



Victorian Country President's Annual Report 2021

Season 2021 started with much promise after a disappointing 2020 where no one was able to play any football.

Credit to all clubs for following up on COVID Safe Plans and Return to Play/Train Protocols. It was through this work carried out by clubs that we were able to play some games through the year. We had 16 clubs with 20 teams competing across Victoria in over 35s and 45s competitions. Our fixtures are always a challenge to due the unevenness of our competition and the distances some clubs must travel. As always, fitting dates in and around school holidays and public holidays is always a challenge as we try to avoid back-to-back weekend rounds. Then when the State started to shut down again, so did football.

So obviously, once again COVID disrupted our season and threw many of our plans into chaos. To be able to get on the park and play as well as being able to continue with training was a testament to the great work by our Vic Country board and the Vic Country clubs.

SportsTG registration was a challenge for some clubs, but a credit to all who were able to get members registered. There was some MVP Clubs that managed to get every player on the system and then some clubs that struggled with the technology and requirement. I do need to acknowledge Brent and the work that he put in getting the system ready and always being on hand to answer questions and respond to club needs. Brent has also done a power of work as we move to the PlayHQ system. You will recall we gave everyone a heads up in 2019 that the move was likely.

Vic Country Board changes

After a very long time on the Board and engaged with Vic Country AFL Masters and Superules, Tom Williams finished in his role as a Board member. Tom is the epitome of what Masters football is all about. He is a Life Member of Vic Country and Melton Masters and an AFL Masters Hall of Fame Member.

He was as determined and driven off the field as he was on. It would surprise no one here to know that Tommy was a fiery player who never took a backwards step and wasn't afraid to speak his mind right or right....he is never wrong!

Personally, Tommy was one the first people I sat down with at my first Carnival in Cairns in 2004 and had a beer with who wasn't from Ballarat. I have always looked up to him as a mentor and a mate but someone who will do almost anything for anyone.

Buck McPhee Game

We were all saddened to hear of the loss of former Board member and GV Giants and Echuca champ David Buck McPhee.

As all would know, Buck got very ill in 2019 and passed away in Sept 2020, however due to COVID not all were able to attend his service or pay our respects.

A football match between Echuca and GV Giants was organized with a curtain raiser game held between most of the 2017 Division One winning Vic Country 50s team and the leftovers. In true Buck style the day was well attended and enjoyed by all. Well done to Davo and Vossy from GV Giants and Echuca as well as others for organising. It would also be remiss of me not to pay tribute to Michelle, Bucks wife for being a big a part of the day and providing a lot of us with an opportunity to honour our mate and a true legend of Country football.

WA Carnival

After the postponement of WA 2020, the 2021 National AFL Masters Carnival was scheduled to be the biggest and best yet ... however COVID had other ideas and borders closed and we couldn't get in to play.

Before withdrawing from the event, Vic Country had well over 100 registrations with 25 Women's over 40s team and a good spread across the Men's age group. Of particular note was that the 35/40's team was filling up. A lot of new players registered for the 2021 Carnival.

Due to the cancellation, all fees were returned to those who registered. All ordered apparel was dispersed or is waiting to be sent out.

The 2022 National Carnival will be held in Adelaide. It will be great to get back to playing against our mates from other States and Territories!

AFL Masters Hall of Fame members and Legends

Even though the 2021 National Carnival was a reduced model with only WA, Tassie, NT and SA attending, the Hall of Fame night was still conducted, live in Perth and streamed online as well.

It was with great honour that Vic Country nominated Stevie McGee (Gisborne) and Charlie Ardonetto (Geelong) to be inducted into the AFL Masters Hall of Fame. Both men have been instrumental in their support and dedication to their local clubs and the Vic Country competition and Carnival teams.

Charlie Adornetto has been a foundation member of the Victorian Country Masters since 1990, initially as a player for Geelong. He was part of the Organising Committee for the Geelong National Carnival in 1997 and 20 years later, he was Chairman of the Organising Committee for the 2017 carnival in Geelong. In 2008, he was inducted as a life member of Victorian Country Masters football.

Steve is a life member at both Sunbury and Gisborne Masters Football Clubs and is a Life Member of Victoria Country. Having been involved across all levels of Masters football across both Vic Metro and Vic Country over the last 30+ years, his inclusion in the AFL Masters Hall of Fame is well deserved.

