



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL CLUB

THE GLORY, THE HONOUR, THE BLISS

1961–2021

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian National University Australian Football Club (ANUAFC) acknowledges the Ngunnawal People and neighbouring Nations, who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we play the great game of Aussie Rules, train, socialise, and call our home. We acknowledge that this territory was never ceded.

We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging, and endeavour to recognise and honour those with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage in all their involvements with our Club.

We acknowledge the rich historical significance of this land for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and are proud to continue this connection to Country through relationships, institutions and the nearby Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Trail.[^]

The trail follows Sullivans Creek from Union Court downstream towards Lake Burley Griffin. Sullivans Creek leads to the Molonglo River and in turn to the larger Murrumbidgee River. The water sustained abundant resources for Aboriginal people to eat, and attracted larger wildlife that could be hunted.

In 2021 ANUAFC launched an Indigenous designed jersey in partnership with Ngunnawal artists, Richie Allan and Richard Allan Junior. The artwork is based on the geographic area of ANU campus with paths and campgrounds symbolised by footprints and concentric circles. Sullivans Creek runs through the middle alongside today's South Oval. The wings on the back of the jersey are from the wedgetail eagle, a Ngunnawal totem, but also embody the Club's logo of a Griffin. The colours of this design represent Ngunnawal Country, the Territory, the ANU, and the ANUAFC, all coming together.

In making this acknowledgement we honour an unwavering commitment to recognition, respect and reconciliation.

Other acknowledgements

This publication would not have been possible without the contributions of many over 60 years. We thank those that have paved the way for our great Club to be an enduring, successful, progressive and proud university sporting club. While the Club has transformed over the years, its core values have remained the same and the ANUAFC continues to provide an accessible, affordable and fun place to learn, play and love the game of Aussie Rules.

True to form, pulling this publication together has been a collective effort over several decades and we are so pleased to finally share this history with past, present and future generations.

Special thanks must go to Doug Williams and Rod Cheatley who have championed this effort by compiling the early history in their respective editions, *A Brief History of ANU Australian Football Club 1961-1969, 1971-1979* (unpublished), and *The Australian National University Australian Football Club 1961-1979* (unpublished), which are heavily cited and form the backbone of the 1960s and 1970s chapters. Thank you also to the ANU's Planning and Performance Measurement Division who helpfully provided us with the University's population statistics across the decades. Sincere thanks to Ryan Forsyth, Bec Jones, Alison Mount, Jack Buckley, Jenny Church, Jana Lewington (nee van der Woude) and Caitlin Roy who have meticulously pieced together the remaining decades from garages, attics, archives and anecdotes. We acknowledge and sincerely appreciate all those who have made contributions throughout this process and over the years, including those who prepared club newsletters. This would not have been possible without your endless hours of dedication. We have done our best where possible to reference these contributions.

Most importantly, we acknowledge that this version of our history is for the Club, by the Club.

[^] <https://services.anu.edu.au/campus-environment/heritage/projects/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-heritage-trail>



CONTENTS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Foreword | 1 |
| History snapshot | 2 |
| A Toast to the ANU Footy Club | 4 |
| Uni Blues, Griffins, ANUAFC | 8 |
| 1960s | 20 |
| 1970s | 34 |
| 1980s | 50 |
| 1990s | 68 |
| 2000s | 90 |
| 2010s | 116 |
| The legacy, 2021 and beyond | 140 |
| Honour Board | 142 |
| Club achievements | 142 |
| Life Members | 143 |
| Best Clubman | 143 |
| Best and Fairest | 144 |
| Runner Up Best and Fairest | 146 |
| Players Player | 148 |
| Games record | 150 |
| Coaches | 152 |
| Teams of the decade | 154 |
| Executive | 155 |
| Griffthory | 156 |

Sports pavilion and dressing sheds, South Oval.
Nearing completion January 1965.

Source: Commonwealth News and Information Bureau



South Oval Pavilion series 2021.
 Source: Rowena Yates





FOREWORD

2021 marks the 60th Anniversary of the Club and the 20th Anniversary of the Women's team. In the most recent decade every side has won a premiership and the Club has received the coveted AFL Canberra Community Club of the Year in every year since the award's inception in 2015.

