

Swan Districts National
Football Club (Inc.)
Premiers 1961, 1962, 1963

31st
ANNUAL
REPORT

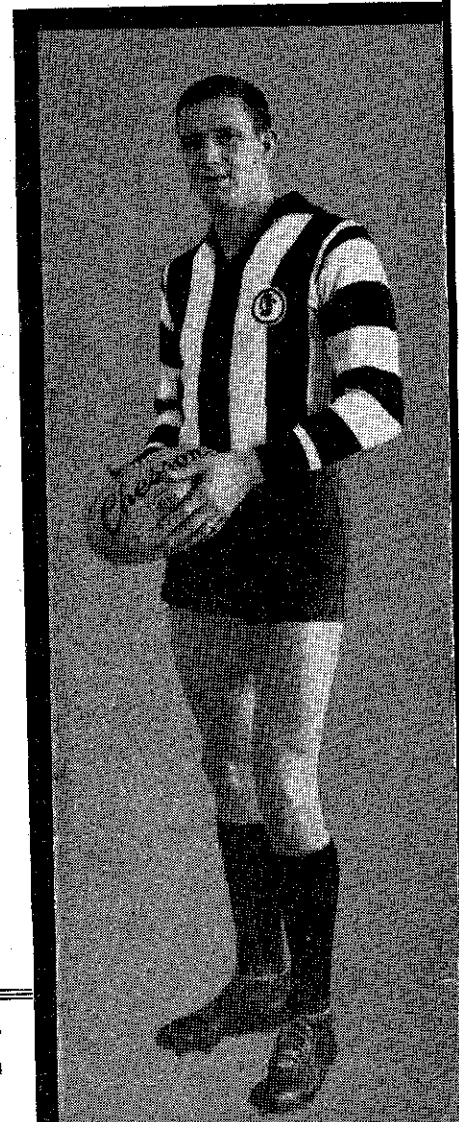
Presented at

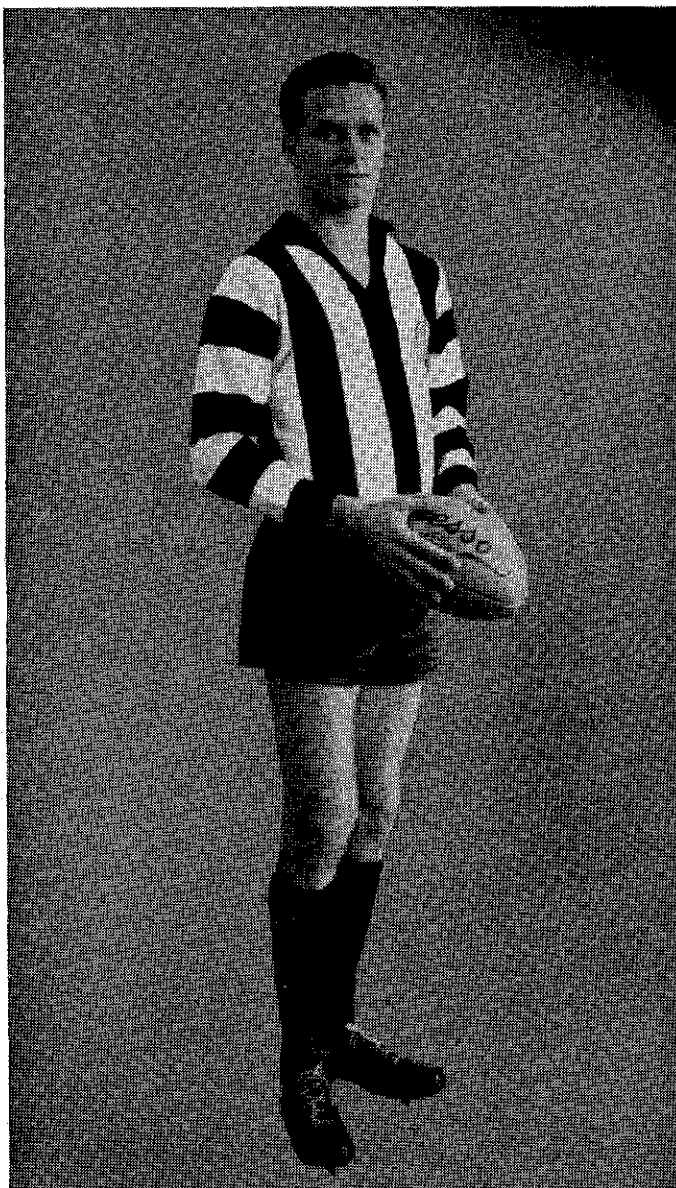
Annual Meeting

MONDAY
14th DECEMBER
1964

McDONALD STAND
BASSENDAN OVAL

★ A. (TONY) NESBIT
LEAGUE FAIREST AND BEST 1964





GRAHAM SMITH — Prendergast Medal Winner.