Ian 'Padre' Walter was elevated to Legend. Ian first started playing Masters football with Vic Country in 1996, and his record at state level is nothing short of remarkable. As a player for Vic Country, he has attended 24 carnivals, been All-Australian 12 times and 4 times Carnival Best and Fairest. Ian has also served Vic Country off the field. From 1999-2002, he served as Vic Country President and in 2003, he was inducted as a Life Member of Vic Country. Ian has been a significant contributor to the game at the highest possible level. He was elected to the National board in 2004 and served as AFL Masters National Vice President from 2005 to 2013. Ian has been a

consistent feature of AFL Masters football for 25 years, and his service both on and off the field, at State and National level, make him a worthy Legend of AFL Masters.

Time to Step Down

In April of this year, I commenced a new job in Heywood, South-West Victoria with the Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation. Heywood is on Gunditjmara land, the land of my mob and where my family originates from. I touch the earth where my bloodlines began.

I had worked in my previous role at VACSAL for 12 years as a Community Development officer which allowed me freedoms and flexibilities to take on the often-demanding role of Vic Country President. My role now is not as flexible and is fixed to the area which has me being responsible for a whole range of staff and programs and as such it doesn't allow me the time or flexibility to carry out my duties as President.

I liken it to football in that in my previous role I was a midfielder who did what I wanted and was accountable to no one ... now I'm a defender and all of a sudden there are responsibilities and accountabilities.

I hope that one day there will be a Masters team or teams, based in the South West, but I'll keep playing with Ballarat. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the club executive members who have challenged and supported me over the past 4 years in my role as President. Special mention to my teammates at Ballarat for always keeping me grounded and reminding me of why we play Masters football.

I must also thank the Board members of Vic Country over the past 8 years for being a great team to be part of. The recent past as President, I truly appreciated the effort put in by, the current Board have a great plan for the comp moving forward. Like all good game plans, we must take time to learn it and adapt to the conditions and execute it to the best of our abilities to make it work.

Good luck Felicity, Kev, Jason, Brent, Kirsten and Nat with what lies ahead. Special thanks also to Natalie Butler for being a great supporter who provided clear and concise directions and organized the best nights out in Bali.

Tony Lovett

President – Victorian Country Masters Australian Football Inc



Victorian Metropolitan President's Annual Report 2021

The 2021 year can best be described as eventful, most notably as during the course of the year:

- The Board abandoned the COVID-19 impacted 2021 Season for all AFLVM men's and women's Competitions after 6 rounds were completed due to government-imposed lockdowns.
- The National Board proceeded with the 2021 National Carnival in Perth notwithstanding COVID-19 lockdowns prevented a number of states from participating including Victoria.
- The financial position of the AFLVM was constantly monitored to ensure the league was not trading whilst insolvent and to establish a reasonable level of club fees having regard to an incomplete season of football being played.
- The involvement of the National Board's General Manager at the request of the AFLVM Secretary, in August 2021, to facilitate and monitor the AFLVM Board agreement to enter into caretaker mode in the lead up to the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM), subject to preparation and consideration of a new constitution.
- Appointment of an Interim Executive Director in December 2021.
- Two Special General Meetings (SGM) were called.
- The Diamond Valley Superules FC (DV) commenced a legal dispute with the Board over a football tribunal hearing outcome.
- Identification of suspected alleged fraudulent activity by Dr. Adrian Raftery acting for AFLVM, in the accounts of AFLVM allegedly by a third-party supplier.



On 23 September 2021, 5 Clubs collectively requested an SGM with a Resolution that Club delegates endorse the removal of all current members of the Board and to replace the Board with handpicked members, including 3 existing Board members, effective immediately. The meeting, scheduled for 8 November 2021 was cancelled by the requesting clubs on 5 November 2021.

Throughout 2021, the AFLVM Board established a subcommittee and engaged Bruce Kent (Greenvale President and eminent sporting body Constitution lawyer) and Ian Cunliffe to review the existing AFLVM Constitution. Following a number of consultations with Members during the latter part of 2021, the Draft (20 January 2022) Constitution was unanimously adopted by 30 members present at an SGM on 31 January 2022. The approved Constitution replaces the current Constitution (30/06/2014).

Looking ahead, the 2022 Board will have a number of challenges including what 2022 season could look like, what COVID-19 contingency scenarios are required, competition structures and fixtures, board response to club and stakeholder requirements, developing strategies to combat emerging competition, 2022 budget and fees, incentives to get our best teams to the 2022 National Carnival in Adelaide and stakeholder engagement planning including sponsorships, communications, webpages and social media.