These achievements reflect the success and strength of the Club over the decades. 2020 brought with it challenges which tested the Club on a whole new scale. The onset of COVID-19 meant that the 2020 sporting calendar was almost wiped clean. Unlike many other regions, the ACT was able to facilitate a modified Aussie Rules season like no other – sanitising footballs before playing contact sport, who would have thought? No crowds, no pies, no high fives – is it really even footy? But what we learned is that when stripped to the core, the community comes together. Not only did we survive through a global pandemic, we thrived.

The Club continues to provide a safe and friendly place for everyone to learn, play and love the game of Aussie Rules. It is our enduring values of inclusion and participation and our commitment to bettering the game and community we live in that is our greatest cause for celebration.

Some of our other recent achievements include introducing the first ever Australian Rules Women's Leadership Scholarship, partnering with Everyday Champions to offer game day work experience opportunities to people with disabilities, becoming a Good Sports accredited club, providing mental health and wellbeing and other support services, and initiating player sharing arrangements to support the growth and development of Aussie Rules in the region.

A footy club is not simply a place to play footy. A footy club is a community; a family; a home. Our footy club has been home to over 2200 registered players in 60 years and countless more volunteers, supporters, and allies. For this, we are so very fortunate.

We are proud of this publication, as we are of our history. This has been a long time coming and we thank you for your patience, for your contributions in kind, and of course the financial contributions from the 50th Anniversary which have made this possible. What we uncover is what led us to be the vibrant and proud club we are today – the values, the controversies, characters and the camaraderies. We've done our very best to capture the spirit of the Club at a point in time, but urge you to think of it as a living and evolving recollection that can be owned and updated by future generations as more records and accomplishments come to light.

This history is to be accessible, shared and celebrated widely so that current and future generations can know, treasure and honour the legacy; that when they run onto our hallowed South Oval or pull on the blue and white jersey they can do so with pride and passion. For the rest of us this is true: *senior nos adepto melius nos* (the older we get, the greater we were).

HISTORY SNAPSHOT

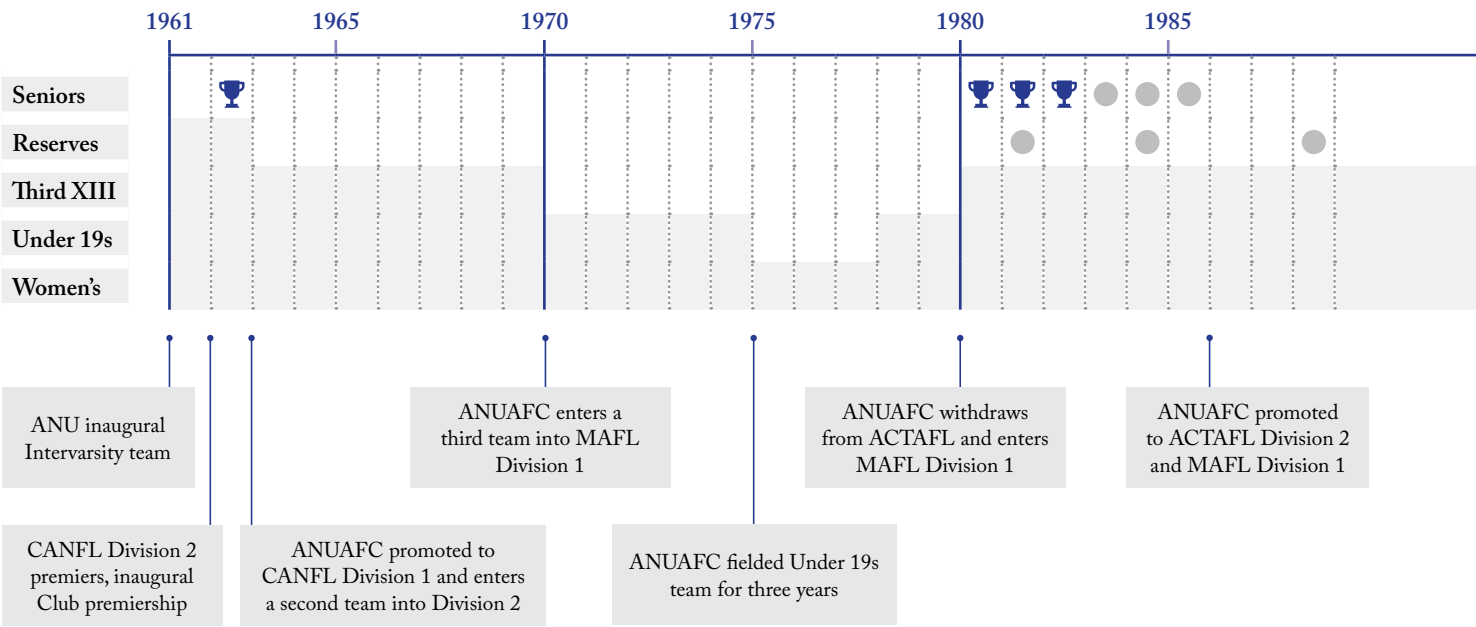
The history of the ANUAFC falls into three distinct eras.

