

HIGHLY RESPECTED

St Kilda champion Lenny Hayes leaves the field for the last time after his 297th and final AFL game.



AWARDS, RESULTS & FAREWELLS



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Hawthorn capped off a remarkable season on the field, winning its 12th premiership, while the AFL farewelled some of the game's greats.

The 2014 season produced some breathtaking football with Hawthorn confirming its status as one of the greatest clubs in League history by successfully defending its 2013 title.

The Hawks did not join the AFL/VFL until 1925 and had to wait until 1961 to win their first flag. But the results since 1961 have been staggering with Hawthorn collecting 12 premierships, four more than its nearest rival Carlton (eight).

In the end, the Hawks wiped pre-match favourite Sydney off the floor in the Grand Final to end a season that created plenty of interest.

Three coaches lost their positions, some of the game's greatest players called it a day and the football world mourned the passing of several of its finest.

Senior coaches Brenton Sanderson (Adelaide), Guy McKenna (Gold Coast) and Brendan McCartney (Western Bulldogs) all departed while champion players Jonathan Brown, Lenny Hayes and Dean Cox were among a host of players to hang up their boots.

The year started on a sombre note when former Melbourne coach and popular Adelaide assistant coach Dean Bailey lost his short battle with cancer.

Several months later four-time Richmond premiership coach Tom Hafey was farewelled by the wider community. The Tiger immortal had an impact on people from all walks of life, preaching his four 'Ds' – desire, dedication, determination and discipline.

And later in the year came the sad news of the sudden passing of Melbourne champion Robert Flower at the age of 59. →

DOUBLE DELIGHT
Skipper Luke Hodge joins his teammates to celebrate after the Hawks won back-to-back premierships for only the second time in their history. →





THE PREMIERS

Hawthorn laid claims to being the greatest team in the past decade after thrashing Sydney by 63 points. The win in front of a crowd of 99,454 gave the Hawks their third premiership since 2008. It was only the second time since entering the AFL/VFL in 1925 they have won back-to-back flags – the other occasion was in 1988-89.

Their great modern-day rival Geelong has also won three premierships in the past decade (2007, 2009, 2011), but as great as they have been, the Cats did not go back-to-back.

In the build-up to the Grand Final, all the talk was about Lance Franklin taking on his former club. Although Franklin finished with four goals and was the Swans' best player, he had no influence on the result as Hawthorn romped away.

After Sydney kicked two of the first three goals, the Hawks were dominant, kicking the final four of the quarter to lead by 20 points at the first change.

The statistics in the opening term were telling, with two of the most significant being the tackle and uncontested-possession counts.

During the season, the Swans had been the leading tackling team in the competition, but by quarter-time the Hawks had applied 15 more (22-7).

They also had 21 more uncontested possessions (69-48) and, as the game progressed, the gap widened as they buried Sydney with their sublime foot skills.

Will Langford's goal of the game late in the third quarter was a classic example of Hawthorn's fierce, relentless pressure. The inside midfielder won possession on the boundary after pressure applied to Josh Kennedy and Luke Parker forced them to turn the ball over, enabling the young Hawk to dribble through a remarkable goal.

While Langford kicked three goals and polled one vote in the Norm Smith Medal, it was a three-way battle for best afield, with skipper Luke Hodge edging out Sam Mitchell and Jordan Lewis.

The 2013 Norm Smith medallist Brian Lake was outstanding at full-back on Swans spearhead Kurt Tippett and fellow defender Josh Gibson, who had the tough task of standing his great mate Franklin for most of the afternoon, collected 32 possessions as the Hawks avenged their Grand Final loss to the Swans in 2012.



2014 TOYOTA AFL GRAND FINAL

HAWTHORN	5.5	11.9	16.11	21.11 (137)
SYDNEY	2.3	5.3	8.5	11.8 (74)

Best: **Hawthorn** – Hodge, Lewis, Mitchell, Roughead, Hill, Lake, Langford, Burgoyne.
Sydney – Franklin, Malceski, Kennedy, Shaw, Goodes.

Goals: **Hawthorn** – Roughead 5, Breust 3, Langford 3, Gunston 2, Hodge 2, Burgoyne 2, Hale, Hill, Puopolo, Suckling.
Sydney – Franklin 4, Goodes 2, K.Jack 2, Kennedy, McGlynn, Tippett.

Umpires: M. Stevic, M. Nicholls, S. Meredith

Crowd: 99,460 at the MCG

TEAMS AS SELECTED

HAWTHORN v SYDNEY			
F B	B. McEvoy N. Smith	J. Roughead T. Richards	P. Puopolo N. Malceski
HF HB	L. Breust G. Rohan	J. Gunston H. Grundy	C. Rioli D. Rampe
C C	J. Lewis K. Jack (c)	S. Mitchell J. Kennedy	I. Smith B. McGlynn
HB HF	M. Spangher D. Hannebery	B. Stratton L. Franklin	L. Hodge (c) H. Cunningham
B F	J. Gibson A. Goodes	B. Lake K. Tippett	G. Bircall S. Reid
Foll Foll	D. Hale M. Pyke	L. Shiels L. Parker	S. Burgoyne J. McVeigh (c)
I/C Em Coach	M. Suckling, B. Hill, W. Langford, T. Duryea (s) J. Simpkin, J. Ceglar, B. Sewell Alastair Clarkson		
I/C Em Coach	R. Shaw, L. Jetta, J. Lloyd, C. Bird (s) T. Mitchell, D. Towers, J. Laidler John Longmire		



NORM SMITH MEDAL



Luke Hodge's 250th game could not have been scripted better. The Hawthorn captain led his team to an emphatic victory in the Grand Final, providing him with his third premiership medal and second flag as skipper.

Capping off the perfect afternoon was being adjudged the Norm Smith medallist. Hodge, who won his first Norm Smith Medal in 2008, became just the third player to win a second, joining former Hawk Gary Ayres and Adelaide great Andrew McLeod.

Although Hodge did not receive a vote from Norm Smith Medal chairman and Collingwood coach Nathan Buckley, the other four judges thought he was either the best or second best player on the ground.

Before the Grand Final, he had been regarded as a highly respected leader and this performance merely enhanced his reputation.

Hodge had 35 possessions and took 12 marks, but his influence was even more pronounced than those impressive statistics indicate.

He typified the Hawks' frenzied pressure in the first quarter that eventually broke the Swans' spirit, laying three bone-jarring tackles.

In the second term, Hodge displayed all his guile, drifting forward to kick successive goals.

With one hand on the premiership cup, Hodge went wherever his team needed him in the second half. He spent time in the midfield, occasionally pushed forward and drifted back to control the tempo when required.

NORM SMITH MEDAL VOTING

PLAYER	CLUB	VOTES
L. Hodge	Hawthorn	10 (3, 3, 2, 2)
J. Lewis	Hawthorn	9 (3, 2, 1, 3)
S. Mitchell	Hawthorn	9 (2, 2, 1, 3, 1)
W. Langford	Hawthorn	1 (1)
J. Gibson	Hawthorn	1 (1)
Judges: Nathan Buckley (chairman), Chris Johnson (NIRS), Cameron Ling (Channel 7), Anthony Hudson (SEN 1116), Craig O'Donoghue (<i>The West Australian</i>)		



JOCK McHALE MEDAL

Three premierships in seven seasons confirms Alastair Clarkson's place as one of the all-time great coaches, not only at Hawthorn but in the game's history.

Clarkson sits comfortably alongside club legends John Kennedy and Allan Jeans as triple premiership coaches and is the only man to coach the Hawks to back-to-back flags.

Before last year's triumph, Hawthorn had achieved this feat only once in its history, in 1988-89. Alan Joyce was the coach in 1988, filling in for an ill Jeans, who returned to guide the Hawks to their memorable win over Geelong in 1989.

Appropriately, Joyce presented Clarkson with the McHale Medal after the thumping victory over Sydney last season.

Just as significant was Jason Dunstall's appearance on the victory dais in 2014 to present the coach and captain Luke Hodge with the premiership cup.

As acting CEO and board member, Dunstall pushed strongly for Clarkson's appointment as coach at the end of 2004.

That Clarkson was even coaching in the Grand Final was remarkable, given his health problems during the season.

He was forced to stand down after being diagnosed with Guillain-Barré syndrome and was replaced between rounds 11-15 by assistant Brendon Bolton.