**SWAN DISTRICTS NATIONAL FOOTBALL CLUB (INC.)
W.A.N.F.L.**

OFFICE-BEARERS 1964

Joint Patrons:

R. A. McDonald, J. P.; R. A. Newbey; A. J. Calnon.

President:

P. J. Bright.

Vice-Presidents:

E. Holdsworth and D. Anderson

Delegates to W.A.N.F.L.:

A. T. Moiler and E. Holdsworth.

Proxy Delegates:

P. J. Bright and P. Mountain.

Players' Representative:

C. Maynard.

Coach:

Haydn Bunton.

Reserves' Coach:

Fred Castledine.

Thirds Coach:

A. Nesbit.

Selectors:

League: Haydn Bunton (chairman), Norm Baty and Pat Mountain.

Reserves: Fred Castledine, Haydn Bunton, Norm Baty and Pat Mountain.

Thirds: Tony Nesbit, Captain and Vice-Captain

Thirds Manager:

B. Zilko.

Trophy Committee:

Chairman C. Murtha

Auditor:

E. Mellar.

Solicitors:

R. S. Haines & Co.

Hon Trustee:

Mr. G. Goodridge.

Hon. Timekeepers:

L. Turner (League) and A. Robins (Reserve)

Hon. Secretary:

A. T. Moiler.

Hon. Treasurer:

P. Lynch.

Hon Assistant Secretary:

P. Scott.

Committee:

E. Barker, C. Murtha, P. Mountain, O. Devitt, D. Drake-Brockman
and F. A. Sweetapple.

Hon. Medical Officers:

Drs. R. Seman and B. Buttsworth.

Returning Officer:

R. Hamilton.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gentlemen,

Whilst I am not able to report another premiership win I feel that 1964 was a successful year in that strength was revealed in our teams down the line.

The glorious first round start to the season gave rise to the hope that the slogan — "Four in '64" — was going to be a fact. And then came that unexplainable thing that comes to all champions, whether it be football, racing or what have you, — a sudden slump in form. Injuries to key personnel with resultant positional experiments threw the side out of balance and then that dreaded thing happened — players lost confidence in themselves and each other. There was no lack of trying on the part of the players to pull themselves out of the doldrums but nothing would go right for them.

Quite a number of our public blamed the extraordinarily high number of players selected in the State side for our troubles. Whilst this could have had some minor influence in the matter, I refuse to accept it as the cause. If the players of our Club are considered to be the best material available then it is an honour, not only to the player, but the club also, and, the greater the number selected, the higher we must be held in esteem.

Haydn Bunton gave us another tremendous year as a coach, footballer and clubman. He again had to battle against the terrific difficulties of injuries and, as I have said before, I marvel at his courage and tenacity. It is this latter quality that has endeared him to his players and has had more influence on results than any other. His decision to return to Norwood is one not easily made by him, but is a fulfilment of an undertaking he gave that club when he came to us in 1960. The fact that there is an unexpired portion of his contract to complete added to his difficulty of accepting the Norwood offer.

Haydn, to know you has been one of the delightful experiences of my life. To associate with you closely as I have has been an extreme pleasure and to see the immense impact that you have had on the football of both our club and the State as a whole by your superb sportsmanship, your untiring devotion and dedication to the game makes me feel proud that I played some part in bringing you to our club. I sincerely thank you for your personal co-operation with me and other club officials. I thank you for those four glorious years that we have had together. No matter what the future holds nothing can detract from the glory that your associations brought to our Club. I am certain that the impetus given to the players right along the line will have an enduring effect on our future. Best wishes for your football and personal future, Haydn.

To all players, no matter what grade, I thank you sincerely for your loyalty and the untiring efforts you made to endeavour to dig us out of the temporary lull. I am appreciative of your comradeship at all times.

Congratulations to Tony Nesbit on his winning of the club's best and fairest award. It was a fitting tribute to the efforts of a grand clubman and a superb utility player.

Graham Smith earns our congratulations for his clear cut winning of the Prendergast Medal award in the Reserves Grade. Another great clubman.

To Fred Castledine I offer our sincere congratulations on coaching the Reserves to a premiership win. It was a grand effort on the part of Fred and his players and offered a little consolation to him for the persistent injury which dogged Fred from early season. Here again was an example of courage and tenacity. Fred played most of his games this year with the aid of "pain killers" but he never flinched, and it was only when Mother Nature finally said no, that "Fearless" gave in.

I thank my two vice-presidents for their co-operation and loyal support. I am appreciative of the long hours and hard work your committee members gave to the administration of your club. Thank you gentlemen.

Once more your league delegates, Tom Moiler and Ted Holdsworth, ably represented your club at the League Council and I thank them for a job well done.

