent one on one. Fundamentally, that's my philosophy.

"We've got a few structures we're working on. At the end of the day we want to be pretty stingy and we want to stop the opposition from scoring. From there we obviously want to turn that defence into offence.

"I've been really impressed with the way the group has cracked in and embraced the new coaching staff. I think that our football will be a bit different from what the guys played in previous years, in terms of game style. The attitude and application at training has been great and we have some exciting talent coming through."

Trehwella has enjoyed a long association with Harris, having started his league career with Harris in 1992. "I've known Darren since then and towards the end of my career he coached me as well," he said. "Obviously, the flags are great, but the friendships you make along the way are the highlight of footy."

CRAIG DALTON



Craig Dalton has had a long apprenticeship in football before graduating this year to take up his first post in senior ranks, as an assistant league coach at Claremont in charge of the forwards.

He played in an amateur competition, spent one season with the Darwin Buffaloes, took up coaching juniors, coached the Subiaco 14s and 15s development squads and then was recruited to run the North Beach colts program.

As well as his involvement in football he has owned a successful French polishing business for 25 years. "I've coached for 16 years, starting with the juniors with the Carine Football Club where I also was president for three years and did a bit of everything --- line marking, property stewarding etc.," he said.

A life member at Carine, Dalton explained that his coaching career had involved the development of young players. After his stint as a development coach for Subiaco he has been in charge of the North Beach colts.

"We made the grand final three times in the past four years," he said. "And we won the flag last year, beating University by eight points after having lost to University twice in grand finals."

As Claremont's forward coach Dalton said: "I'm taking a lot of cues from Harro. We've got to tie in as a team."

Dalton said that the general focus for the forwards was to be creative, stay dangerous and defend well when not in possession of the ball. "We want constant movement; we want to stay relevant and we want to be a dangerous, hard-working forward line," he said. "Our forwards will have to be as fit as the midfielders.

"The boys have embraced us and we got some really good feedback from our recent camp. What's been impressive is that the players don't mention the fact that we're not playing at Claremont Oval until June. It is what it is. I haven't heard anyone complain. This will help to bond us."

HARRIS HAS THE MIDAS TOUCH

BY KEN CASELLAS

New senior coach Darren Harris has arrived at Claremont with a reputation of having the Midas touch. As a player and/or a coach, he has been involved in seven premierships and he has been at the helm of the Western Australian State side twice for resounding victories over South Australia and Tasmania in the past two years.

Harris comes with no illusions that premierships are easy to achieve, but he brings a refreshing, positive and confident outlook for the Tigers in 2017.

"I've said for years that you can be really lucky with the people you're with," he said. "I think the thing that has made me lucky is the type of people I've had around me, and I've got a few of those with me now ... Geoff Valentine and Steve Trehwella ... they are two blokes I was really close with at West Perth.

"We have the same philosophy. We want to be a tight-knit group; we want to be hard at it.

"I think it's only a combination of what you do, but there's also the people around you. When you have a lot of people who are on the same page it makes life a little bit easier and gives you the chance to have success.

"But don't forget that I've been involved in five losing grand finals along the way."

The 48-year-old Harris returns to the WAFL competition this year after 12-year absence. But during those 12 years he has retained a strong involvement in football.

"I've always loved being a coach," said Harris, who coached West Perth to a premiership victory over Subiaco in 2003 and retired as coach after the 2005 season.

"During the past 12 years I've had seven years at an AFL level, coached in the VFL and had an involvement with the WA under-16 and under-18 programs as well as being State coach for two years," he said. "I've also my son Tadhg's team, the Carine Cougars in years 6, 7, 8 and 9. Now I feel I'm ready to get back into it.

"The two State wins were great experiences and it is exciting to get back to a WAFL club where you can build some strong relations with people and try to help young men to be at their absolute best and for the Claremont Football Club to have success.

"The first step for me is making sure that our players have a real strong base regarding relationships they have with each other. It is important to make sure that we've got an environment in which we look after each other and help each other.



"If we build that trust and relationship it will lead to us having success. I want to make sure that we have a really hard attack on the ball and a hard attack on the man."