While Clarkson's health was a serious issue, it was only one of several setbacks that threatened to derail the Hawks' quest for successive flags. The coach had to contend with losing his No.1 forward Lance Franklin to the Swans at the end of 2013 and was without the services of several stars, most notably Sam Mitchell, Josh Gibson, Cyril Rioli and Brian Lake, for long periods.

Throughout his 10-season tenure at Hawthorn, Clarkson has not been afraid to make tough calls and last year he was forced to make plenty.

He preferred experienced ruckman Ben McEvoy for the Grand Final at the expense of Jonathon Ceglar and put his faith in youngster Will Langford, leaving the experienced Brad Sewell on the sidelines. Langford vindicated Clarkson's decision by playing a key role in the finals, culminating in his three-goal effort in the Grand Final.



MARK & GOAL OF THE YEAR

Port Adelaide has produced some spectacular football under Ken Hinkley over the past two seasons so it was no surprise to see the Power dominate the Mark and Goal of the Year awards in 2014.

Classy young forward Chad Wingard was announced as the winner of the Lifebroker Mark of the Year award, while teammate Matt White claimed the Hungry Jack's Goal of the Year award.

The players were presented with their prizes – \$10,000 thanks to Lifebroker and Hungry Jack's – during the Brownlow Medal ceremony.

Wingard took the Mark of the Year in the round 12 match against St Kilda at Adelaide Oval.

Midway through the third quarter, the 21-year-old soared high over the back of Saints defender Sean Dempster to pull in a screamer, which he casually converted for a goal.

White scored the Goal of the Year in the round 17 match against his old side Richmond at Etihad Stadium.

Late in the final term, White gathered the ball in his defensive half and then scorched around the outer wing, taking three bounces and slotting a goal from just inside the 50m line.

The winners were selected by public voting after the All-Australian selection committee selected the three finalists for marks and goals from the 23 weekly selections.

CLASSIC MARK
Port Adelaide's Chad Wingard flies high over St Kilda's Sean Dempster for the award-winning mark in round 12 last season at Adelaide Oval. ➤



BROWNLOW MEDAL



Midfielder Matt Priddis was humble in victory after becoming an upset winner of the Brownlow Medal.

While he led the AFL for handballs and disposals, was second in clearances and third for tackles, few outside Western Australia gave Priddis a chance of winning.

The West Coast star, who missed selection in the All-Australian team, polled in 13 games to finish with 26 votes.

Priddis had the medal in his possession after the Eagles' final home and away game against the Gold Coast Suns in round 22, when he polled two votes to overtake ineligible Docker Nat Fyfe.

Fyfe, who was suspended twice during the season, polled 25 votes.

Given Fyfe's ineligibility, Sydney forward Lance Franklin and Gold Coast skipper Gary Ablett finished equal second on 22 votes. Franklin missed the final round with a knee injury and Ablett was sidelined with a shoulder injury after round 16.

As he accepted his medal from 2013 winner Ablett, Priddis was stunned. "I don't see myself with the likes of some of the Brownlow medallists of the past, so it's a little bit daunting, but something I'm obviously very proud of," he said.

Priddis, who won the Sandover Medal playing with WAFL club Subiaco in 2006, was taken on as a mature-age rookie by the Eagles after being overlooked in four national drafts.

He joined Fitzroy legend Haydn Bunton snr as the only player to win the Brownlow and Sandover medals.

Priddis became the third Eagle to win the Brownlow, joining Chris Judd (2004) and Ben Cousins (2005).

BROWNLOW MEDAL

Matt Priddis (WCE)	26	Joel Selwood (Geel)	21
Nat Fyfe* (Frem)	25	Travis Boak (PA)	21
Gary Ablett (GCS)	22	Josh Kennedy (Syd)	21
Lance Franklin (Syd)	22	Steve Johnson* (Geel)	19
Patrick Dangerfield (Adel)	21	Trent Cotchin (Rich)	18

*ineligible



COLEMAN MEDAL



In his first season with Sydney, Lance Franklin had his third Coleman Medal firmly in his grasp by the end of round 22. Franklin, who won the medal in 2008 and 2011 with Hawthorn, was a late withdrawal from the Swans' final home and away game against Richmond because of a knee problem.

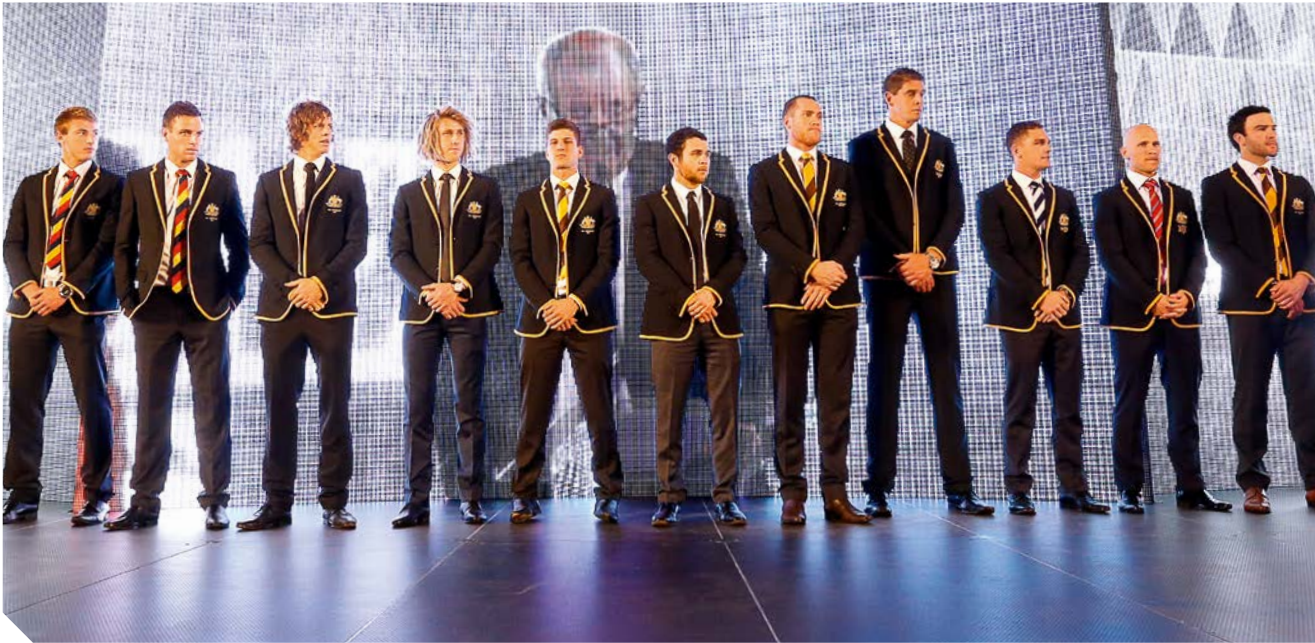
By that stage he had kicked 67 goals in 19 games, with his closest rival being former teammate Jarryd Roughead, who won last year's medal. Although the Hawk booted four against Collingwood, he finished five short of his great mate Franklin.

Franklin became the first Swan to win the award since Tony Lockett (pictured above with Franklin) took out his fourth medal in 1998. His early form was reflective of Sydney's stuttering start to the season as he adjusted to his new club and teammates, kicking only seven goals in his first four games.

His biggest tally was against St Kilda in round 21 at the SCG, kicking 9.4, and he followed that up the next week with a six-goal haul against the Western Bulldogs at Etihad Stadium. He also booted six against Carlton at the SCG in round 17.

LEADING GOALKICKERS 2014

	HOME AND AWAY			INCLUDING FINALS				
	G	B	Gms	G	B	%	Av.	Gms
Lance Franklin (Syd)	67	44	19	79	51	60.8	3.6	22
Tom Hawkins (Geel)	62	35	22	68	40	63	2.8	24
Jarryd Roughead (Haw)	62	37	20	75	43	63.6	3.3	23
Jay Schulz (PA)	62	22	22	66	26	71.7	2.6	25
Josh Kennedy (WCE)	61	33	20	61	33	64.9	3.1	20
Jack Riewoldt (Rich)	58	36	22	61	38	61.6	2.7	23
Luke Breust (Haw)	53	10	22	57	12	82.6	2.3	25
Eddie Betts (Adel)	51	22	22	51	22	69.9	2.3	22
Jack Gunston (Haw)	51	23	20	58	27	68.2	2.5	23
Hayden Ballantyne (Frem)	49	25	19	49	26	65.3	2.5	19



VIRGIN AUSTRALIA ALL-AUSTRALIAN TEAM

Despite missing the final seven rounds of 2014 with a shoulder injury, Gary Ablett became the first player to be selected as an All-Australian in eight consecutive seasons. Only five players retained their positions from the 2013 team, including Ablett and Geelong skipper Joel Selwood, who was named captain for the second consecutive season. Collingwood captain Scott Pendlebury, selected for the fifth straight season, Port Adelaide skipper Travis Boak and Hawthorn spearhead Jarryd Roughead were the others.