1 1961–1979

The Club primarily fielded teams in the premier local competition, the Canberra Australian National Football League (CANFL) which became the Australian Capital Territory Australian Football League (ACTAFL) in 1975. Other clubs were hostile towards ANUARFC from the beginning, repeatedly undermining our right to register players and occasionally attempting to eject us from the competition. The hostility was based on opposition to an amateur, institution-based club competing and claiming zoning rights in an increasingly professional, district-based competition.

2 1980–1995

ANUAFC moved to the amateur Monaro Australian Football League (MAFL), which had an immediate impact on the Club's on-field success. For much of this time the Club fielded two men's teams, reintroducing a third side in 1994. Of note was the rivalry with the Royal Military College, dating back to the earliest days of the ANU and evident in the nine grand finals the two played against each other in the MAFL First Grade competition over 16 seasons.

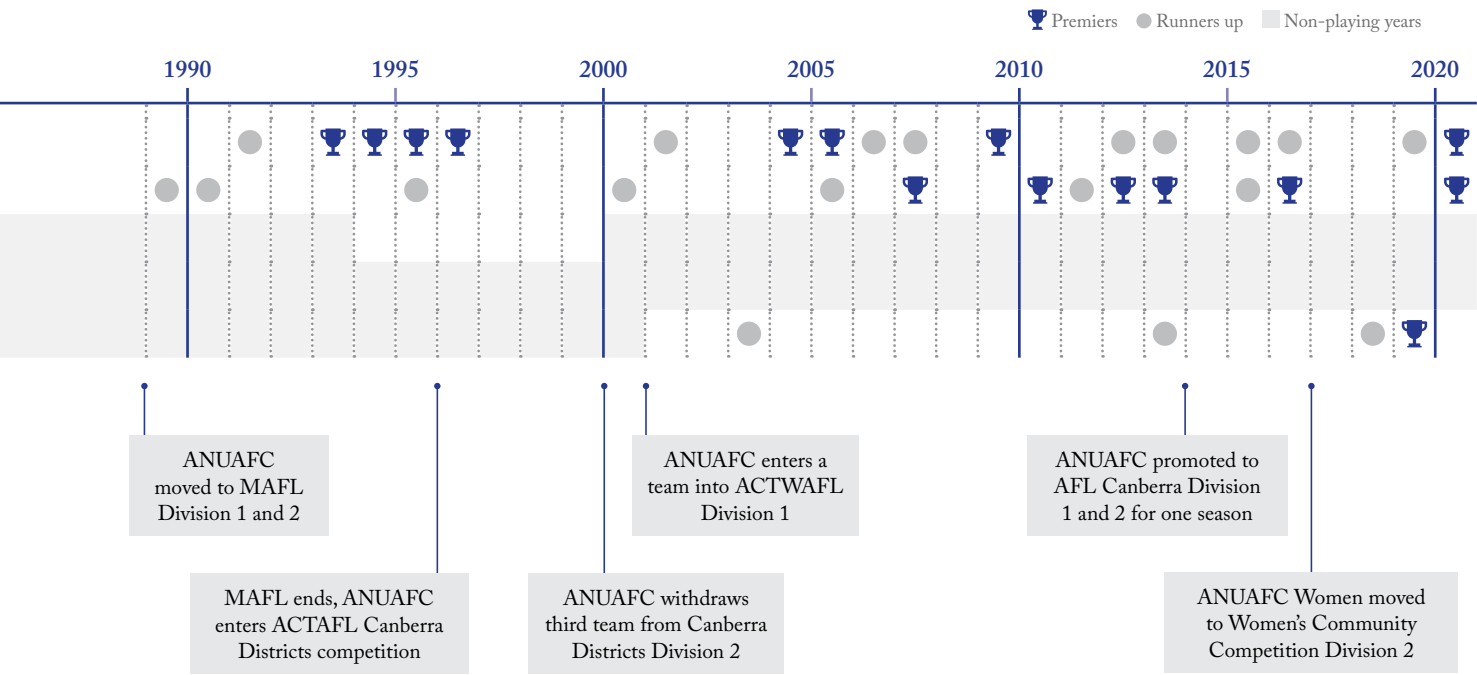


South Oval Pavilion 1965.
Source: *Commonwealth News*
and Information Bureau



3 1996–2020

In recent decades, the ANUAFC has consistently competed in AFL Canberra Districts or Community Competition Divisions 3 and 4. In 2001, the Club introduced a Women's team that competed in the premier Women's competition until a Women's Community Competition was formed in 2017. Since 1996, ANUAFC has had a strong community focus, unable to sustainably compete with senior funded clubs. Because of our frequent success we are often pressed to justify our place in the amateur competition.



A TOAST TO THE ANU FOOTY CLUB

Professor John Molony, ANUAFC 50th Anniversary

Written and presented by Professor John Molony (1927–2018) celebrated Historian, ANU Academic, and lover of Australian Rules Football. Professor Molony was President of ANUAFC in 1978, and contributed widely to the spirit and growth of the ANUAFC and AFL Canberra more widely. Professor Molony delivered this toast to the ANUAFC at our 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2011. No words sum up the purpose for and community nature of our game and our beloved club better than John's own.