Harris said that he had found the players to be really respectful, explaining: "They tend to listen and really put into action what you are trying to teach them. I would say they are intelligent and driven and genuinely love the club.

"When you think that they haven't really had a home for the past three years and had to do it reasonably tough, they've actually stayed close and united, and that has impressed me.

"Not being able to play our first match at Claremont Oval until June 10 is no great problem. Look at the Canterbury Crusaders in New Zealand. After the earthquakes in Christchurch they played the whole 2011 season away from home and still managed to play in the grand final. So, I don't think that we have a lot to really worry about.

"We'll get there (Claremont Oval) eventually and when we do it will be a great thing. We won't be using that as an excuse. We can't control this situation; all that we can control is to be as best prepared as we can."

Regarding his assistant coaches, Harris said: "We're all on the same page with regards the way we see footy. Another good thing is that they will all challenge; they won't just be yes people; they will push you to make the right decisions, and that's what I need to be successful."

For the record, Harris was born in Victoria and played his early senior football for the Wodonga Bulldogs in the Ovens and Murray League, winning a premiership with that club in 1987. He then played for three seasons with Golden Square in the Bendigo League and was a premiership player there in 1988 and 1989.

Harris, a skilful rover, moved to WA in 1992 and made 109 league appearances with West Perth and was captain of that club's premiership side in 1995 when he was awarded the Simpson Medal for his splendid performance in the side's 56-point victory over Subiaco. He also won the club's fairest-and-best award that season.

After leaving West Perth at the end of the 1996 season, Harris was captain-coach of the Wodonga Raiders and led the side to the 1998 premiership in the Ovens and Murray League. In 2000 Harris became an assistant and development coach with the NSW/ACT Rams in the TAC Cup before returning to WA to coach West Perth from 2002 to 2005 when the Falcons beat Subiaco by 23 points in the 2003 grand final.

In 2006, Harris joined the West Coast Eagles as an assistant (forward coach) to John Worsfold and was closely involved with the club's AFL premiership victory over the Sydney Swans that year. After leaving the Eagles at the end of 2008 Harris was development manager at Carlton for two years before he became the coach of Carlton's VFL affiliate club, the Northern Bullants, for two seasons before deciding to settle in WA.

WINMAR MAKING HIS THIRD START

BY KEN CASELLAS

Nick Winmar retains fond memories of playing in the 2009 colts grand final under lights at Subiaco Oval when Claremont came from behind to beat Peel Thunder by 67 points.

He recalls the match as "the Nat Fyfe show" and an exciting moment in his football career which included being a member of the West Australian 18s side which won the national championship earlier that year.

And now he is setting his sights on joining 2009 colts premiership players Ryan Neates, Gerrick Weedon, Matt Davies, Keifer Yu and Aaron Holt in the Claremont league side this year.

This will be his third start with the Tigers. He began in the colts in 2008, was drafted by St Kilda at the end of 2009 and then returned to Claremont for the 2013 season after being delisted by the Saints.

After a splendid 2013 Winmar travelled east to study for a Bachelor of Architecture and Environment at Sydney University and played for three seasons with the Sydney University side. Now he's ready to write another chapter of his football life at Claremont.

The 25-year-old Winmar returned to Perth in mid-November last year and has been very busy working with his uncle at his curtains and blinds company --- and was undecided about continuing in football.

"But I'm now more than happy that I decided to have a go, after Neates (with whom he now shares a house), Jake Murphy, Ian Richardson, Jye Bolton and Tom Lee got into my ear," Winmar said. "I was flat out with work pre-Christmas and I started pre-season training a bit late.

"So it is now a matter of improving my fitness and I'll probably start with the reserves."



Winmar, a willowy, smooth-moving versatile player, has excelled as a wingman, a half-forward and a running half-back flanker. He has no regrets at his three years at St Kilda where he managed to play just two AFL matches and was named as an emergency about 20 times.

He played in rounds nine and ten in May 2011, against Melbourne at the Docklands and the Fremantle Dockers at Subiaco Oval. "I well remember the first game and the first contest when I was cleaned up by Colin Sylvia or Brent Moloney," he said. "It was like running into a brick wall.