VIRGIN AUSTRALIA ALL-AUSTRALIAN TEAM 2014

B	Nick Smith Sydney Swans	Daniel Talia Adelaide Crows	Cale Hooker Essendon	
HB	Brodie Smith Adelaide Crows	Alex Rance Richmond	Nick Malceski Sydney Swans	
C	Nat Fyfe Fremantle	Josh Kennedy Sydney Swans	Dyson Heppell Essendon	
HF	Robbie Gray Port Adelaide	Nick Riewoldt (vc) St Kilda	Luke Breust Hawthorn	
F	Hayden Ballantyne Fremantle	Lance Franklin Sydney Swans	Jarryd Roughead Hawthorn	
R	Aaron Sandilands Fremantle	Joel Selwood (c) Geelong Cats	Gary Ablett Gold Coast Suns	
IC	Travis Boak Port Adelaide	Jordan Lewis Hawthorn	Scott Pendlebury Collingwood	Tom Rockliff Brisbane Lions
Coach	Alastair Clarkson Hawthorn			
Umpire	Matt Stevic			

The team had 13 newcomers – Brodie Smith and Daniel Talia (Adelaide Crows), Tom Rockliff (Brisbane Lions), Dyson Heppell and Cale Hooker (Essendon), Hayden Ballantyne and Nat Fyfe (Fremantle), Luke Breust and Jordan Lewis (Hawthorn), Robbie Gray (Port Adelaide), Alex Rance (Richmond) and Nick Malceski and Nick Smith (Sydney Swans). Sydney had the most representatives with four, followed by Fremantle and Hawthorn with three each. Players were selected from 12 clubs, with Carlton, Greater Western Sydney, Melbourne, North Melbourne, West Coast and Western Bulldogs not represented.

Two Crows and two Swans filled four of the back six positions. Talia was named at full-back, with teammate Brodie Smith on a half-back flank. Malceski was on the other flank and teammate Nick Smith was in a back pocket. Rance and Hooker were in the other two slots in the backline. St Kilda skipper Nick Riewoldt was rewarded for another fine season with his fifth All-Australian selection and first since 2009 when he was captain. He was named vice-captain at centre half-forward, with Gray and Breust alongside him on the flanks. In his first season with the Swans, Coleman medallist Lance Franklin was also selected for the fifth time, with former teammate Roughead next to him in a pocket. Ballantyne was in the other pocket. Ablett's partners in the following division, Fremantle's Aaron Sandilands and Selwood, earned their fourth All-Australian selections. Sydney's Josh Kennedy was named in the centre, flanked by Fyfe and Heppell on the wings. On the interchange were four midfielders – Boak, Pendlebury, Lewis and Rockliff. The All-Australian selection panel was Gillon McLachlan (chairman), Kevin Bartlett, Luke Darcy, Mark Evans, Danny Frawley, Glen Jakovich, Cameron Ling, Matthew Richardson and Warren Tredrea.

Nick Riewoldt was rewarded for another fine season with his fifth All-Australian selection and his first since 2009



VIRGIN AUSTRALIA INTERNATIONAL RULES

International Rules is alive and well after Australia won a thrilling contest in the Virgin Australia International Rules Test against Ireland at Patersons Stadium in November. After being easily defeated in the past two series, the Australians chose the best possible team for the one-off Test and their determination was evident from the start. Australia set up the victory, its first since 2010 after four consecutive defeats and first on home soil since 2005, with a blistering first quarter. Skipper Joel Selwood and Geelong teammate Steve Johnson were dominant as the home team took an 18-point lead at the first break.

Australia dominated possession in the opening term (93 disposals to 47), applying enormous pressure to the Irish and forcing them to miss many targets. The talent-laden Australian team adapted quickly to the round ball, kicking with precision around the ground and shooting accurately for goal. Australia booted the first seven overs of the match, which proved decisive in the final outcome. The Australians led by 33 points early in the third quarter, but had to withstand a determined Irish challenge. Inspired by GAA medallist Conor McManus, Ireland came out with renewed passion and energy after the main break and cut the deficit with improved pressure and ball movement. Darren Hughes sparked his team with the game's first under, followed quickly by five overs as the Irish drew within 13 points before the Australians steadied to run out winners 0.17.5 (56) to 2.9.7 (46) in front of a crowd of 38,262 to regain the Cormac McAnallen Trophy. Johnson finished the match with 24 possessions and four overs to be runner-up for the Jim Stynes Medal as Australia's best player behind Hawthorn captain Luke Hodge. St Kilda skipper Nick Riewoldt kicked the round ball superbly to finish with three overs. Port Adelaide forward Chad Wingard also booted three overs.

Goalkeeper Dustin Fletcher had several nervous moments late in the game, but the Essendon veteran made an excellent save in the final minute to snuff out Ireland's hopes.

Australian coach Alastair Clarkson was pleased how quickly his team adapted to the round ball. "We thought it would be difficult early in the game but we got away to a flyer," Clarkson said. His Irish counterpart Paul Earley was disappointed with his team's start and sloppy kicking. "We didn't hit our targets up front," Earley said. "Outside of that first quarter, we won the game."

The talent-laden Australian team adapted quickly to the round ball, kicking with precision around the ground

TEST AT PATERSONS STADIUM, PERTH

AUSTRALIA	0.7.1 (22)	0.11.2 (35)	0.14.4 (46)	0.17.5 (56)
IRELAND	0.1.1 (4)	0.1.4 (7)	1.6.6 (30)	2.9.7 (46)

Australia: Joel Selwood (capt), Dustin Fletcher (goalkeeper), Travis Boak, Grant Birchall, Jarrad McVeigh, Jobe Watson, Sam Mitchell, Harry Taylor, Nic Naitanui, Brendon Goddard, Robbie Gray, Leigh Montagna, Nick Riewoldt, Luke Hodge, Kieren Jack, Steve Johnson, Chad Wingard, Luke Breust, Brent Harvey, Patrick Dangerfield, Brodie Smith, Tom Rockliff, Nick Smith.

Ireland: Michael Murphy (capt), Colm Begley, Colm Boyle, Sean Cavanagh, Cathal Cregg, Mattie Donnelly, Finian Hanley, Pearce Hanley, Darren Hughes, Lee Keegan, James McCarthy, Ciaran McDonald, Neil McGee, Chrissy McKaigue, Kevin McKernan, Kevin McLoughlin, Conor McManus, David Moran, Ross Munnnelly, Colm O'Neill, Paddy O'Rourke (goalkeeper), Aidan O'Shea, Aidan Walsh.

Best: Australia – Hodge, Johnson, Mitchell, McVeigh, Wingard, Fletcher. **Ireland** – McManus, Begley, Moran, Murphy, Donnelly.

