



SWANSMEN

ON THE BALL !

THE NEWSLETTER OF SWANSMEN INC.

A COTERIE GROUP OF THE SWAN DISTRICTS FOOTBALL CLUB INC.



SWANSMEN

2025 **ISSUE 1** - March

Correspondence to: swansmen@gmail.com

2025 – Here we Go Again

The year kicked off with the annual Planning Seminar in early February and the pre-works for the installation of new chairs in the Sponsors Lounge and Swansmen Lounge. For full details of each refer to the articles further in this edition.

Both the Men and Women have been hard at it, with pre-season training commencing in January. The Women's Season kicks off on Friday 28th March against East Perth at Sullivan Logistics Stadium and the Men's Saturday 5th April against West Perth at Steel Blue. The Women's squad has been bolstered by the return on Tyla Fitzgerald and Ashley Sharp while the Men's sees the return of Connor Blakely and Zane Trew and Troy Yukich.



Connor Blakely



Zane Trew



Tyla



Ashley Sharp

The Club's 90th Annual General Meeting was held at the Club on Thursday 27th February. A good representation of members was present to hear how the Club fared for 2024 and where it is heading for 2025. Of note, loyal Swans Sponsor and Swansmen Ross Fitzgerald received Life Membership to the Club and Steve Bakes received a Ten-year Long Service Certificate. Our congratulations go out to both.

We are putting together an interesting list of guest speakers for our dinner meetings, with League coach Andrew Pruyn 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 2025 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 18th MARCH 2025 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 11th 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 was sent out in February. Subscriptions have remained at \$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 9th February saw a good attendance at the Planning Seminar which was held at Kim Doust' place in Ellenbrook. 15 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. He gave an update on the Oval Redevelopment and the oval lighting upgrade. He added that the Club would again be focussing on improving the facilities using the Swansmen 2024 contribution money.

Some idea discussion points from the seminar were:

- Non attending dinner payment after accepting RSVP.
- Attracting new members
- A Punters Club; AFL Toyota Car Raffle participation.
- Dinner promotion and include a younger audience and possibly past players.
- Consideration for a Swansmen polo shirt.

Vale – Keith Slater

The Swansmen extend our sympathy to the Slater family on the sad passing of Keith. A Club Champion and Hall of Famer. State and Test cricketer, Claxton Shield baseballer.

Keith played 167 games for Swans, kicked 201 goals, Swan Medal in 1956,57 & 60. Premiership player in 1961, 62 & 63. Simpson Medal in the 1961 Grand Final, when he won his personal duel against the great Polly Farmer.

In 1964 he left Swans and coached Subiaco for 3 seasons, before returning to Swans.

Slater Gartrell Sports and Midland go hand-in-hand, and Keith loved coming up to Swans at any opportunity, even in 2024 despite his failing health.



Ken Bagley, Colin Maynard, John Turnbull, Haydn Bunton, Bill Walker and Keith Slater celebrate in the changerooms after they had just beaten East Perth in the 1961 Grand Final.

RIP Keith.

Next Month – Craig Serjeant: The changing face of cricket.

Craig Serjeant (born 1951) played 12 Test matches for Australia and three One Day Internationals. Just following the Centenary Test in 1977, on the Ashes tour to England, World Series Cricket was signing players from all around the world. Craig was offered a place in WSC but declined. He scored over 5,000 first class runs for Australia and Western Australia – and bowled one over!

Craig was appointed Vice-Captain of Australia against India in 1977 under Bob Simpson and made his only test century (124) against the West Indies in a famous victory.

Craig was initially a pharmacist after his cricket days and then turned into a successful financial planner with former WA cricketer Sam Gannon.

Bring your cricket-mad guests along to hear an experts take on the modern game of cricket.



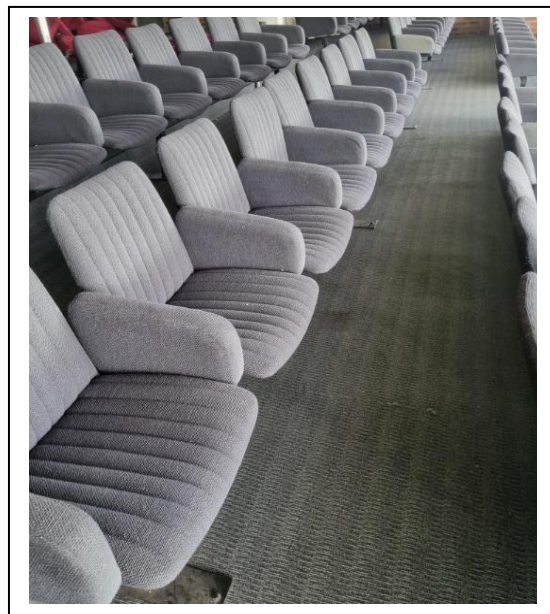
Coming Events

Date	Event	Time	Venue/ Guest	Guest Speaker
Thursday 6th March	1 st Members Night	5:00pm	Presidents Suite	
Thursday 13th March	Women's Season Launch	6:30pm	Presidents Suite	
Sunday 16th March	Lounge Busy Bee	9:30am	SDFC	
Tuesday 18st March	DINNER MEETING 1	6:30pm	PPOA Room	Andrew Pruyn
Thursday 20th March	Men's Season Launch	6:30pm	Presidents Suite	
Friday 21st March	SDFC Golf Day	8:15am	Vines Resort	
Friday 28th March	WAFLW 1 st GAME - SD vs EP	7:20pm	Sullivan Logistics Stadium	
Tuesday 1st April	Committee Meeting	6:00pm	Swansmen Lounge	
Saturday 5th April	WAFL 1 st GAME - SD vs WP	2:30pm	Steel Blue Oval	
Saturday 12th April	WAFLW 2 nd GAME - SD vs S	2:10pm	Steel Blue Oval	
Tuesday 15th April	DINNER MEETING 2	6:30pm	PPOA Room	Craig Serjeant
Wednesday 14th May	DINNER MEETING 3	6:30pm	Mandoon Estate	TBC

Swansmen Lounge Seating

The Club is in the process of replacing the seats in the Sponsors Lounge with cinema chairs acquired from Ace Cinemas. These are currently in the process of been installed. The Swansmen have been actively involved in the disassembling and modifying of the chairs to allow for installation. Many thanks to Gary Cox, Rod Greene, Des Hardiman, Bob Hutchinson, Joe Paterniti and Ross Wheldon for helping out with the disassembling process.

It was decided to utilise the existing seats from the Sponsors Lounge into the Swansmen Lounge. The seats were too heavy to carry down so they had to be cut in half. This was carried out on the morning of Friday 28th February with the Colts bringing them down that afternoon. Many thanks to Gary Cox, Des Hardiman, Ted Martin, Joe Paterniti and Ross Wheldon for helping out with this process. The seats will be installed into the Swansmen Lounge on Friday 14th March.



Committee 2025

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