



ON THE BALL!

THE NEWSLETTER OF SWANSMEN INC.

A COTERIE GROUP OF THE SWAN DISTRICTS FOOTBALL CLUB INC.



2024 **ISSUE 1** - March

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2024 - New Year, New Look

The year kicked off with the renovation of the west wall in the Presidents Lounge early January followed by the annual Planning Seminar in mid-February. For full details of each refer to the articles further in this edition.

Season 2024 kicked off with the first round of the WAFLW on Saturday 2nd March against Claremont at Revo Fitness Stadium. The Rogers Cup girls kicked off the day with a 10-point win. It was set up in the first half with Swans going into the long break scoring 5.3 to 2.6. Inaccurate kicking in the third quarter, 0.7 to 1.0, kept the home team in the match but an even last term, 2.2 to 3.2 saw Swans come away with the win. The star of the day was Madison Fisher who booted 6 of Swans 7 goals. Inaccurate kicking seemed to be the flavour of the day with the League side down going down by 16 points even though they had one less scoring opportunity. After an even first quarter Swans were kept scoreless in the second going into the half time 21 points behind, 4.5 to 1.2. The girls up the ante after half time outscoring Claremont 3.5 to 3.0 but it was not enough to claw back the deficit and bring home the four points.

The girls will be at home to Peel on Sunday 10th March so pop on down and have a squiz if you have any free time.



Nik Rokahr

On the Men's front, the Football Department have signed reigning fairest and best winners at their respective SANFL and VFL clubs, Nik Rokahr (Norwood) and Jye Chalcraft (Geelong), along with Victorian recruits Tom Panuccio and Mitch Roche, all small forward/mids. Returning to the Club are Jake Pasini after four years at Port Adelaide, Leigh Kholmann and Bryce Watson. Andrew says it is exciting to see the talent and knowledge his new recruits have brought with them from their previous clubs. The players have been hard at work on the training track over the summer under the watchful eyes of Andrew and the coaching staff.

The first men's game of the year is on Easter Saturday 30th March



Jye Chalcraft

against West Coast. Get down and support the players in their first home game of the season and drop into the Swansmen Lounge and renew acquaintances over a cold drink.

The Club's 90th Annual General Meeting was held at the Club on Thursday 29th February. A good representation of members was present to hear how the Club fared for 2023 and where it is heading for 2024. Of note, loyal Swans member and Swansmen Peter Bacon received Life Membership to the Club. Ten-year Long Service Certificates were also awarded to Dave Cianciosi and Jim Benson. Our congratulations go out to all three.

We are putting together an interesting list of guest speakers for our dinner meetings, with League coach Andrew Pruyne the first cab off the rank. Refer to the **Coming Events** calendar at the end of the newsletter for further details. Please put the dates into your diaries **NOW** so that we have strong support in numbers and a successful financial year for the Club.

We are hoping that all past and recent members of the Swansmen will re-join in 2024 and together with the Judda Bee network, we look forward to an enjoyable and successful year both on and off the field.

Trevor Hoy (President)



MARCH DINNER MEETING

Tuesday 19th MARCH 2024 6:30pm

Presidents Suite Upstairs

GUEST SPEAKER

Andrew Pruyn – League Coach

Andrew will give a rundown on the form of the squad over the summer and his expectations of the competition this year. What will be his assessment after the pre-season games?

We look forward to all members enjoying some good company and a good meal at our first meeting. Why not bring a guest along?

Numbers must be confirmed before Tuesday 12th March by one of the following methods:

RSVP via the online link at [RSVP](#) or phone Trevor Hoy on 0405 453 042

Please note, that if you RSVP 'Yes' to a dinner and do not attend the Swansmen still have to pay for your meal.

Invite a Guest

We ask all members to RSVP to the dinners early and we ask that you endeavour to bring along a guest so that we get good numbers and increase our profile.

Membership Drive

A reminder for those who have not renewed their membership to please do so. An email will be sent out. Subscriptions have been reduced to \$35 and can be paid by any of the following methods:

- Pay at the Club Office (together with your Club Membership) and add the Swansmen membership
- Pay online via the Club webpage
- Pay at the first Dinner Meeting
- Pay direct to the Swansmen bank account, BSB: 036-080 A/C: 276254, include your name.

Annual SWANSMEN Planning Seminar

Sunday 18th February saw a good attendance at the Planning Seminar which was held at Maurice Embley' place in Bassendean. 14 members were present as well as the Clubs CEO Jeff Dennis. It was once again a very productive afternoon. Club CEO Jeff Dennis gave an update of the Clubs affairs. He reinforced the Club values and the importance of engaging our community to remain relevant and sustainable. The Clubs 3-year strategic plan commenced in 2024. He gave an update on the Oval Redevelopment and the upgrade of the lights.