I am singularly honoured in being asked to propose the toast to the ANU Australian Football Club. There are many reasons I feel this way. One is that few nights can match this night. I look back and remember Bucko startling Gough Whitlam, our guest for the evening, when he leaped into the room at our annual dinner garbed as a baboon and proposed to sit on Gough's lap. Another night Billy Snedden, then leader of the Opposition whom I had known well earlier when he was a young larrikin working for the Department of Immigration in Rome in the early 1950s, kept pestering me. He wanted me to tell him who the young man with the barbed tongue was at the next table who persisted in hurling humorous insult after insult at him. I refused to give him Damien McNamara's name lest Damien's career in the public service fall into disarray. I accept that you will judge me as a name dropper, but who can forget that other night when our guest, Bob Hawke, went to put pepper on his steak? The lid came off, pepper covered steak and plate and Bob, sure he was being poisoned, exclaimed 'shit' with a roar of outrage while the then young Barrie Cassidy tried to console him with a cigar. Confused and slightly apprehensive, I said, 'Bob, please forgive us, but it is not shit. It is only pepper.'

I boast, but only slightly, when I say that in the whole history of sporting endeavour no club has poured scorn and biting invective on the supporters and players of other clubs with greater wit, magnanimous acceptance of defeat and dignified but total lack of restraint in an occasional victory than the supporters, many of them academics, of ANU. That we would follow up with what must surely be the most outrageously devised, and uproariously vocalised, club song was considered unacceptable only by the purposely innocent. How we ever escaped being set upon with bayonets drawn by the Cordies, as we knew RMC in those days, is beyond my comprehension.