I note my appreciation for:

- the work performed by Neil King, Steve Eurell (National President) and Ian Cunliffe in facilitating the AFLVM Board agreement to enter into caretaker mode, reviewing the drafting of the new Constitution and interfacing with insurers in progressing the legal dispute with DV. In particular, I thank Neil King for his unbiased guidance and commitment to not losing sight of the key objectives of the National Board's involvement and the National Board for their unwavering support during a difficult time for the AFLVM Board.
- the excellent contribution from Rod Craig as Interim Executive Director in an uncertain and often volatile environment.
- the hard work of the 2021 AFLVM Board across all aspects of our League activities and acknowledge the input and support of clubs and members during a tough 2021.

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of Chris Spencer during his time a General Manager and over the past 29 years in various senior roles. I wish Chris every success in his new endeavours.

Finally, I wish all retiring Directors and the new Board every success in the future.

Joe Arnephy

President – AFL Masters Victorian Metropolitan Superules Football League



Western Australian Chairman's Annual Report 2021

We knew coming into 2021 that the year was going to be very busy and challenging, however, I'm not sure we understood exactly how busy or how challenging with issues ranging from interstate border closures, small lockdowns, increased player numbers returning to football, the outcomes of the Parliamentary Inquiry into funding in WA Football and hosting the National AFL Masters Carnival.

How we overcame the challenges of 2020 and the dreaded COVID set us up for 2021 in a position where we thought maybe we have a handle on this. Well that was far from the truth, with the impending National Carnival in Perth in September, who would have thought that the AFL Grand Final would be here in Perth at the same time, and then the WAFL Grand Final gets moved out of its traditional timing to be at the end of the National Carnival. Literally, right up to the Saturday of the AFL Grand Final, a few of us were living this rollercoaster ride of potential border closures, other states pulling out or even a local case that put us back into lockdown. Well we got through it with the help of those states that could come Tasmania, South Australia and Northern Territory, and over 400 WA players to put a spectacular display of Masters Football on of all places, Langley Park. And as probably expected WA took out every title on offer in every age group. We will definitely be the hunted when we hopefully go to Adelaide in 2022.

Given the financial impact of COVID-19 on the football industry, the AFLMWA Board would like to extend its sincere gratitude to WAFC, Carlton United Brewery, Burley Sekem, Minuteman Press Welshpool, EWA Electrical Wholesalers, Burswood Seafood, Sealink WA, Optus Stadium, Crowne Plaza Perth and 91.3SportFm for their continued support throughout 2021. Many more sponsors and supporters assisted with the National Carnival and acknowledgement will occur later in the report.

Charity Partnerships

During the year we have aligned partnerships with the following charities:

- Keep Your Feet
- Paraplegic Benefit Fund
- Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia

And during the National Carnival we started an alignment with Broken Crayons Still Colour Foundation, the Heart Foundation, Breast Cancer Care WA and the Australian Cervical Cancer Foundation. You will see and hear from Broken Crayons Still Colour Foundation in early 2022.

2021 Statistics

From a statistics point of view, in Sports TG we had 2145 active players registrations taken from teamsheet data. The data for 2021, although not lost is being migrated across from Sports TG to

PlayHQ, as we move to the new registration system, and has made deep interrogation difficult at this time.

- 69 teams across 44 clubs
- 2145 total participants
 - Up from 2079 in 2020
 - Some still getting back into Masters footy after COVID year – National Carnival an understandable attraction for those interested to register
- 1552 participants across metro clubs
- 593 in regional clubs
 - 436 in South West
 - 96 in Mid-West
 - 43 up North
 - 17 out East

As the Ladies competition is expanding and more females are showing interest in AFLMWA, we as a Board again encourage every club to think through the next few years and clubs consider the impact of ladies joining your club, or your club having a ladies side. As per 2021, any lady who wishes to play in 2022 must align with a club, register with that club, be financial at that club or pay membership fees (inclusive of same insurance as any male player), be on the teamsheet, and if playing for another club on game day must have a permit in Play HQ. Basically, male and female players are treated exactly the same, in terms of registration and team sheets.

Sponsors

Again this year we are very thankful for the support and assistance the our amazing sponsors who stood by us and hope given the chance to support them, you and your players reach out and use them up. We had many sponsors for the National Carnival and they are listed in the National Carnival wrap-up.

- WAFC
- Carlton United Brewing
- Burley Sekem
- Major Motor Trimmers
- Optus Stadium
- Minuteman Press Welshpool
- Burswood Seafood
- Sealink WA
- Crowne Plaza Perth
- 91.3 SportFm

Post the National Carnival, we will be working hard to expand our sponsor partners for the regional and metro competitions, and ask if anyone has any contacts that they think might be worth reaching out too, please let us know.