"It was the indigenous round, which was pretty cool. They asked me if I wanted to flip the coin and I said there was no way I was going to do that in my first game. I was the sub for the next game against the Dockers, but Brendan Goddard was concussed in the first 30 seconds and so I played the whole game. I played at half-back against Haydn Ballantyne and Steven Hill."

LAURIE, THE DROUGHT BUSTER

BY KEN CASELLAS

Rugged defender Jess Laurie is back at Claremont after three years in Melbourne and the dual Tigers league premiership player can lay strong claims of adopting the nickname of Drought Buster.

While in Victoria following his dream of becoming an actor, film-maker and script writer, Laurie continued his wonderful football career and enjoyed the excitement of helping two clubs end very long premiership droughts.

He left Perth after the 2013 season and in 2014 he was a member of the Melbourne University Blacks side which won the premiership flag in the premier division of the Victoria Amateur Football Association for the first time for 40 years.

Laurie then joined his former Claremont teammate Luke Blackwell at Aberfeldie which went through the 2015 season undefeated, culminating with a 76-point triumph over Greenvale in the grand final of the Essendon Football League. This ended a 41-year premiership drought for Aberfeldie.

Now back in Perth, the 26-year-old Laurie, with a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Masters in Professional Communication, specialising in directing and script writing, is thoroughly enjoying his pre-season preparation under new coach Darren Harris.

"The team at Claremont is super young and super enthusiastic, which makes training so much easier," he said. "There's so much energy there and the pre-season has been wonderful."

Laurie hails from Denmark in the Great Southern territory of Western Australia and die-hard Tigers fans still fondly recall his debut as a 15-year-old in the colts side against Peel at Rushton Park.

He endured the heartbreak of playing in the 2010 league grand final when a goal in the dying moments gave Swan Districts a one-point victory. But he then went on to make strong contributions to Claremont's grand final victories over Subiaco and East Fremantle in the following two years.

Laurie, a member of the State 16s and 18s squads, has notched 68 league matches as well as eight Foxtel Cup appearances for Claremont.

He said that he decided to move to Melbourne in 2014 to learn more about the film industry. "I wanted to take a step forward in either the direction or script writing side of things," he said.



"I started working on different film sets and my first job was as a production runner on the feature film *Oddball*, featuring Shane Jacobson (the star of the 2006 film *Kenny*). Then I worked for ten weeks on a web series called *Four Quarters*, an AFL-themed comedy, before I got my first long-term stint, working on the NBC American production *Childhood's End*.

"I've also made a couple of short films and entered them in festivals. Some got in and some didn't, and I realised that there was no real fall-back or pathway for emerging film-makers, in a sense unlike the pathway for emerging footballers."

Therefore, he established an office in Fremantle and created and designed haView, a video screening platform to provide a better means for emerging film-makers for professional discovery.

LEE HAS EYES ON A FLAG

BY KEN CASELLAS

A wonderfully committed and courageous act by Tom Lee to charge into the fray in a desperate bid to prevent Subiaco from clearing the ball out of defence in a scratch match at Leederville Oval on March 4 resulted in damage to his shoulder.

His spirited effort came as a sharp reminder of his unspoken vow to play a significant part in helping the Tigers to return to prominence in the WAFL competition this season.

The good news is that Lee suffered no serious damage and that he is hopeful of lining up for the round three clash against Perth at Lathlain Park on April 1 --- after the March 25 bye, following the first-round match against East Fremantle. Rehabilitation after the AC joint sprain includes regaining stability and joint movement and decreasing the pain.

The 26-year-old Lee is back at Tigerland after four seasons with St Kilda and his goal for 2017 is to help Claremont to qualify for the finals before making an assault on the premiership flag.

"It's pretty black and white," he said. "That's what the whole group is after. I'd love to play my part, have some input and help us win another premiership."

Lee has suffered from loose joints and has undergone two operations on each shoulder (two reconstructions and two clean-outs) in 2013 and 2014 and reconstructions of both ankles in 2015. As well as that, he has had an operation to repair a fractured bone in his right hand.

Lee was drafted at the age of 17, taken at pick No. 60 by Port Adelaide in the 2008 AFL draft after having played only a couple of matches for the Claremont colts in 2008. He was delisted at the end of 2009 and now says that he learnt a fair bit about what it takes to play at the AFL level. "I wasn't quite up to it and was just a young pup learning," he admits.