But the main reason for my happiness tonight is very simple. In those distant days of the sixties many of us felt we were exiles in another land here in the ACT. For those of us who were then young academics battling with our careers, in many instances founding a family and trying to fit into a new society, one, indeed rich, bond with our past which helped us immeasurably was Aussie Rules. That bond, which created friendships that have endured into the present, was made real in the formation and development of the ANU Australian Football Club.

A few weeks ago I was asked to speak at the Ainslie Football Club. I had just read Rod Cheatley's excellent history of the ANU Club and I was glad to be able to thank Ainslie for its support for us in the 1960s when we were struggling for acceptance by the League. At that time ANU had no local area from which it could recruit players and some powerful clubs were determined to ensure that we would not survive. Understandably fearful lest they would lose prospective recruits they opposed us having the right to recruit players from among graduates of other universities. Ainslie supported us and I thanked them.

Incidentally, when a cashed up club offered a financial inducement to an ANU player we could not realistically oppose a transfer, while we naturally bewailed it. That was especially so for David Morgan who was an almost notoriously impoverished student. I understand that his financial situation changed somewhat for the better when he became head of Westpac. Dave was a true champion. Before the game one wet day when we were playing out at Queanbeyan I bet him a bottle of champagne that he couldn't kick ten goals. I think he kicked nineteen. He won the bottle.

Being a university club free of the restraints that bore down upon more formal bodies, ANU was regularly in trouble with the League. Almost every time we met, the late Jack O'Dea, its secretary, would have a complaint about something. One day in the first quarter against Belconnen at Jamison, Jack addressed me as President saying, 'This is no good John. Two of your players are out there with odd socks on.' I replied, 'Be grateful, Jack, that they have socks on at all.' I was prompted to make that reply because the week before, when I was surreptitiously handing over the few dollars the great Les Durkin was paid as coach, I asked him when he thought we might win a game. Les replied, 'John, if you haven't got socks on, you can't pull them

up.' ANU players, all unpaid, had to buy their own socks. We needed players, socks or no socks.

Let me tell you one more story about ANU. Billy Whittakers, bearded with long hair flowing down past his waist, won the Mulrooney Medal. Jack almost begged me to get him to have a haircut before the presentation at half time in the grand final. His reason was that there would be Patrons present who would cringe at the sight of such a potential hoodlum winning the coveted Medal. But Jack did not realise how well I knew Billy. At ANU early in first term a couple of years before I was giving a lecture on Australian history in the Haydon-Allen Tank to a large mob, mob by the way is the right word in that context for first year students. At the previous two lectures I had spotted three students up the back who seemed to pass the time telling jokes, I assume they were lurid jokes, to each other. Having had enough by the third lecture I stopped and invited them to come down to the front and tell their jokes to the class while I would go back to my office and leave them to it. The whole Tank froze in silence until one of the lads stood up and said, 'Don't lose your shirt Prof. At least we come to your lectures.' I laughed, everyone laughed and I went on with the lecture. That is how I first got to know Billy Whittakers. I was disinclined to bother him about his hair.

The other main reason I am honoured tonight is that in proposing this toast I thereby toast the game which we used to call, simply and with one word, footy. I affirm, strongly, but not courageously because the truth should be easily told, that, on the sporting arena, Australian Football is the unique expression of our precious nationality. I do so first because, setting aside arguments about Rugby School, Irish football and hurling, our game is essentially an Australian thing, born and shaped here among us on the Victorian goldfields. You need only think of some of its terminology – shepherding, pockets,

give, show or make a lead – to realise its links with the original diggers and the goldfields. Like so much else, including the worker's movement, the diggers took the game with them wherever they went.

Unlike in the old world we had land in immense quantities in Australia and in the early days of the squatters it was there for the taking. Thus there was no need to construct a game based on the defence of a small piece of territory which is of the essence in both Soccer and Rugby and hence the offside rule. Sometimes when I arrive a bit late at a ground I immediately ask, 'Which way are we kicking?' In other words I want to know which is the end of the ground where we have to attack the goals. In Aussie Rules the primary purpose is to attack rather than to defend. How good is it that we now see the development of the modern game which places an emphasis on the back line as the first line of attack?