Umpires

We do say it every year, but I feel that this year with a few rule changes, a new means of payments and scheduling, a massive thanks to those who put a whistle in their mouth and took on being an umpire, never an easy gig especially when you have 40 odd experts telling you how to adjudicate the game. We are working with WAFC to improve the skill set of our existing umpires and future

umpires and have contributed funds to the development of a survey about attitudes and behaviours towards Umpires and the match day experience through the WAFC. Special thanks to Vic Tomlinson for his umpire co-ordination this year, kindly supported by John Manuel.

Cards/Tribunals/Suspensions

This year saw an increase in yellow and red cards mainly attributed to more games being played throughout the state than in our history. In metro we had 19 cards in total, of which 17 were yellow, with 2 red cards meaning suspensions ranging from one week to four weeks. Fortunately we did not have to enlist the Community Football Tribunal in 2021, as the players took early pleas.

Although we raised the issue of social media being a forum for keyboard warriors to vent their personal perceptions, we need to have ask and remind clubs to speak with their registered players about the social media policy, and that the Board will call out individuals for unacceptable behaviour on social media about AFL Masters Board, the Association or its sponsors.

Regional Carnivals

During the season of 2021, we setup extra opportunities for football games, where we arranged a carnival at Kulin with the help of the local footy club in April and a AFLMWA Carnival in Jurien Bay in June. These only happened with the help of the local footy club, and the working relationship we have with WA Country Football through Community Football Advisory Council. It is a focus for the Board to ensure as many opportunities or possibilities exist for metro clubs to go regional, or regions travel to a different region to get an extra few games. As always the local hospitality is second to none, and the bus trip becomes the envy of those who don't go.



Radio Show – 91.3 SportFm

The Saturday morning radio show was another success this year, even though our time on air moved from 8am to 7am, due to station commitments. Thanks to Andy for work producing the show along with our sponsors EWA Electrical Wholesalers and Burley Sekem, and thanks to those who provided content or contacts in 2021. If you are keen to have go behind the microphone or have a contact worthy of our show please reach out to Andy.

National AFL Masters Inc

At the end of this year the General Manager of the National Board retires, and the newly appointed Dr Adrian Raftery, well he was appointed this time last year, but due to COVID doesn't take the reins until Jan 1st. With that being said, Neil King leaves the Association in a strong position after many years and all states including WA thank Neil for his contribution. The National Board also lost the services of Ed Reddin, who was in charge of the Communications portfolio, he has moved to Softball Australia and was very effective at promoting and using WhatsApp to share information about all things National.

The National Board have empowered the new General Manager to focus on growing the women's game in Masters, and recently applied to the Sports Australia Participation Grant for funding to provide training and development of the women's game across the Masters family. This application was made with all 9 states providing justification along with the AFL, Sherrin and Kookaburra Sports (Burley Sekem). Here is hoping that an announcement happens soon, whereby the Institute of Sports provide some seed funding to assist with growing the women's game.

In terms of age groups at upcoming National Carnival in Adelaide, the men's 35s/40s age will be broken up back to what it was as two separate age groups, and in the women's space, states have committed to having an Over 35s women's and Over 40s women's competition, and hope numbers dependant to have an over 45s age group as well. There will be demonstration or exhibition games for Over 50s women, Over 65s men's and men's/women's Indigenous Game.

ALFMWA Historical Subcommittee

This sub-committee never really got together this year, however, thanks to Mike "Patch" Adams we collated and scanned photos and articles documenting AFL Masters WA history from 1982, from a club and state point of view. 2022 will see this group get together and continue the generation of the electronic database of information.

Ladies Subcommittee

The focus of this group of enthusiastic people was to grow and develop the women's side of AFLMWA and in 2021, we achieved nominating 3 sides into the National Carnival, and had four clubs participate and provide opportunities for women who wanted to play football in our metro competition. Thanks to Rob Steel for leading this committee, and for the committee members who went above and beyond to assist clubs and teams in metro and in the southwest.

Final Comments

As stated previously, the Board is made up of volunteers, as is every club committee and sometimes what may seem like the biggest pressing issue for an individual, turns out not to be that big an issue in the grand scheme of things. Many of us are fortunate that our bosses gave us plenty of leeway in 2021 to work on football things, but we all have full time jobs, families and other pressing priorities that take up time as well as the football issues. On a few too many occasions in 2021, Board members spent time dealing with minor issues that just because an individual wanted to big note or grandstand an issue, we had to drop what we were focussed on and deal with relative minor issues. We as a Board are looking over 42 clubs, 65 teams and working through putting the jigsaw pieces together to structure a competition that people want to play in, so please when reaching out to the Board, please consider the impact of how you raise the issue, whether it's actually a Board issue to resolve or can it be resolved at club level, or in fact come to the Board with problems with a structured well thought through proposal or idea for consideration. Sometimes Board members are unable to resolve the issue there and then, as those other commitments take priority.