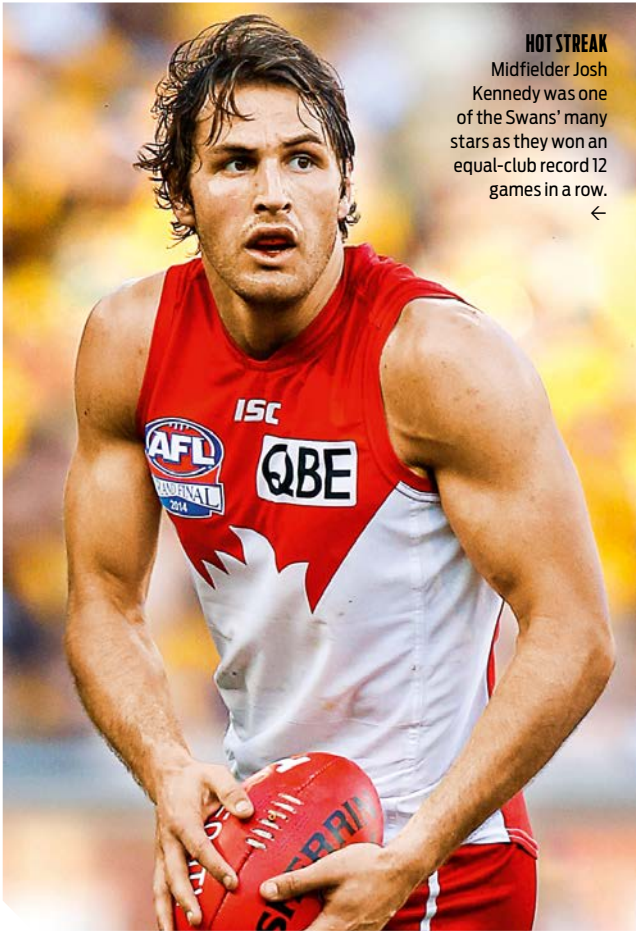
Goals (6 points): Ireland – Hughes, team score.

Overs (3 points): Australia – Johnson 4, Riewoldt 3, Wingard 3, McVeigh 2, Breust, Gray, Harvey, Jack, Selwood. **Ireland** – McManus 4, Begley 2, Donnelly, McKernan, Murphy.

Jim Stynes Medal: Luke Hodge

Umpires: Simon Meredith (Aus), Marty Duffy (Ire).

Crowd: 38,262



HOT STREAK
Midfielder Josh Kennedy was one of the Swans' many stars as they won an equal-club record 12 games in a row. ←

McCLELLAND TROPHY

At the end of the first month of the 2014 season, the Sydney Swans appeared headed for a tough year.

They were sitting in 13th place on the ladder with a 1-3 record, having lost to crosstown rival Greater Western Sydney in round one as well as Collingwood (ANZ Stadium) and North Melbourne (SCG).

The Swans kick-started their season with a fighting victory over Fremantle in round five and never looked back, winning the next 11 games to equal the all-time club mark of 12 consecutive victories.

The streak included wins over the Brisbane Lions (by 79 points at the Gabba in round seven), Hawthorn (by 19 points at ANZ Stadium in round eight), Essendon (by 50 points at Etihad Stadium in round nine), Geelong Cats (by 110 points at the SCG in round 11), Port Adelaide (by four points at the SCG in round 13), GWS Giants (by 46 points at the SCG in round 15) and Carlton (by 71 points at the SCG in round 17).

Hawthorn broke the Swans' run with a 10-point victory at the MCG in round 18.

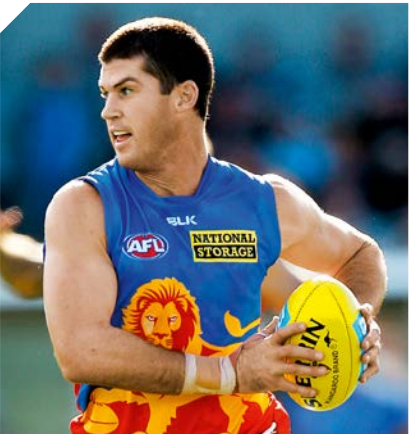
Sydney won four of its final five games in the home and away season, losing in the last round to Richmond in the absence of Coleman medallist Lance Franklin by three points at ANZ Stadium.

The Swans finished with a 17-5 record, giving them their first McClelland Trophy since 1996 when they also made the Grand Final. In that season, they had a 16-5-1 record.

In 2014, the Hawks and the Cats had the same win-loss record as the Swans, but had inferior percentages – Hawthorn's was 140.8 and Geelong's 113.8 compared with Sydney's 142.9.

2014 TOYOTA AFL PREMIERSHIP SEASON LADDER

		P	W	L	D	G	FOR B	PTS	G	AGAINST B	PTS	%	MATCH POINTS	HOME W	AWAY L	FORM W/L	SCORES High Low	AVMARGIN W L	W< 7PTS	L> 7PTS	PLS USED	RD23 2013	1 ST YR PLS	QTRS WON	4 TH QTR WON
1	Sydney Swans	22	17	5	0	308	278	2126	207	246	1488	142.88	68	8	3	9 2	1L 148 48	43 21	1	1	33	4	5	59	14
2	Hawthorn	22	17	5	0	367	256	2458	254	222	1746	140.78	68	11	0	6 5	2W 175 86	47 18	1	0	35	1	7	55	13
3	Geelong Cats	22	17	5	0	292	281	2033	255	257	1787	113.77	68	11	0	6 5	1W 143 38	28 49	4	0	35	2	4	56	13
4	Fremantle	22	16	6	0	297	247	2029	217	254	1556	130.40	64	10	1	6 5	3W 136 60	39 27	1	1	35	3	2	51	14
5	Port Adelaide	22	14	8	0	314	296	2180	243	220	1678	129.92	56	9	2	5 6	1L 159 56	42 12	1	3	33	7	4	54	16
6	North Melbourne	22	14	8	0	291	280	2026	248	243	1731	117.04	56	8	3	6 5	4W 126 58	37 29	0	1	36	10	6	50	15
7	Essendon	22	12	9	1	262	256	1828	250	219	1719	106.34	50	7	4	5 5	1D 138 57	25 21	2	2	35	9	7	41	8
8	Richmond	22	12	10	0	274	243	1887	256	248	1784	105.77	48	6	5	6 5	9W 154 51	29 25	1	2	36	5	2	46	13
9	West Coast Eagles	22	11	11	0	300	245	2045	259	196	1750	116.86	44	6	5	5 6	2W 188 32	50 23	1	2	36	13	3	46	10
10	Adelaide Crows	22	11	11	0	315	285	2175	273	269	1907	114.05	44	6	5	5 6	1W 168 50	49 24	0	2	36	11	3	52	13
11	Collingwood	22	11	11	0	252	254	1766	270	256	1876	94.14	44	5	6	6 5	1L 140 39	27 37	1	1	36	6	4	39	8
12	Gold Coast Suns	22	10	12	0	278	249	1917	296	269	2045	93.74	40	7	4	3 8	4L 134 39	34 39	1	1	36	14	6	37	11
13	Carlton	22	7	14	1	276	235	1891	304	283	2107	89.75	30	5	5	2 9	1D 151 37	30 30	2	3	38	8	4	41	11
14	Western Bulldogs	22	7	15	0	257	242	1784	325	227	2177	81.95	28	3	8	4 7	3L 122 45	15 33	2	1	40	15	3	37	10
15	Brisbane Lions	22	7	15	0	221	206	1532	320	292	2212	69.26	28	3	8	4 7	2L 123 22	23 56	2	0	40	12	10	21	4
16	GWS Giants	22	6	16	0	256	244	1780	344	256	2320	76.72	24	3	8	3 8	1W 125 41	31 45	1	0	44	18	4	28	9
17	Melbourne	22	4	18	0	190	196	1336	278	286	1954	68.37	16	0	11	4 7	10L 93 28	11 36	2	2	37	17	4	30	7
18	St Kilda	22	4	18	0	212	208	1480	363	258	2436	60.76	16	3	8	1 10	5L 118 30	24 58	0	1	42	16	5	24	4



HANGING UP THE BOOTS Premiership players Luke Ball, Darren Glass, Dean Cox and Jonathan Brown were among the group of stars who retired from the game in 2014. ➔

RETIREEES

The AFL farewelled a number of retiring champions in 2014, including several who had contributed to recent premierships. Several of the game's greats pulled on the boots for the final time. Twenty-nine players boasting more than 100 games' experience finished up before, during or after the season.

Jonathan Brown personified courage in his 256-game career, but another concussion convinced him his body had taken enough punishment. He retired as one of the Lions' greatest players after a long, distinguished career which included three premierships, three best and fairests and a Coleman Medal (2007).

Former teammates Lenny Hayes and Luke Ball were fierce warriors on the field, but terrific ambassadors for the code off it. Hayes, one of St Kilda's most popular players, retired three games shy of the magical 300, having won three best and fairests, three All-Australian selections and the Norm Smith Medal in the 2010 Grand Final draw.

Ball played 142 games for the Saints between 2003-09, winning a best and fairest in 2005 before crossing to Collingwood and playing a key role in the Magpies' 2010 premiership victory. Off the field, he made a significant contribution as president of the AFL Players' Association.