Some key ideas from the seminar were:

- Lounge Guests for a Day
- Boost Membership



Members and partners enjoying the after-Seminar dinner

- A 100 Club Reverse Raffle
- Ladies Night as an extra event
- Improvements to the Swansmen Lounge

Women's Season Launch and Player Auction

The Women's Season Launch was held at the Club on Tuesday 27th February. A good attendance of players and supporters saw the girls receive their jumpers and participate in the Player Auction. There were 6 groups up for grabs and they were hotly contested. There was some serious bidding between the major sponsors present with a total of \$15100 collected. With the opening bids exceeding our meagre \$1000 we were no match for the big guns with the cheapest group selling for \$2000. Better luck next year.

Thursday Night – Swans Members Night

The Club Members nights will kick off again on Thursday 7th March. Supporters are invited to Steel Blue Oval on Thursday nights to watch the team train and then join in the following activities in the main bar:

League Team Announcements – after training, Andrew will announce the senior team.

Chase the Ace – The starting jackpot is \$1,150.

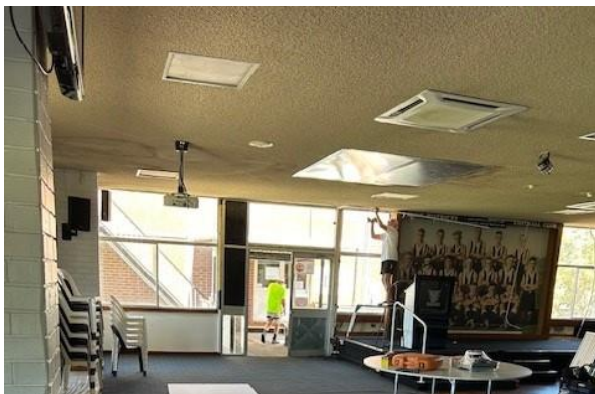
Free Members Draw – The starting jackpot is \$1,000. The lucky member must be in attendance and claim the prize within 2 minutes – otherwise a jackpot of \$100 is added.



The Members Bar Clock has been given a well overdue facelift. Thanks to Malaga Print for the artwork and Des Hardiman for organising

Presidents Lounge West Wall Renovations

The Swansmen were given the mammoth task of renovating the west wall of the Presidents Lounge. Works would include demolition, which included removing the existing 1934 inaugural team photo and frame, painting the inside of the windows black, installing timber stud frames, insulation and gyprock the full height and width of the room and flushing, sanding and painting the new wall. Worked commenced on Monday 8th January and was complete Monday 15th January. A big thanks to the following band of volunteers who pitched in for part or all of the work period: Gary Cox, Rod Greene, Des Hardiman, Scott Howard, Bob Hutchinson, Ted Martin, Robin McVee, Joe Paterniti, Trevor Swarbrick and Ross Wheldon. A special thanks to **Gary Cox** for organising material, co-ordinating the works and doing most of the grunt work.



Beginning of day one



Bob Hutchinson and Joe Paterniti hard at it day one



Gary Cox and Trevor Hoy reflect on the progress at the end of day two



Final day sanding

Coming Events

Date	Event	Time	Venue/ Guest	Guest Speaker
Tuesday 19st March	DINNER MEETING 1	6:30pm	PPOA Room	Andrew Pruyne
Thursday 21st March	Men's Season Launch	6:30pm	Presidents Suite	
Sunday 24th March	Lounge Busy Bee	9:30am	SDFC	
Saturday 30th March	1 st GAME - SD vs WC	2:30pm	Steel Blue Oval	
Tuesday 9th April	Committee Meeting	6:00pm	Swansmen Lounge	
Tuesday 16th April	DINNER MEETING 2	6:30pm	PPOA Room	Geoffery Thomas
Wednesday 15th May	DINNER MEETING 3	6:30pm	Mandoon Estate	TBC

Swansmen Lounge Upgrade

One of the key ideas to come out of the Seminar was that the Swansmen Lounge was looking a bit tired and in need of a facelift. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that the back wall would be dry walled with gyprock and painted white. The middle section of the wall will be dedicated to the Swansmen e.g. honour board, Life Member recognition etc. The east end will have the SDFC player photos and the bar end the Auction contribution cheques. This has been planned to commence at 9.00am on Monday 18th March. An email will be sent out the week before.

Committee 2024

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