Thankyous

We need to thank and acknowledge the support from WAFC CEO Michael Roberts and his team, this year has brought many challenges and with the WAFC assistance AFLMWA has again been able to deliver a game day experience that keeps people engaged in Football in WA.

Last year we welcomed Daniel Murphy as the Board Administrator, in 2021 the role was taken up by Patrick Abbott, who had the pleasure of working with AFLMWA and Metro Football League. Patrick's learning curve was even steeper than Daniels, but Patrick's impact on AFLMWA has been greatly appreciated and acknowledged at all levels including National AFL Masters. Daniel and Patrick worked tirelessly in the background at the National Carnival, along with Fiona Coffey to ensure that the administration of the Sept Carnival was sorted as it needed to be.

In terms of Clubs this year, it has been a year where many clubs have prospered and many people have commented about how they have enjoyed their footy. Yet again, we have been told of an individual that thanks his club for accepting him, helping him from a dark place, loves playing footy again, loves being part of a club with good people and now intends to put his hand up at his club for a committee position. The positive impact of what your club does on individuals and families, can never be underestimated. Thanks to all club Presidents, delegates and committees and their exiting or incoming volunteers for your efforts in 2021, and we look forward to 2022 with an open mind.

Thanks to Trish Medwin, Joe McCarthy and Michael Osborn who nominated for the Board this year, Congratulations to all three (3) who were unopposed and are all strong candidates with differing skill sets that will make a solid contribution to the running of the Association going forward.

As per usual, a special mention to the existing Board and their partners, it's never an easy job volunteering, and to Vic Tomlinson and Dave Castle, thank you for what you have brought to the table and to the impact you have had on the Association. Both have contributed not only at Board meetings but on game days, and with the State sides and hopefully you have enjoyed your experience on the Board. Best of luck with your future endeavours. It needs to be said that these guys have been backed up by some amazing partners who put up with a lot throughout the last three years, thanks also to Jane and Leanne.

To the partners and families of anyone who has been on a committee or the Board, thank you for allowing us to spend time organising and doing stuff footy related, we all appreciate it.

In closing, thanks to all who helped in 2021, who volunteered their time and effort not chasing a reward, have an enjoyable and safe festive season, look out for your fellow Masters brothers and sisters some are doing it tough and appreciate the support, be safe and I look forward to an exciting year in AFL Masters WA next year, bring on 2022.

Nathan Dixon

Chairman - AFL Masters WA (Inc)

2021 AFL MASTERS HALL OF FAME / LEGENDS / LIFE MEMBER

This year's Hall of Fame gala function was held at the Locker Room at Optus Stadium in Perth during the 2021 AFL Masters National Carnival where there were six new inductees, two elevated to Legend Status and one new life membership awarded.

2021 Hall of Fame Legends elevations





Ian Walter (Victorian Country)

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It is with great pleasure AFL Masters Hall of Fame elevates to the status of legend, from Vic Country – Ian Walter

Ian first started playing Masters football with Vic Country in 1996, and his record at state level is nothing short of remarkable.

As a player for Vic Country, he has attended 24 carnivals; been an All-Australian 12 times and four times carnival Best and Fairest. Ian has also served Vic Country off the field. From 1999-2002, he served as Vic Country President and in 2003, he was inducted as a Life Member of Vic Country.

Meanwhile, Ian has been a significant contributor to the game at the highest possible level. He was:

- Elected to the national board in 2004
- Served as AFL Masters National Vice President from 2005 to 2013

Ian has been a consistent feature of AFL Masters football for 25 years, and his service both on and off the field, at state and national level, make him a worthy Legend of AFL Masters.

Ian – congratulations on your elevation to Legend status, in the AFL Masters National “Hall of Fame”



Peter Coffey (Western Australia)

It is with great pleasure AFL Masters Hall of Fame inducts, as a Legend, from Western Australia – Peter Coffey. Peter’s accomplishments at state and local level are nothing short of incredible:

- First played Superules in 1991, at age 33.
- President of the Victoria Park Pigs from 1992 to 1994, and again from 2015 to the present day
- Vice President of WA Masters in 1995 and 1996
- President of WA Masters from 1997 to 2000
- Involved in 20 national carnivals as a WA player or coach
- Inducted into the WA AFL Masters Hall of Fame in 2019.