Ball's premiership captain in 2010, Nick Maxwell, retired after sustaining a season-ending ankle injury in July. Maxwell was the general of the Magpies' defence for several seasons and will be remembered for his bravery, versatility and leadership.

Dean Cox, Darren Glass and Quinten Lynch were teammates in West Coast Coast's premiership triumph in 2006. Six-time All-Australian ruckman Cox finished on 290 games and Glass, the All-Australian captain in 2012, was forced to quit mid-season with hip and ankle problems. Lynch finished his career at Collingwood after playing 11 seasons with the Eagles.

Brad Sewell played a key role in Hawthorn's premiership victories in 2008 and 2013 before being overlooked for the 2014 Grand Final.

Lewis Roberts-Thomson, a member of the Sydney Swans' flag-winning teams in 2005 and 2012, succumbed to a poor run with injuries in the past two seasons and was joined in retirement by premiership teammate Ryan O'Keefe.

Other retirees included Nathan Bock, Shannon Byrnes, Dom Cassisi, Daniel Giansiracusa, Josh Hunt, Jake King, Ashley McGrath, Ben Rutten and Heath Scotland. ➔

DEPARTING PLAYERS (MORE THAN 100 GAMES)

PLAYER	CLUB	Games	Goals
Luke Ball	St Kilda/Collingwood	223	91
Nathan Bock	Adelaide Crows/Gold Coast Suns	140	63
Kepler Bradley	Essendon/Fremantle	117	87
Campbell Brown	Hawthorn/Gold Coast Suns	205	109
Jonathan Brown	Brisbane Lions	256	594
Shannon Byrnes	Geelong Cats/Melbourne	131	117
Dom Cassisi	Port Adelaide	228	74
Dean Cox	West Coast Eagles	290	169
Daniel Giansiracusa	Western Bulldogs	265	331
Stephen Gilham	Port Adelaide/Hawthorn/GWS Giants	114	4
Darren Glass	West Coast Eagles	270	8
Lenny Hayes	St Kilda	297	95
Ben Hudson	Adelaide Crows/Western Bulldogs/Brisbane Lions/Collingwood	168	19
Josh Hunt	Geelong Cats/GWS Giants	212	33
Dan Jackson	Richmond	156	61
Clinton Jones	St Kilda	149	40
Jake King	Richmond	107	79
Quinten Lynch	West Coast Eagles/Collingwood	227	290
Nick Maxwell	Collingwood	208	29
Ashley McGrath	Brisbane Lions	214	170
Brock McLean	Melbourne/Carlton	157	76
Brent Moloney	Geelong/Melbourne/Brisbane Lions	166	46
Tom Murphy	Hawthorn/Gold Coast Suns	113	5
Ryan O'Keefe	Sydney Swans	286	261
Jason Porpylyzia	Adelaide Crows	130	181
Lewis Roberts-Thomson	Sydney Swans	179	54
Ben Rutten	Adelaide Crows	229	9
Heath Scotland	Collingwood/Carlton	268	81
Brad Sewell	Hawthorn	200	32

AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME



HONOURED

Hall of Fame inductees in 2014 (back row from left) Anthony Koutoufides, Matthew Richardson, Warren Tredrea and Brad Johnson; (front row) Ken Henfry (son of Ern Henfry), Andrew McLeod. →



ERN HENFRY

Born: July 24, 1921
Died: January 13, 2007
Played: 169 games, 106 goals (Perth 1937-41, 1945, 1953-54: 85 games, 86 goals; Carlton 1944, 1947-52: 84 games, 20 goals)
Coached: Perth 1953-59, 1962-64) (242 games, 139 wins, 103 losses)

In a decorated career spanning two states, Henfry was widely hailed as the game's best leader and centreman. He made his debut for his WAFL club Perth at 16 and represented Western Australia at 17. The popular midfielder won Perth's best and fairest in 1941 and finished runner-up to Haydn Bunton snr in that year's Sandover Medal. In 1944, Henfry played two games for Carlton while on leave from the RAAF and sought a clearance to the Blues after World War II. After standing out of football in 1946 because of a clearance dispute with his WAFL club, he joined Carlton in 1947, took over the captaincy and made an immediate impact. Henfry led the Blues to a premiership with a thrilling victory over Essendon, winning the first of his two club best and fairests (the other was in another Grand Final year, in 1949). He captained Carlton until 1952 before returning to WA to captain-coach Perth. He coached Perth to its first flag in 48 years in 1955 and coached WA in six games. He was admitted to the Carlton and West Australian halls of fame.



BRAD JOHNSON

Born: July 18, 1976
Played: 364 games, 558 goals (Western Bulldogs 1994-2010)

Johnson's irrepressible smile belied an inner toughness and determination. Possessing a strong work ethic, marking ability and combination of speed and endurance, he became a terrific club leader and role model. Johnson hailed from Melbourne's western suburbs and played a club-record 364 games between 1994-2010, including a League record of at least 21 games in 15 consecutive seasons. He started his career as a wingman before moving into attack to become one of the League's best small forwards. Johnson was the Bulldogs' leading goalkicker on five occasions and was a six-time All-Australian. In a career-best season in 2006, he was named All-Australian captain and won the best and fairest award for a third time. He was selected on the bench of the Bulldogs' Team of the Century in 2002 and captained the club for five seasons. He finished in the top three of the best and fairest award on four other occasions. He represented Victoria in three games and kicked five goals, and played six International Rules games for Australia. Johnson remains involved in the game as a coach in the NAB AFL Academy system, mentoring some of the game's most promising junior players.



ANTHONY KOUTOUFIDES

Born: January 18, 1973
Played: 278 games, 226 goals (Carlton 1992-2007)

Koutoufides changed the game, with his supreme ability proving so influential clubs began searching for players of similar size and athletic prowess to play in the midfield. As a teenager, he had to choose between athletics and football before eventually concentrating on AFL because he believed it afforded him a brighter future. Koutoufides first came to prominence when he made the All-Australian team at the national under-17 championships (Teal Cup) in 1990 and made his AFL debut in 1992. His spectacular rise to stardom began in the second half of the 1994 season when coach David Parkin played him on a wing. While Carlton's 1995 premiership triumph was a career highlight, his stunning performance in the Blues' upset win over arch rival Essendon in the 1999 preliminary final has lived long in the memory. Koutoufides started in the back pocket, but when a desperate Parkin threw him into the midfield in the last quarter, he almost single-handedly lifted Carlton to a remarkable victory. Team success eluded him for the remainder of his career, but he was still a substantial contributor, winning two best and fairests (2001, 2005) and captaining the Blues from 2004-06.



PROUD TIGER
 Matthew Richardson addresses the crowd after being inducted into the Hall of Fame. →



ANDREW McLEOD

Born: August 4, 1976
Played: 363 games, 310 goals (Port Adelaide – SANFL 1994-96: 23 games, 35 goals; Adelaide 1995-2010: 340 games, 275 goals)

McLeod thrived on the big stage and played a key role in Adelaide's successive premierships in 1997-98, winning the Norm Smith Medal in both Grand Finals. He is one of only three players to win two Norm Smith Medals, the others being Gary Ayres and Luke Hodge. McLeod was runner-up to Jason Akermanis in the 2001 Brownlow Medal and was third in 2000. He was tough, quick and skilful, providing the Crows with run and rebound over 16 years and winning the best and fairest on three occasions. He finished in the top three of the best and fairest four other times. He finished his career as the club's games record-holder and was remarkably durable, undergoing knee surgery at the end of most seasons. McLeod represented Australia six times in International Rules and won the Jim Stynes Medal in 2005. He captained the Indigenous All-Stars team and was selected in the Indigenous Team of the Century in 2005. He made the All-Australian team five times and was named captain in 2007. Since retiring as a player, the proud Northern Territorian has managed several Indigenous education and football programs and coached in the SANFL.