Back with Claremont in 2010, Lee made only four league appearances before his break-out season the following year when he became a regular league player and was a member of the side's premiership triumph over Subiaco.

He enjoyed a magnificent season in 2012 when he was the club's leading goalkicker with 60 goals, a tally which included seven in the round 16 match against Swan Districts and four bags of six goals. He also kicked ten goals in three Foxtel Cup matches, including six in the winning grand final side over Werribee at Subiaco Oval.

Lee finished second to Kane Mitchell in the E. B. Cook Medal for the league side's fairest-and-best player in 2012 and was chosen in the WAFL Team of the Year.

Such was his dominant form that Lee was recruited by St Kilda. But he was beset by injuries and managed just 17 AFL matches (ten in 2013, three in 2014, none in 2015 when laid low by a mid-season ankle injury and four in 2016). As well as that he played 42 VFL matches for Sandringham.

Lee, a high-flying key forward, had the great experience of playing on almost every major ground in Australia, apart from the MCG, and that was due mainly to the fact that St Kilda's home ground is the Docklands.

He played at Subiaco Oval (against the Dockers), in Brisbane, on the Gold Coast, in Canberra, Sydney, Launceston, Adelaide, Geelong and against the Sydney Swans in Wellington.

A renowned goalkicker, Lee added another string to his bow when he played as a key defender for much of the 2015 and 2016 seasons.

Early in 2015, St Kilda coach Alan Richardson suggested to Lee that he should switch to a defensive role. "I went down back (at full-back and centre-half-back) and loved playing in defence," Lee said.



MORABITO HOPING FOR A MAY DEBUT

BY KEN CASELLAS



Anthony Morabito, Claremont's high-profile recruit, is leaving no stone unturned as he works diligently towards a return to action, hopefully in May.

The 25-year-old Morabito is spending between 12 and 14 hours a week during his rehabilitation which is aimed at strengthening his damaged right quadriceps and building balance in his body.

He jogs and sprints during Claremont's training sessions, has extensive programs for gym work and pilates and receives constant physiotherapy treatment.

Morabito received a serious injury to his right quadriceps when playing for Peel Thunder in the WAFL elimination final against East Perth last September. This forced him to miss the semi-final against West Perth, the preliminary final against South Fremantle and Peel's grand final victory over Subiaco.

He underwent intricate surgery in Melbourne where the tendon which had been torn from the bone in the right thigh was stitched back in place.

"It was pretty unfortunate," Morabito said. "It happened when I was pushed when kicking the ball. All the reports from the surgeon after the operation have been most positive. It was quite a significant operation, so I'm looking at building slowly.

"Hopefully, playing in round four, five or six is the aim we're looking at. But in saying that it's all about getting up and going, and there will be no pressure or push. I've been in this position a few times and it is better to be fully prepared than under-prepared. I'd rather be digging in for the long term than pushing too hastily. I want to get myself up and go for the next few years."

Claremont recruited Morabito after he was delisted by the Fremantle Dockers at the end of the 2016 AFL season. He said that friendships cemented eight years ago with Nick Winmar, Hayden Busher and Ryan Neates have played a major role in his decision to join Claremont this year as he prepares to enjoy the next phase of his tumultuous football career blighted by injury.

"I've always been an admirer of Claremont from a distance and I'm looking forward to getting involved in a club environment, getting my body up and being able to contribute on the field," he said.

"Back in 2009 I went through the State 18s where I had a good group of mates, including Nick, Hayden and Ryan, and I'm looking forward to playing with them again this year."

Morabito, chosen by Fremantle in the 2009 AFL draft, has experienced a roller coaster road in football. He played in 23 AFL matches for the Dockers in 2010, including the winning elimination final against Hawthorn at Subiaco Oval and the losing second semi-final against Geelong at the MCG.

But then injuries cut short a most promising career which saw him manage only another three matches for the Dockers (in 2014) before being delisted.

He has survived three reconstructions to his left knee and has overcome hamstring and ankle injuries during his career. He managed a full pre-season preparation 12 months ago, but was unable to force his way into the Dockers side. Instead, he made 13 league appearances with Peel Thunder, the club he joined as a junior, after starting his football in Harvey.