Peter’s contributions at the national level are equally impressive:

- National Vice President from 2001 to 2004
- National President for 10 years, from 2005 to 2014
- AFL Masters Life Membership in 2010
- AFL Masters Hall of Fame in 2012

Without the efforts of people like Peter Coffey, AFL Masters and the National Carnival would not be what they are today.

Peter – congratulations on your elevation to Legend status, in the AFL Masters National “Hall of Fame”

2021 Hall of Fame Inductees



Peter 'Doc' Clements (Tasmania)

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It is with great pleasure AFL Masters Hall of Fame inducts, from Tasmania – Peter ‘Doc’ Clements. Affectionately known as ‘Doc’, Peter Clements has been an institution of Tasmanian and National Masters for decades. Since 1984, Doc has only ever missed the National Carnival due to illness, and he has held every role possible at local and state level.

His local accomplishments include being a founding member of Lindisfarne Master Rules club, and has coached and played at Lindisfarne since its inception in 2002; life membership at the Lindisfarne Football Club; and a mentor and coach in Tasmanian Indigenous Football.

Doc’s state accomplishments include 26 carnivals as a Tasmanian player, coach, or captain; Two-time All Australian; Represented Queensland in 1995, and was awarded All Australian that year; Hall of Fame and Life Member of Tasmanian AFL Masters.

Doc is a fixture at Masters games and training, helping coaches, or doing thankless work of pumping footballs and filling water bottles. He brings laughter to the group and is known for finding missing footballs that just happen to turn up in his room. Doc is probably best known for his tireless recruitment of Masters players. He has been known to ring state coaches with the details of players he has recruited, and has been instrumental in recruiting indigenous players, through his own involvement as a Tasmanian Aboriginal. If not for his tireless efforts, on many occasions Tasmania would have struggled to put a side together.

It is people like Doc Clements that make AFL Masters what it is, and he is a worthy recipient of this prestigious award. Doc – welcome to the AFL Masters National “Hall of Fame”



Brenton Wortley (SA)

It is with great pleasure AFL Masters Hall of Fame inducts, from South Australia – Brenton Wortley. Brenton started playing Masters footy in 1995 for SA foundation club, the West Brumby's. He has played every year since then and has held several positions at local and state level.

At the local level, Brenton has served as West Brumby's President (2000 -01); been a club delegate or committee member (2008-09, 2014-16); and coached then (2016 to present).

From a state perspective, Brenton has:

- Participated in every carnival since 1995, except for Tasmania in 2000
- Played a total of 25 carnivals, including Perth 2021
- Been awarded Life Membership at South Australia in 2004
- Held several positions on the state executive over 11 years from Marketing Manager (2011-12); Vice President (2013-14); and President (2019 to present).

Brenton has always promoted and represented AFL Masters with professionalism and integrity, and he is a worthy recipient of this prestigious award.

Brenton – welcome to the AFL Masters National “Hall of Fame”

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Garry Ross (Western Australia)

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It is with great pleasure AFL Masters Hall of Fame inducts from Western Australia – Garry Ross. Given his contribution to Masters Football in Western Australia, it is fitting Garry to be nominated and acknowledged with this prestigious award at his home carnival in Perth. As a player and administrator at club and state level, Garry has been involved in Superules and Masters Football since 1996.

Locally, his contributions are considerable. He was:

- An inaugural member of Rockingham Superules in 1996
- President and delegate of Rockingham from 1998 to 2000
- An inaugural life member of Rockingham Superules in 2006

At state level, Garry has played in 19x national carnivals – 16x for WA and 3x for QLD – and only missed one due to illness. His accomplishments at state and national level speak for themselves:

- 4 years as WA Vice President from 2001 to 2004.
- 4 years as WA Vice President from 2005 to 2008.
- AFL Masters WA Life Member in 2009.
- Inaugural inductee of AFL Masters WA Hall of Fame in 2012.
- Three-time WA captain, five-time All-Australian, and joint-winner of the National Carnival Best & Fairest in 2007.