MATTHEW RICHARDSON

Born: March 19, 1975
Played: 282 games, 800 goals (Richmond 1993-2009)

In his 17 seasons at Punt Rd, Richardson could send the Tiger Army into a frenzy or leave them frustrated, often on the same day. But he was an entertainer and talented footballer capable of remarkable feats. He was an incredible athlete who could run his opponents ragged with his endurance. Richardson grew up in Devonport, Tasmania, and was recruited via the father-son rule (his father, Alan 'Bull' Richardson, played 103 games for the Tigers during the 1960s). He made a big impact soon after his debut in 1993, being the club's leading goalkicker the following year. He led Richmond's goalkicking in another 12 seasons, a record for the Tigers. After a knee reconstruction in 1995, he made a successful return to boot 91 goals and earn his first All-Australian selection. He was also an All-Australian in 1999 and 2008, when he enjoyed perhaps his best season in the twilight of his career. Playing on a wing, he finished equal third in the Brownlow Medal with 22 votes. He won the best and fairest once (in 2007), was second four times and third once. He played two International Rules games. Since retiring, he has become a popular commentator on television and radio.



WARREN TREDREA

Born: December 24, 1978
Played: 281 games, 582 goals (Port Adelaide – SANFL 1994-96: 26 games, 33 goals; Port Adelaide – AFL 1997-2010: 255 games, 549 goals)

Tredrea was a late bloomer who played most of his junior football as a midfielder before developing into a talented key forward. He provided plenty of headaches for defenders with his athleticism, aerial strength, elite disposal skills on both sides of his body and the ability to kick freakish goals. Tredrea, who always wanted to play for Port Adelaide, was one of the Power's biggest stars at a time when they were consistently one of the best teams in the AFL. In the absence of injured captain Matthew Primus, he was acting skipper of Port Adelaide's first AFL premiership team in 2004. He won the Power's best and fairest on four occasions and finished second three times. Tredrea, whose father Gary was a star for Port Adelaide in the SANFL and played for Collingwood in the early 1970s, was the Power's leading goalkicker for eight seasons and won All-Australian selection four times, being vice-captain in 2004. He represented South Australia twice and played three International Rules games. Tredrea is heavily involved in the game through his media roles in SA on television and radio and in print.

LIFE MEMBERS



GRAEME ALLAN

Allan has given 40 years of continuous service as a player and administrator. After starting with VFA club Sunshine in 1974, he joined Fitzroy the following year. He played 87 games for the Lions before transferring to Collingwood where he played 54 games. After retiring as a player, the Magpies appointed him as football manager. In 1999, he reunited with coach Leigh Matthews in a successful era at the Brisbane Lions as general manager, football. Since 2010, Allan has played a pivotal role in the GWS Giants' development as general manager (football).



JIMMY BARTEL

Bartel has been a key figure in Geelong's golden era in the past decade. The solidly built midfielder-cum-forward has a well-deserved reputation of being a big-game player, built around his tremendous finals record. He was a member of the Cats' premiership teams in 2007, 2009 and 2011. A two-time All-Australian, he won the Brownlow Medal in 2007 and the Norm Smith Medal in 2011 for a sublime display against Collingwood. In the opening round of 2014, Bartel played his 250th match, kicking four goals against Adelaide.



LEON CAMERON

Cameron had a distinguished playing career after being recruited from VCFL club South Warrnambool in the 1988 National Draft. As a skilful, long-kicking wingman/defender, he played 172 games with the Western Bulldogs between 1990-99 and 84 with Richmond between 2000-03. After his retirement, he went into coaching, first as an assistant with the Bulldogs (2004-10) and then Hawthorn (2011-12). Cameron joined Greater Western Sydney for the 2013 season as senior assistant coach to Kevin Sheedy in his final year and took over as senior coach in 2014.



KANE CORNES

The two-time All-Australian has become one of the game's most durable and consistent midfielders in the past 14 seasons. As a run-with player, he has beaten several of the AFL's elite midfielders, averaging at least 20 possessions a game in the past 11 seasons. The son of SA legend Graham Cornes has won an equal club-record four best and fairests for Port Adelaide. A member of the Power's first AFL premiership team in 2004, he is Port Adelaide's games record-holder and is due to play his 300th match in 2015.



DEAN COX

Cox is regarded as one of West Coast's all-time greats. Recruited as a rookie in 2000, he won All-Australian selection six times. He won the club's best fairest award in 2008 and was a member of the 2006 premiership team. In 2014, he was in transition as he prepared for the next phase of his career, involved in match committee and match-day coaching when not playing. The champion ruckman retired as the club's games record-holder (290) and in 2015 will be the Eagles' ruck coach.



NICK DAL SANTO

Recruited from Bendigo under-18s in the 2001 National Draft, Dal Santo has become one of the most creative and damaging midfielders in the AFL. Possessing exquisite skills, particularly by foot, he has won All-Australian selection on three occasions. As a key component of a talented St Kilda midfield, he was runner-up in the Brownlow Medal in 2011 and third in 2005. At the end of 2013, he left the Saints after 260 games in 12 seasons to join North Melbourne as a restricted free agent.

JACK TITUS AWARD



SHANE O'SULLIVAN

O'Sullivan has been a hard-working servant of three clubs over a 35-year association with the AFL/VFL. He joined Carlton as a promotions officer in 1979 and was appointed assistant general manager in 1980. Between 1982-86, he was Footscray's general manager, football, playing a significant role in securing Mick Malthouse as senior coach. In 1987, he joined the fledgling Brisbane Bears as general manager (football). He returned to Melbourne at the end of 1992 and coached VFA club Oakleigh in 1993. In 1994, he returned to Carlton as recruiting manager, a position he held until 2004 when he was appointed to his current position as football administration manager.



ANDREW DEMETRIOU

As the AFL's CEO for more than 10 years, Demetriou presided over a period of great change. The highlights of his tenure included the addition of two new clubs, the Gold Coast Suns and GWS Giants, major stadium projects valued at more than \$1.5 billion and three broadcast rights agreements. Demetriou played 103 games for North Melbourne and three for Hawthorn between 1981-88 after being recruited from Pascoe Vale. In 1998, he was appointed AFL Players' Association CEO and in May 2000 joined the AFL as general manager of football operations.

BIG-GAME PLAYER

Jimmy Bartel is chaired off by teammates Steve Johnson and Joel Selwood after his 250th match against Adelaide at Simonds Stadium. →



COREY ENRIGHT

A good decision-maker who is cool in a crisis, Enright has been one of the best rebounding defenders in the AFL for many years, being an important component of an imposing Geelong backline. The five-time All-Australian won the club best and fairest award in 2009 (equal) and 2011 and was a key member of the Cats' premiership teams in 2007, 2009 and 2011. In his 15th season in 2015, Enright is set to become only the third Cat behind Ian Nankervis and John 'Sam' Newman to play 300 games.



GREG MILLER

Between 1971 and 2008, Miller had 38 years of continuous service in the AFL/VFL as a player and administrator. After playing reserves and under-19s at Richmond, he played 52 games with South Melbourne between 1972-76. In 1979, he became South's recruiting manager and was with the club when it relocated to Sydney. He joined North Melbourne in 1985, first as football manager and later as CEO in a successful era for the club. After leaving the Roos in 2001, he was football manager at Richmond for seven seasons.



NICK RIEWOLDT

Riewoldt is an all-time great at St Kilda and is still going strong. He has won the Saints' best and fairest award a record six times and has been selected in the All-Australian team on five occasions, once as captain (2009) and another as vice-captain (2014). He was the NAB AFL Rising Star in 2002, has been St Kilda's leading goalkicker four times and in 2014 surpassed Danny Frawley as the club's longest-serving captain. In 2015, he is set to become the fifth Saint to reach the 300-game milestone.



BRENTON SANDERSON

Recruited from SANFL club Sturt, Sanderson established himself as a solid running defender with Geelong after short stints with Adelaide and Collingwood. He retired in 2005 after 209 games, of which 199 were with the Cats. Sanderson was an assistant coach at Port Adelaide (2006) and Geelong (2007-11) before taking over as the Crows' senior coach at the start of the 2012 season. He was Adelaide's coach until the end of 2014, taking the Crows to a preliminary final in 2012. In 2015, he took over as the NAB AFL Academy head coach.