Congratulations on your appointment again as a State selector, Ted, and for the untiring attention you gave to the position.

Drs. Ron Semen and Ben Buttsworth, together with the "horror room"

expert, Phil Stephenson, were again tireless in their administration of medical aid and advice to our players. They are sincerely thanked for the long hours devoted to the care of injuries which plagued so many of our chaps.

Frank Metherall again had the leadership of our social committee with the untiring George Ripp as his able secretary. I thank them and their small, but willing band of helpers for the season's work.

All members of the staff are thanked for their loyalty and an enthusiastic contribution during a trying year.

The people who had to stand up to all sorts of criticism, some constructive, were our selectors. It is all easy when you are winning, but oh how hard when you are not! This latter fact did not panic your panel and Haydn, Pat Mountain and Norm Baty, the men who guided us through the golden years, are to be congratulated on the long hours devoted to planning our sides. Thank you, gentlemen.

The usual large list of donors who contribute to the players fund and club finances are thanked for their effort.

Your Thirds side gave a display of good football and courage throughout the season. Tony Nesbit did a great job with the lads and both he and the boys are to be congratulated on reaching the grand final. To be beaten by such a good side as Perth has proved itself to be, is no disgrace. Thanks chaps.

The Old Players and Officials Association, so ably led by Stan Moses, again gave great support to the affairs of the club. We hear so much of the word "tradition" with opposing clubs but its meaning has no greater significance than that engendered by our O.P. and O.A. The cabaret night to our players and ladies was a highlight of the season. Thank for your effort gentlemen.

Ernie Lawrence, "Case" Campbell and their hard working executive again handled the affairs of our Members' Club in a capable manner. With the ever increasing popularity of the social life of the club this adjunct of our affairs is deserving of continuous and full support.

As I have so many times expressed in the past, no words of mine can express my appreciation of the loyalty, co-operation and conscientious application to the affairs of the club administration given by our secretary, Tom Moiler. His honesty of purpose and undoubted integrity ranks him tops with our opposing clubs who are unstinting in their appreciation of him. Thank you Tom!

The affairs of our Junior Council were again in the capable hands of Ern Riley. I thank him and his band of willing workers for the time and effort made on behalf of our juniors in the district. It was gratifying to see the work of our coaches in the combined games, Brian Gray, Barrie Geer and Bren Courtland, rewarded with premiership wins in the under 14 and under 18 sections. Congratulations and thanks for your efforts, as also congratulations to the medal winners in the final rounds.

A vigorous recruiting campaign was embarked upon and in this we had to rely on the co-operation of many good friends in country areas who were continually on the look out for material. Information was followed up with visits from selectors, coaches, players and officials. To assist in this work we had to co-opt the aid of Stan Moses and Alan Morton. Some likely recruits have been discovered but with just what results only time can tell. All I can say is a sincere thank you to all for your help.

Now for the future. As you know we have with confidence appointed Fred Castledine as the club coach for 1965. He has accepted on a playing basis and if you have any doubts about his fitness, then bury them! Fred's injury troubles are behind him. This is fact, not propaganda! To those who have the pleasure of working with Fred they will have come to appreciate his sterling qualities of leadership that have developed over the past seasons. He is dynamic and enthusiastic, is a disciple of dedication and believes in direct methods. But gentlemen, to succeed, he and his players must have your unstinted support both in deed as well as voice.

Your club reputation has never been higher, keep it that way by loyalty to it so that a united front can be presented to the opposition of 1965. There is only ONE place for the Black and White colour, that is ON TOP!

Gentlemen it has been my pleasure to serve you in this year of fluctuating fortunes.

P. J. Bright, President.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Gentlemen,

It is with a certain amount of satisfaction and disappointment, I compile this, 31st annual report.

After winning six of the first seven games, it looked at that stage we would be contenders for the fourth premiership, but we finished the qualifying round with only nine wins to our credit. In my opinion this was brought about by the crop of injuries sustained midway through the season.

At this stage I would like to offer my congratulations to Fred Castledine on his appointment as playing coach, and wish him all the best in that capacity in the future.

I wish to congratulate Tony Nesbit on winning the "Webster Motor £100 award". Tony won from Bill Walker.

To Peter Webster and his company we offer our thanks and appreciation for inaugurating such an award, it created a lot of interest in our club and amongst our members, and gave our players an extra incentive. Congratulations to Graham Smith on winning the Prendergast Medal, also Don Baskerville and Len Smith on winning the medal given by the W.A.N.F.L. for the fairest and best player in the grand finals of the interdistrict championships.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Ern Riley, (President) Ron Riley, (Hon. Secretary) and all the Executive officers of the Junior Council, for the manner in which they have conducted the affairs of the Council over the past season. I wish to thank them sincerely for the assistance rendered to the parent club.