Morabito is a fast, strong and versatile footballer who has been used in a variety of roles --- on a wing, as an inside midfielder, a forward flanker and a defender. "I enjoy most roles, particularly on a wing where it is a bit more free-running," he said. "And I enjoyed my defensive role at Peel last year."

LE FANU CONTINUES HIS FOOTBALL JOURNEY

BY KEN CASELLAS

Redoubtable defender Charlie Le Fanu has taken a circuitous route on his way to joining Claremont for the 2017 season.

The 23-year-old Le Fanu is an original product of the famous Mines Rovers club in Kalgoorlie and his signing brings back memories of Jack Reeves and Brendon Bermingham, who were recruited from Mines Rovers by Claremont in 1936 and became premiership heroes.

Reeves played in Claremont's hat-trick of premierships in 1938-39-40 and Bermingham was a member of the 1939 premiership side.

In Claremont's first 25 years, the Goldfields was the club's most productive country recruiting ground, with other notable players from that distant area including Edward (Pud) Earle (club captain in 1928), Albert Rowley (who played 65 league matches from 1927 to 1932), Bill O'Neill, from Southern Cross who played 98 matches, was a triple premiership player, captain in 1947 and 1948 and club fairest-and-best winner in 1947, classy winger Tony Bizacca and outstanding centremen Sonny Maffina from Boulder City, who made 114 league appearances, was captain-coach in 1952-53 and 1957 and non-playing coach in 1958. Maffina was Claremont's fairest-and-best player and also won the Sandover Medal in 1949 before winning the Simpson Medal for his wonderful performances at the national carnival in Brisbane in 1950.

Le Fanu, a rangy, hard-nosed and uncompromising defender, was a member of Subiaco's premiership sides in 2014 and 2015.

"I took it easy in 2016 when I needed to knuckle down to complete my university studies," he said. "Now I'm feeling fit and am ready to give it a real crack." He played 37 matches for the Subiaco colts side in 2011-12 before appearing in 15 reserves matches and 44 in league ranks for the Lions.

Then, after a brief rest following Subiaco's grand final triumph over West Perth in the 2015 grand final, Le Fanu joined the Nightcliff Tigers in mid-season in the Northern Territory League summer competition. Jackson Starceвич, a former Claremont player and a friend of Le Fanu, encouraged his mate to play in Darwin.

"I flew in every weekend and it was good fun, but very hot," Le Fanu said. "I played eight matches, mainly on a wing, and it was completely different football; it was all running hard and it was really hot. My first game, against the Tiwi Bombers, was a shock to the system. It was 36 degrees and 85 per cent humidity."

Last year Le Fanu completed his degree in construction management and economics and during the year he played a handful of games for the University amateurs, coached by former Claremont and Fremantle Dockers star Andrew Browne.

"I've been working for the past three years with my own gardening company, but now I'm looking for a job in construction management," he said.

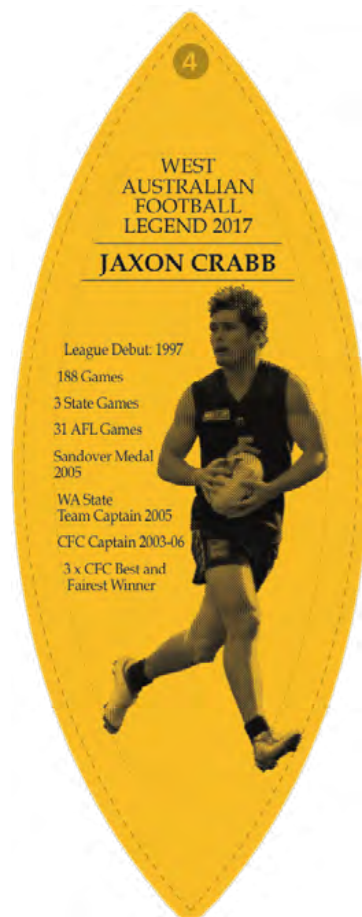
Playing a strong part in his decision to join Claremont was the encouragement of his friend, powerful Tigers defender Matt Davies. Le Fanu also is happy to find familiar faces at training in friend Tom Lee and Keifer Yu and Ryan Lim, who were at Hale School when he was a boarder at that school where his classmates included former Tigers league players Sam Fong and Lachy Davey.