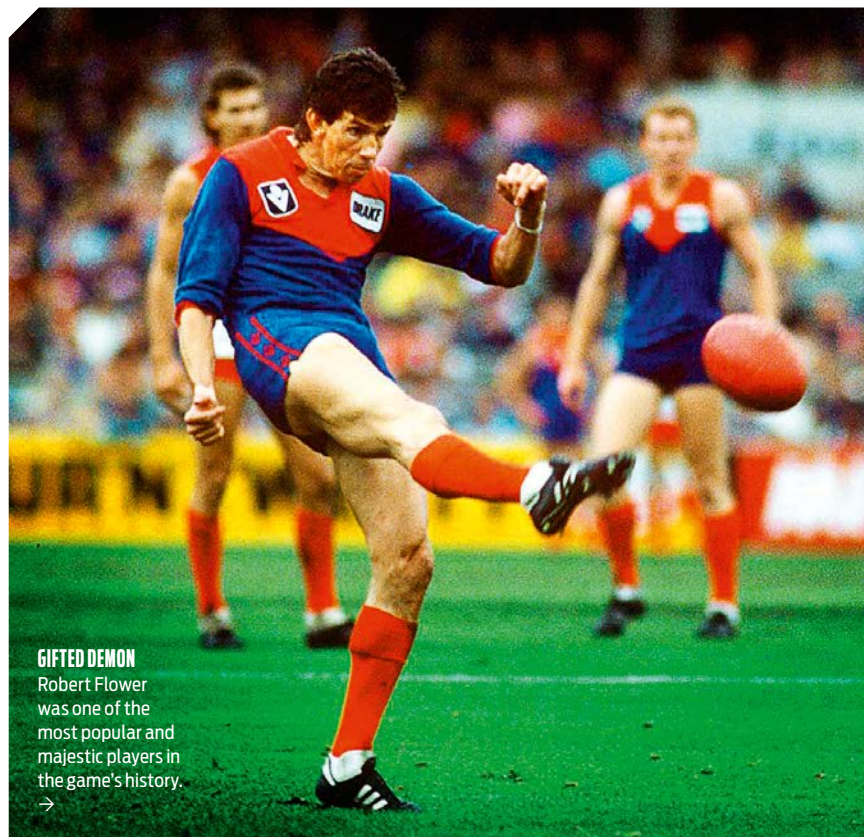
JUSTIN SCHMITT

Schmitt started with the South Australian Combined Southern Umpires in 1992. Recruited to the SANFL senior squad in 1994, he officiated in the 1996 under-18 championships and the SANFL finals in 1996 and 1998. A lawyer, Schmitt was promoted to the AFL list in 1997. He has umpired nine AFL finals and officiated in 20 games in 2014. In all, he has officiated in 283 premiership matches and 29 pre-season matches.



BRAD SCOTT

Scott started his career at Hawthorn in 1997 before joining twin brother Chris at the Brisbane Lions in 1998. A tough, uncompromising defender, he played 146 games with the Lions, including premierships in 2001 and 2002. Scott served his coaching apprenticeship at Collingwood under Mick Malthouse as a development and assistant coach. At the end of 2009, he replaced Dean Laidley as North Melbourne's senior coach and is entering his sixth season at the helm after guiding the Kangaroos to two finals wins in 2014.



GIFTED DEMON
Robert Flower was one of the most popular and majestic players in the game's history.
→

OBITUARIES

ROBERT FLOWER

Robert Flower, the brilliantly gifted Melbourne wingman, died suddenly of heart failure on October 2, 2014, leaving an indelible mark on our game. Flower was one of the most popular and majestic players in the game's history, earning his respect for not only his dazzling on-field feats, but also for his conduct off the playing arena. Flower, nicknamed 'Tulip', was a crowd favourite, not just with the Melbourne fans, but those who followed opposition clubs. Flower was recruited from the Melbourne suburb of Murrumbeena, played 272 games (the second most by a Demon) and kicked 315 goals from 1973-87. He won the best and fairest award in 1977, was an All-Australian in 1980, 1982, 1983 and 1984, and played 15 games for Victoria. Flower was third in the 1979 and 1984 Brownlow Medal counts and was Melbourne captain from 1981-87. He also played for Australia against Ireland in the 1984 International Rules Series, was one of the inaugural 136 inductees into the Australian Football Hall of Fame in 1996 and was named on the wing in Melbourne's Team of the Century. He did not play in the finals until his final year in 1987.

Melbourne has had several champions over the generations, but none braver than Flower. Another club icon, Ron Barassi, said on Flower's passing: "I was just very lucky to both know him and coach him. As a person, he was impossible to fault; as a player he was so balanced, just somebody everybody would have loved to coach." The tributes flowed from all corners of football, all with the same theme, all so shocked at his death at such an early age. He was humble in the purest sense and Mike Sheahan, a long-time football writer and close friend of Flower, said: "I have a lifetime habit of finding fault with people; I never could find fault with the beautiful Robbie Flower." On October 13, about 2000 mourners attended the MCG for a final farewell to Flower, among them some of his toughest on-field opponents including Wayne Schimmelbusch, Robert DiPierdomenico and Doug Hawkins.



As a person, he was impossible to fault
RON BARASSI ON ROBERT FLOWER

RON HOVEY

One of Geelong Football Club's greatest servants, Ron Hovey, passed away aged 82, on January 6, 2015.

A former captain, committee member and president, Hovey gave more than 50 years' service to the Cats.

Recruited from Shepparton, Hovey made his debut in a 52-point loss to Collingwood in round three, 1951, at Victoria Park.

But the Cats won the premiership that year and in 1952, with Hovey playing in both triumphs over Essendon and Collingwood respectively.

He was elevated to the captaincy in 1960, but retired just five games into the season due to an ongoing knee injury. In total, he played 141 games.

Hovey immediately turned his attention to administration, serving on Geelong's committee and various sub-committees.

In 1988, he took over the presidency and held the position for a decade before he handed over the reins to Frank Costa.

Hovey was a life member of the Geelong Football Club, the social club, the past players, the Pivots – Geelong's longest-standing football corporate group – and the AFL.



LOYAL CAT
Ron Hovey gave more than 50 years' service to Geelong.
→

GEORGE COATES

George Coates, a Fitzroy and Brisbane Lions stalwart, died on February 16, 2014. Coates, who served in the RAAF in World War II, played 128 games from 1947-54, was a finals player in 1947 and 1952 and a Victorian representative in 1949. Coates devoted much of his life to the Lions as a player, chairman of selectors and vice-chairman and his behind-the-scenes input was unsurpassed. He was a Lions man through and through and a proud inductee in the Lions Hall of Fame and a co-founder of the Fitzroy-Brisbane Lions Historical Society.

ALICE WILLS

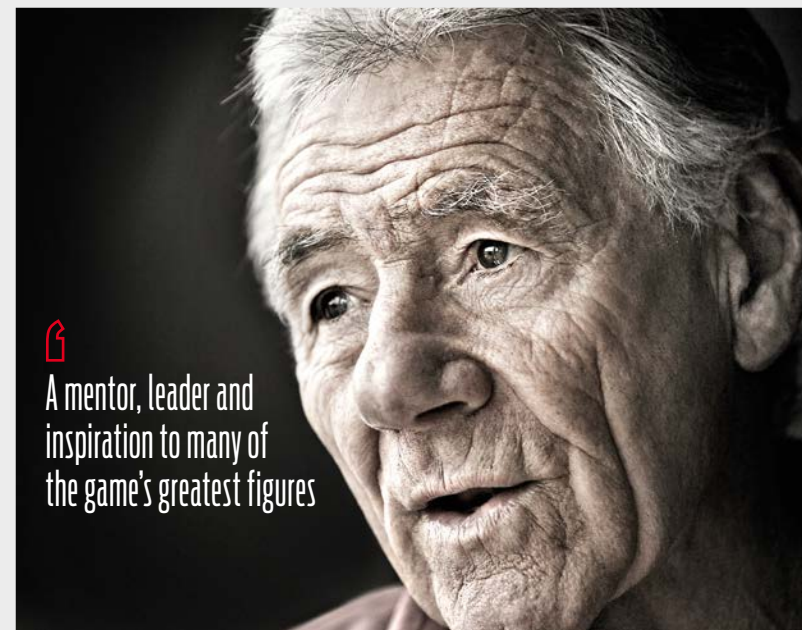
Alice Wills, described by Richmond CEO Brendon Gale as the 'matriach' of the Tigers, died on April 7, 2014, aged 94. For more than 50 years she was involved with the club in a voluntary capacity and among her achievements were the establishment of the Richmond cheer squad in 1959 and a few years later she helped launch the Supporters' Group. Wills was awarded life membership of Richmond and was one of the inaugural inductees into the club's Hall of Fame. She was the only female inductee in those two groups in the club's history.