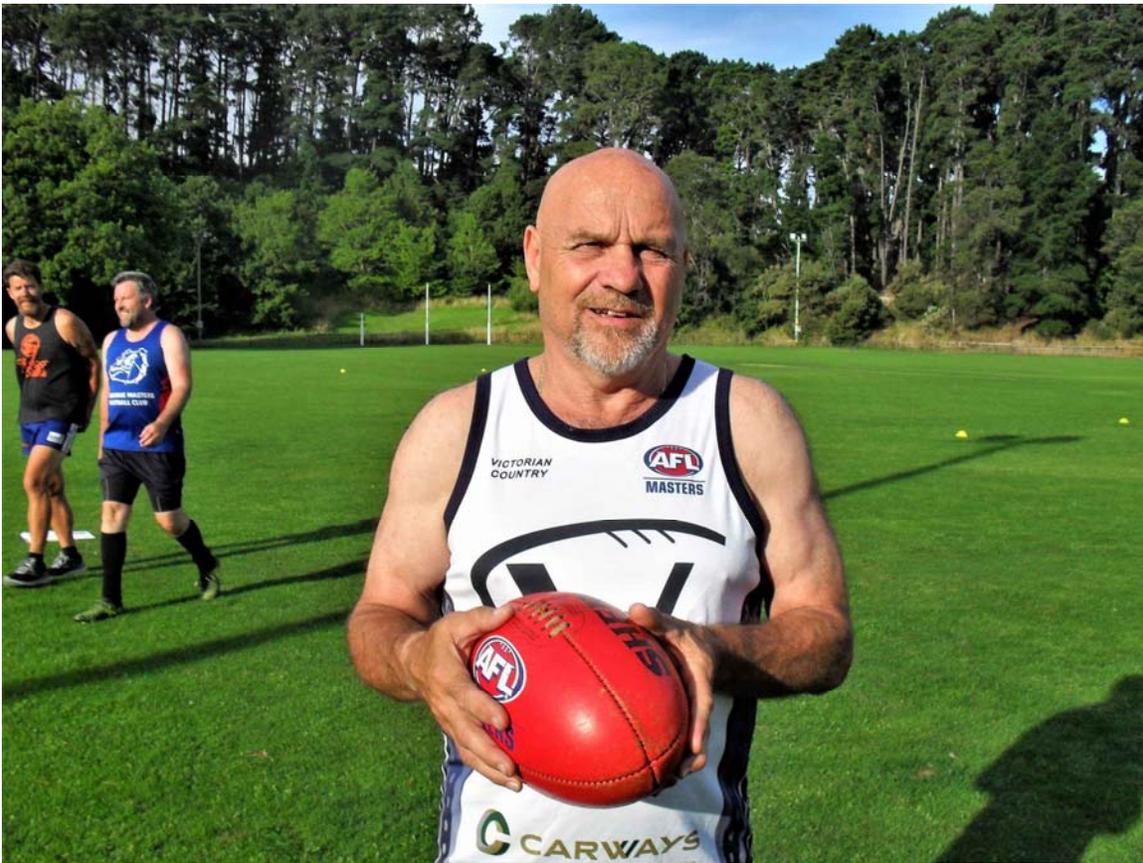
During his time as WA President, Garry organised four national tours, with more than 300 travellers attending Darwin 2008 under his watch.

Garry has also represented Australia in international rules, taking on Ireland domestically in 2006 and 2008, and on tour in 2010, where he won Best and Fairest for Australia “B”.

He represented WA Masters for 4 years within the Western Australia Football Commission, and he continues to provide mentorship to the current WA Masters Board.

AFL Masters and the WA Board are pleased to that you can receive this award in front of your family and friends here in Perth.

Garry – welcome to the AFL Masters National “Hall of Fame”



Steve McGhee (Victorian Country)

It is with great pleasure AFL Masters Hall of Fame inducts, from Vic Country – Steve McGee. Steve is a living advertisement for Masters football. He has been a tireless and dedicated representative of Masters footy, and is always excited at the prospect of pulling on the Vic Country jumper with mates, and discussing the carnival with new players.

At local level, Steve has:

- Held multiple roles on the Gisborne committee over a 22-year period, including Catering Manager where he assists at games, trainings, and functions.
- Active in working to grow sponsors and revenue for the club.
- Prior to his involvement at Gisborne, Steve played at Sunbury in the Vic Metro Masters, where he won two club best and fairest awards and multiple premierships.

Steve is a life member at both Sunbury and Gisborne Masters Football Clubs, and is a Life Member of Victoria Country.

Steve's contribution to the National Carnival includes 23 years representing Victoria Country; 3 years representing Victoria Country as vice-captain; 12x All Australian awards; and the 2006 National Carnival Best & Fairest.

Just as importantly, he and partner Pauline see the carnival as an opportunity to live the Masters spirit among great people. Having been involved across all levels of Masters football across both Vic Metro and Vic Country over the last 30+ years, his inclusion in the AFL Masters Hall of Fame is well deserved.