"It was always going to be a tough decision to leave Subiaco," Le Fanu said. "I've got a lot of mates there, but after speaking to Darcy (Claremont's football manager Darcy Coffey) and Harro (new coach Darren Harris) as well as some of my friends at the club, like Tommy Lee, I could see that it all was positive and that there was a great environment. This is a great opportunity for me."



CLAREMONT SALUTES A CHAMPION JAXON CRABB IS 2017 CLUB LEGEND

By Ken Casellas



Jaxon Crabb is a member of an exclusive club at Claremont, being one of only six men to have been captain of the league side, won a club fairest-and best award and a Sandover Medal.

A champion centreman and midfielder, Crabb played 188 matches for the Tigers, was captain of the league side for four seasons, won the club fairest-and-best award in 2001, 2003 and 2007 and was awarded the Sandover Medal in 2005.

A fearless, hard-running, talented and inspirational player, Crabb embodied the spirit of the Tigers and the following statement defines his wonderful personality and selflessness.

“In life, you can choose your mates,” he said. “But you have no say in choosing your

teammates in football. And I couldn't have been blessed with a better bunch of teammates. If I had the choice I wouldn't have chosen any different players or person from the Claremont Football Club.”

Crabb has now been honoured as Claremont's 2017 match-day legend.

In 1996 he made ten appearances in the Claremont colts side when he did not have Alcock Cup commitments with the Christ Church Grammar School side and he had a remarkable break-out season as a 17-year-old in 1997, making his league debut in the round-19 match against East Perth at Claremont Oval when he played on a wing, had 18 kicks and made five handpasses.

Two months later he was a member of the Claremont colts premiership side which came from 20 points behind 15 minutes into the final quarter to defeat East Fremantle by six points in the grand final. Earlier in the season Crabb represented Western Australia at the national under-18 championship carnival and was chosen in the all-Australian under-18 team.

He was drafted by the West Coast Eagles at the end of that year and spent three years on the club's list, making 15 AFL appearances.

A tremendous on-field leader, Crabb would have played many more than 188 league matches for the Tigers had it not been for his time with the Eagles and then being a rookie with AFL club Port Adelaide's in 2002.

After shining for South Adelaide in the SANFL competition, Crabb was upgraded to Port Adelaide's senior list and played in rounds 18, 19, 20 and 21. However, at the end of the season Port Adelaide told Crabb that the club had a powerful midfield and didn't need any more mature age midfielders.

After being delisted he returned to Perth and in Claremont's round one fixture against Peel at Claremont Oval in 2003 he lasted only 42 minutes before he received a serious injury to his left knee which prevented him from playing again that year.

In a marking duel at the railway end of the ground a leaping Crabb was buffeted and fell to the ground before a pack of players crashed on to him. He tore the anterior cruciate ligament of his left knee and underwent a full knee reconstruction. It is a testament to his dedication and perseverance that he made a full recovery and went on to shine at Claremont for another five seasons.



SHIRLEY AND ED HONOURED CLUB LIFE MEMBERS & MERIT AWARDS

By Ken Casellas

Volunteers are the lifeblood of WAFL clubs and two stalwarts who have served the Claremont Football Club diligently for more than 20 years have been rewarded for their untiring efforts with life membership of the club.

Shirley Medcalf has been an indefatigable and hard-working member of the catering group since its inception in the early 1990s and Ed Coyle has served in a variety of roles since becoming the colts propertyman in 1993.

And two other faithful servants, doctor Lionel Lim and physiotherapist Anthony McEvoy, received merit awards at the club's annual meeting in December.

Mrs Medcalf's cheery smile and wonderful disposition brightens the club premises at every home game and at numerous functions throughout the year. She is uncomplaining and permanently happy. Apart from the catering side of things --- with her trifle a highlight of every president's match-day luncheon --- she undertook the onerous task of washing the tea towels and tablecloths every week for many years.