Next year the club will field a Fourth team, which will play the curtain raiser to the Thirds on Sunday.

To our President Percy Bright who has completed his fifth year as leader of our Club, I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation for his assistance and co-operation he has extended to me as hon. secretary at all times. He should be congratulated and supported for the efficient and business like manner he has carried out the duties of president over the term of his office.

I also congratulate the executive officers and committeemen for the manner in which they have conducted the affairs of the club, and thank them for the assistance rendered to me as hon. secretary.

To Pat Scott our assistant secretary I say thanks, Pat, for a job well done. Pat has relieved the pressure of work a great deal.

I wish to thank our joint selectors, Pat Mountain and Norm Baty, for the way they have carried out their duties at all times, and for the co-operation extended to our coaches.

To Ted Holdsworth (vice-president) I offer my congratulations, Ted will this year be presented with his Long Service Certificate.

To Haydn who has decided to return to South Australia and coach Norwood, I say thanks for bringing to our club, something that had been lacking for many a year. Haydn will be sadly missed, but will leave behind that something, the players will in the future always endeavour to live up to.

I have been closely associated with Haydn over his four year stay, and have no hesitation in stating that you could never meet a finer gentleman. Best wishes and all the best in the future, both on and off the field.

A. T. Moiler, Hon. Secretary.

COACH'S REPORT

Members,

I have two regrets in making this report to you. Firstly that I cannot present it with a premiership, and secondly that it is the last I will be writing in the role of club coach.

It has been easy at the end of the previous three seasons to report on the playing activities of the league side, because there were premierships to refer to. Just the same I feel that 1964 was not altogether an unsuccessful year

on the playing field. The league side gave promise of a fourth consecutive flag after the first round of games, and then our form, as a team, dropped away and we struggled against opposition that hitherto, in recent times, we had beaten comfortably.

To direct the blame in any particular direction would be wrong and far from factual. However, a number of general factors probably attributed to the league team's slump. The selection of ten players from Swans to represent the State on its Eastern States' tour must have had some influence. The tour was an exacting one, and it was only natural that players returned to club matches a little jaded. It is common for top players to drop form after a heavy interstate tour, when there is a tendency to relax and recuperate. Let me add, though, that Swans players who went on tour all returned to give everything they could to club games.

Injuries to key players had more of a bearing on the team's performances. We ran into injuries from the beginning of the second round until the end of the season. We lost a number of games by narrow margins, including a vital match with the last kick after the siren. Had a kick or two meant us winning one of these games the team could have finished in the four. I am sure the clubs that fought out the finals were relieved to have Swans out of the "four."

A pleasing feature of the season was the promise shown by the bunch of young players promoted to the league team from the seconds and thirds. After three successful seasons, during which the club was able to retain most of its league players, and keep the team stable, it was time to "blood" young players into the side. In the previous seasons promising juniors were denied the opportunity of taking the test in league ranks because the team was winning premierships with the experienced players who were holding their form and enthusiasm. And so it was that I had to sacrifice some experience to blend youth into the league team before it became too late. I am confident now that the team will be strengthened in future seasons by this policy.

There was a void of big men in the league team last season, and it was to the credit of our ruckmen that they toiled as well as they did against taller and heavier opposition. It is going to be necessary to encourage other young players by breaking them into the league side before their football turns stagnant in junior grades. The strength of the Reserve team, and the comfortable manner in which it won the premiership, and the success of the thirds side in finishing third, is an indication that they will provide future league teams with a feeding ground. I would like to congratulate seconds' coach Fred Castledine and his players on gaining a flag for the club, and thirds' coach Tony Nesbit and his team on their performances for the season. I was an advocate that Fred should take over as league coach and his appointment was satisfying to me. I know he has the attributes to make success of the position and the "Fearless" part of him should go a long way towards this end. I would also like to express my gratitude to other coaches of all junior clubs in the district for the valuable assistance they have given Swans during my term with the club.

I have no hesitation in saying that my four years with Swan Districts have been the happiest of my football career and have the players and the club to thank for the most memorable occasions of my life. There are many people connected with the club to whom I owe a great deal. So many, in fact, that I have not the space in this report to thank them all by name. To the president, secretary, committeemen, trainers stewards, and all other officials of Swan Districts I offer my deepest appreciation for all they have done to make my duties easier over the four years I have worked with them. I find it hard to express strongly enough how grateful I am to every player for the loyalty and help they have given me. They are directly responsible for the reputation I now enjoy as a football coach. I think they realise how great I regard my debt to them, and I only hope they understand my decision to return to Adelaide. If my reasons for going back to South Australia were for football alone, I would never have considered leaving Swan Districts.

Apart from the football field, I will always value the comradeship and personal friendship the people of Swan Districts have given me. There will always be a warm place in my memory for this club, and I will follow its