Steve – welcome to the AFL Masters National “Hall of Fame”
2021 AFL Masters Annual Report

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Steve Burchill (Queensland)

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It is with great pleasure AFL Masters Hall of Fame inducts, from Queensland – Steve Burchill. Steve’s involvement in Masters football dates back to 2002, when he joined Easts (Springwood) as a player, and he is now in his 18th consecutive season as a player.

However, his contributions off the field possibly overshadow this achievement. In 2005, he formed Morningside Masters, which has gone on to be one of the strongest Masters Clubs in Qld. He was the inaugural Coach of Morningside Masters 2006 – 2010, and the club delegate from 2006 to 2007. Steve has played in a number of Queensland country carnivals to help take Masters footy to non-traditional areas in the state.

The 2021 National Carnival in Perth will be his 17th carnival, and his accomplishments at state and national level are impressive:

- Two-time All-Australian; Canberra in 2010 as a player, and Adelaide in 2014 as coach.
- In 2012, joined AFL Masters Queensland as Treasurer, and held that position for four years.
- Then held the position of president at AFL Masters Queensland from 2016 to 2018.
- Steve was re-elected as president in 2020, and he is a life member of AFL Masters Queensland

Under his management and guidance, there has been a continual rise in player participation, and Queensland Masters are now one of the strongest participating States.

More than 300 Queensland players entered the Gold Coast carnival in 2016, with the state winning every Division 1 Age title.

He brings exceptional professionalism to the administration of AFL Masters in Queensland, overseeing matters such as state registrations, accommodation, merchandise, and travel and social functions.

It is a testament to yourself and your efforts that AFL Masters in Queensland is in such a strong position.

Steve – welcome to the AFL Masters National “Hall of Fame”

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Charlie Adornetto (Victorian Country)

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It is with great pleasure AFL Masters Hall of Fame inducts, from Vic Country – Charlie Adornetto. Charlie has been a foundation member of the Victorian Country Masters since 1990, initially as a player for Geelong. He is remembered as a competitor during the formative years of Masters, who understood “Footy for fun”, but also ensured the game was played at a level to ensure it wasn’t just seen as a kick in the park.

In local Masters football:

- He was elected as president of Geelong Masters in 1998, while still playing in the over-35s.
- Charlie led the club for five years, and successfully introduced Masters legend Brian Mewha to Geelong.
- Charlie is an ambassador for Lawrie Evans contribution to Vic Country Masters, and helped organise the Lawrie Evans memorial games from 2010 to 2014.
- He helped establish an over-55s competition for both Vic Metro and Vic Country

At state and national level:

- He was part of the Organising Committee for the Geelong National Carnival in 1997
- 20 years later, he was Chairman of the Organising Committee for the 2017 carnival in Geelong – one of the most successful carnivals in AFL Masters history.
- He has participated in an estimated 22 National Carnivals, and has been All Australian 14 times
- In 2008, he was inducted as a life member of Victorian Country Masters football.

Charlie was also known for playing across many age groups and filling in as required, and he continues to be involved, volunteering as an umpire, and attending social events with partner Jane. He has proven himself to be a custodian of Masters footy, and we welcome the opportunity to highlight the contribution of Charlie in Masters football.

Charlie – welcome to the AFL Masters National “Hall of Fame”

2021 Life Member inductee



Neil King (National)

It is with great pleasure that we award Neil King life membership to AFL Masters. Neil has given AFL Masters extraordinary and devoted service as General Manager for almost 20 years and has been instrumental in getting the organisation to its current stage. His background in sports administration is outstanding, previously having spent time at the Geelong Football Club, Athletics Australia, Baseball Australia, and with the 2000 Sydney Olympic Organising Committee.

Neil played football for Essendon in 1973, coached athletics at the 1986 Commonwealth Games, trained four Stawell Gift winners and two Australian athletics champions, set up the Grand Prix Athletics series, and represented Australia in veterans' cricket against England in 2015 and 2017.

However, Neil's achievements with AFL Masters include:

- Negotiating the transition of Masters Australian Football to AFL Masters in 2008, which released funding through AFL brand recognition for National Carnivals
- Establishing an independent insurance policy for AFL Masters which reduced and stabilised the cost to each state by an estimated 60%
- Established a deal with Sherrin footballs for use at local, state, and National carnival level, which also delivered financial benefit to AFL Masters
- Oversaw the introduction of the women's competition into the National Carnival in 2016

Neil's passion and enthusiasm for AFL Masters is undeniable and has been a driving force in establishing AFL Masters as a well-known throughout Australia.

It our great pleasure to award Life Membership to Neil King for his enormous contribution to AFL Masters over the last 20 years.

Neil King, congratulations on becoming an AFL Masters life member.