Coyle spent 18 years as the propertyman for the colts and then the league sides. He has also served as a committee-man on the club's Past Players and Officials Association, was involved for years as the man in charge of preparing hamburgers for the colts players after their fixtures, was involved periodically with the Show parking volunteers and has been the timekeeper for the league side since 2012.

Dr Lim and McEvoy form the vitally important engine room of the club, with the task of treating and rehabilitating injured and ill footballers. Dr Lim has enhanced his reputation with his wonderful care of Claremont players as well as providing medical care in recent years for the WA under-16 and under-18 sides.

He started at Claremont in 2004 and McEvoy began as a 22-year-old as the club's head physiotherapist a year later. “Lionel started at the club just before me and I went to his clinic and introduced myself,” McEvoy said. “And this has led to a lifelong friendship. His receptionists refer to me as the boyfriend because we spend so much time together away from our wives. He's one of the greats.”

McEvoy was born and educated in Kalgoorlie and became a Tigers supporter at a young age because his grandfather was a dedicated Claremont follower. “This is my 13th season with Claremont and while the premierships have been memorable, all the mates I have made along the way have been important,” he said.



McEvoy has fond memories of his first match as club physio. It was a round-one fixture against West Perth in 2005 at the Claremont Showgrounds. The Tigers won a thriller by one point.

“I remember that Rory Walton was sick every time he came off, and the first time he came off the vomit landed on my shoes,” McEvoy said. “Micky Warren hurt his foot, but we had a good win. In the next match, against East Perth at Leederville Oval Rory got a very nasty head knock from a knee and was in a very bad state.

“He was confused and refused to hop on to the stretcher and Lionel, mindful of player safety, decided that we should carry him from the ground. This led to some fun times with the WAFL during the week, answering questions why we didn't use the stretcher.”

McEvoy himself has come to grief in the cause of duty. “Once I tore a quad, racing Lionel out to an injured player,” he explained. “I was disappointed that he was beating me, so I put on the after-burners and tore the quad. I also tweaked a calf muscle when doing an injury assessment with Keifer Yu along the boundary.”

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CLAREMONT WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

2017 SEASON STARTS WITH A ROAR!

By Angel Hayward

The Claremont Women's Football club starts its 30th year of contributing to Women's AFL with an increase in players with the highest number of girls at training with 70 girls at its highest peak.

The Tigers started their pre-season mid-November with new League Head Coach Patrick Litherland and Bryan Bennington League Assistant Coach coming aboard. Charmaine Rogers remains in the Senior Coaching team with the same commitment and dedication to the club that has held her passion for the past 3 decades transitioning from player to coach flawlessly as League Assistant Coach.

New arrival Edward Beck (Reserves Head Coach) has come on deck to coach the reserves side with Austin Roberts returning to assist. Old favourite Emily Johnston (Rogers Cup Head Coach) and new Assistant Coach Bronte Ryan will also be teaming up to coach the Rogers Cup team. Callum Cant will also be returning to be the Strength and Conditioning Coach.

The Tigers will be able to successfully outfit all three teams this year: League, Reserves and the Rogers Cup (Youth). The National Women's AFL League has inspired many fresh faces to attend training on Tuesday and Thursday 6pm at John XXIII College Oval.

The committee has been meeting since December with all ten positions filled with players and dedicated and passionate AFL women fanatics. This year is a big year for the Western Australian Women's League who alongside with the Tigers will commemorate 30 years of female footy. It is also the first year of the Tiger logo transitioning from the Piranha logo which was retained for 29 years.

The club would like to acknowledge the hard work Eleanor Grincer (outgoing CWFC President), Amanda Robertson (CWFC President) and Graham Moss (CEO) have done in ensuring the seamless transition of the Claremont Women's Football Club and the Claremont Football Club working alongside together.

A huge welcome and thank you to the coaches, returning and new players whose dedication and tireless commitment have ensured the Tigers will start the season with a roar.

The first four games of the season will be away. However, we encourage all people interested in Women's AFL to attend our first home game vs West Perth, on the 7th of May with the Youth girls playing at 10:30am Reserves at 12pm and League 2pm (location to be confirmed).

The current Claremont Women's Football Club website is in the midst of being reviewed but for more information about the club or to become a Social Club member contact the Tigers at claremontwfc@gmail.com

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