DEAN BAILEY

As the AFL was in the final stages of launching the 2014 season, it was saddened by the death of one of its most respected servants, Dean Bailey. Bailey died of lung cancer aged 47 at the prime of his working life. Bailey made his name as a player and coach. He hailed from North Ringwood, joined Essendon in 1986 and played 53 games. After the Bombers, he played three seasons in South Australia with Glenelg and coached for three years at Mt Gravatt in Queensland before returning to Victoria. He found his calling as a coach and worked as an assistant in Essendon and Port Adelaide's premiership seasons in 2000 and 2004.

His biggest challenge came in 2008 when appointed senior coach of Melbourne, a position he held for four seasons.

He returned to SA and took up a senior assistant coaching role with Adelaide before falling ill.



A mentor, leader and inspiration to many of the game's greatest figures

TOM HAFEY

Tom Hafey, a giant among the great coaches back through the decades of Australian Football, died aged 82 on May 12, 2014. Hafey was a legendary figure in football and, in particular, at Richmond where he had his start as a player with only modest ability. It was his hard-nosed coaching that threw him under football's brightest spotlights and, in a fabulous era for Hafey-driven Richmond, the club climbed the highest mountains with premierships in 1967, 1969, 1973 and 1974, and finished runner-up in 1972 and third in 1971 and 1975. This was a drought-breaking era for the Tigers, who hadn't won a flag or played in a Grand Final since 1944. In his playing days from 1953-58, Hafey made 67 appearances mainly in the back pocket, and then played with Richmond Amateurs and in the Victorian country town of Shepparton, where he was a premiership coach from 1963-65. His Richmond coaching stint started in 1966 and he stayed until 1976 for a total of 248 games (173 wins, 73 losses and two draws), which included 20 finals. In 1977, Hafey took over as coach of Collingwood, which had finished on the bottom of the ladder the previous year. In his first season, Hafey took the Magpies to the Grand Final – for a draw against North Melbourne and a loss in the replay.

Hafey also guided Collingwood to Grand Finals in 1979, 1980 and 1981, but all were losses. He left Collingwood in 1982 after 138 games and in 1983 was the new coach of Geelong, where he had three seasons (66 games). Then came his move to Sydney as coach of the Swans, his fourth League coaching stint. In three seasons there, he added 70 games to his total, which included four finals. Overall, Hafey coached 522 games (fourth most) for 336 wins, 182 losses and four draws. Hafey was named coach in Richmond's Team of the Century, was inducted into the Tigers' Hall of Fame, named a Richmond Immortal in 2003, inducted into the Australian Football Hall of Fame in 1996 and was the All-Australian coach in 1980. Hafey had been a mentor, a leader and an inspiration to many of the game's greatest figures. He guided a generation of young men across four League clubs to achieve beyond what many could have imagined they could do within football, but, more importantly, he had guided their lives off the field. Hafey was farewelled at a funeral service in the MCC Members' area and watched on the huge screen outside by members of the general public sitting in the Ponsford Stand. A hearse carrying Hafey did a lap of honour at the MCG and later at Punt Rd Oval.

OBITUARIES cont.

LAURIE HILL

Laurie Hill, a top half-back for Collingwood who died on May 22, 2014, aged 71, almost played in two VFL premiership teams, but had to settle for two close defeats. He was in the Magpies team that lost to Melbourne by four points in 1964 and was part of the one-point loss to St Kilda in 1966. Hill, recruited from Thornbury, represented Victoria in 1964-65. After Collingwood, he had an outstanding career in the VFA with Preston where he won two Liston Trophies.

WES LOFTS

Wes Lofts died on May 22, 2014, aged 71, after a lengthy illness. Lofts first made his name at Carlton as a long-standing full-back and later became an influential official at the club as a vice-president and chairman of selectors. He played 167 games from 1960-70, was a member of the 1968 premiership side and represented Victoria. Off-field his input into the premiership sides of 1979, 1981, 1982, 1987 and 1995 was considerable. Blues great Stephen Kernahan said: "I don't know if he was the original powerbroker, but he performed that role as well as anyone ever has." Many of Carlton's biggest names gathered to say goodbye at a memorial service for Lofts a week after a private family funeral.

RALPH LANE

Ralph Lane, who played in a premiership with Melbourne and later reached high-ranking positions in the VFL administration, died at his Melbourne home on May 29, 2014, aged 84. Lane's League career spanned from 1951-56 under Norm Smith and comprised 72 games. He was a quick wingman who played in the losing 1954 Grand Final side and was on the bench in the 1956 team that beat Collingwood for the flag. From 1966-83, he was the VFL company secretary and during that period spent several years alongside Eric McCutchan and Jack Hamilton in shaping the direction of the League. He controlled the day-to-day running of the League's then new stadium, VFL Park at Waverley, and was also the VFL's finance manager and player payments director. Lane was a life member of the AFL.

GRAEME McMAHON

Graeme McMahon, an Essendon premiership chairman and airlines industry leader, died after a battle with pancreatic cancer on July 1, 2014, aged 74. McMahon was a key figure behind the Bombers' 2000 premiership. Coach Kevin Sheedy described McMahon as: "A remarkable man who led the football club through a very difficult period. If it hadn't been for him I wouldn't have stayed with Essendon and I've got no doubt we would not have won the 2000 premiership without him." He was chairman from 1996-2003 and in younger days played with Prahran in the Victorian Football Association. He spent 40 years with Ansett Airlines where he served as general manager and chief executive.

BERT GAUDION

Well-respected AFL/VFL Players' Advocate Bert Gaudion died on July 25, 2014, aged 80. Gaudion was a popular figure at Tribunal hearings for more than two decades and is remembered for his honesty, punchy one-liners and quick wit.

BRIAN BUCKLEY

Brian Buckley, who played 10 seasons for Carlton and saw his sons Mark and Stephen play for the Blues, died on August 2, 2014 – a day before his 79th birthday. Buckley, a strong-marking defender/ruckman, played 116 games from 1956-65, then crossed to VFA club Port Melbourne as captain-coach. The son of Fitzroy player Jack Buckley, he played in two finals series – in 1957 and 1962. He missed the '62 losing Grand Final because of injury. He took Port Melbourne to the VFA premiership in 1966.

DOUG WILLIAMS

Doug Williams, a member of Carlton's team which won the infamous 1945 'Bloodbath' Grand Final against South Melbourne, died on August 18, 2014, aged 91. His death left only two survivors from the team – Ken Hands and Alec Way (who later died on November 7, 2014). Williams hailed from the Gippsland town of Yallourn and played 121 games from 1944-51.

JACK EDWARDS

Jack 'Bones' Edwards, a fine full-back for North Melbourne in the 1950s, died on August 23, 2014, aged 83. Despite his light frame, Edwards took on and beat many of the best taller and heavier forwards. He played 114 games from 1951-59, won the best and fairest award in 1956 and represented Victoria in 1959. Edwards coached Coburg and Brunswick in the VFA and was a well-known football commentator on Channel 7 for many years.

NORM SHARP

Norm Sharp, a powerhouse ruckman for Geelong in the 1950s, died on October 8, 2014, aged 80. Sharp, who played 88 games from 1952-57 – his career was cut short because of a knee injury – was a member of the Cats' 1952 premiership team. He was recruited from Camperdown and quickly made a name for himself, winning Geelong's best and fairest award in 1954.

BRUCE PHILLIPS

Bruce Phillips, a full-back for St Kilda, died on October 18, 2014, aged 85. Phillips played 115 games from 1947-55 and was another leading player to have his career shortened because of a serious knee injury. He joined St Kilda from metropolitan club Camden and his standout season was 1950 when he won the best and fairest award, was selected for Victoria and was equal third in the Brownlow Medal. He played for Victoria again in 1953 and in 1955 was club vice-captain.

TED LEEHANE

Essendon lost the last surviving member of its 1942 premiership team with the death of key forward Ted Leehane on November 18, 2014, aged 91. Leehane was full-forward in the 1942 premiership side, at centre half-forward in the 1949 premiership team and returned from a ruptured kidney to be on the bench in the 1950 premiership side. Leehane, whose career spanned from 1942-50 for 83 games and 140 goals, played in the 1948 drawn Grand Final and the replay loss against Melbourne. His father Steve played for Carlton and brother Tom with Essendon.