Surely I do not need to stress the fact that our game uses every gift and quality of the whole human person, including the head to think with rather than to butt a ball. That combines with quickness, strength, courage, instinctive reactions and often breathtaking skill to give us at times a glimpse of perfection so rarely met in human endeavour. Our game is at heart always a contest, not a pretty little form of keepings off. Furthermore its fluidity demands a contest if the whole event is not to degenerate into a series of aimless stops and starts. 'Get on with the footy' used to be the cry at many a game. I would like to hear it more frequently.

I am reasonably confident that you will bear with me when I comment on the almost breathtakingly perverse use of the name 'Australian Football League' or 'AFL' for our game instead of Aussie Rules or Australian Football. No one can play Australian Football League because it is not a game in any sense.



Professor John Molony

I can think of few more effective instances of the colonisation of peoples' minds than to convince a whole nation that the finest and unique expression of its precious nationality in football bears the name of a business organisation. Please, I beg of you, call it Australian Football or Aussie Rules and refuse to use the name Australian Football League or AFL except for the body that does not play it, indeed cannot play it, but that has now taken absolute control of it.

To end on a happier note, is there anyone here tonight who does not rejoice in the return of the high mark to the game? I can go back in memory to Bobby Pratt, Soapy Vallence and Ron Todd in my childhood and on through the decades since until today when the masters of the mark are still among us. In the end though the high mark must be seen to be believed and only the poets can speak to us about it.

I am sure you have read Bruce Dawe's poem on the high mark, but in case you have forgotten it let me remind you.

He has the player
tensioning for the upward leap,
hands now
eagle claws,
God's hooks, hungering
for the leather dove, the run
among mere mortal men in time, in place, becomes
the leap into heaven,
into fame, into legend
then the fall back to earth
(guernseyed Icarus)
to the whistle's shrill tweet.

It is not a mere form of political correctness to remind you that our thinking about the game cannot happen today unless we think also of Indigenous Australians. Sixty thousand years and even more have entwined them in time and space on this continent which they know and hold at the core of their being. Because Australian football was born of the same land which gave them life, because it is open, free, full of movement and yearns for the highest expression of human capabilities it is theirs to embrace and play at its most exalted and exhilarating level. That they do it so well is as it should be. It is in their being, they belong to it as it does also to them.

Finally I cannot propose a toast to the Club, to its players, past and present, to its coaches, administrators and supporters without happily accepting that Aussie Rules is now drawing to itself more women who embrace it and do so with increasing knowledge and skill. That they do so for ANU is to their, and our, credit and benefit.



Top: Intarsity, 1961.

Source: Ian Lambert

Bottom: Intarsity, 1976.

Source: Rod Cheatley

UNI BLUES, GRIFFINS, ANUAFC

Where it all began

In 1961 Bruce Hall opened on ANU campus. Some student residents decided to form an Aussie Rules team to compete at Intervarsity that year and so the ANU Australian Rules Football Club was born. This was three years before the construction of Lake Burley Griffin and seven years before the first computer on campus.

The ANUARFC was officially born on April 8 1961, although moves had been afoot to form an ANU Australian Rules Football Club (or National Football as it was then known) since March of that year. The Club was formed too late for entry into the official competition for 1961 and its players were contracted to other clubs. A team of 20 did compete in the 1961 Brisbane Intervarsity Carnival.

University football clubs have an important place in the history of the game. They also became a particularly productive recruiting ground for the ANUARFC as the Club was able to claim graduates of other universities as part of zoning arrangements introduced by the Canberra Football League (CANFL). These players brought a culture to the ANUARFC which was quite different from the culture of most football clubs.

When the Club was founded in 1961 there were around 1002 enrolled students at the ANU.¹ 60 years on there are more than 24,500 enrolled students.² The University and the game have changed, but the Club's values and spirit have endured.

What makes us who we are

University football clubs have a culture all of their own. They are notorious for their strong emphasis on social activities. There is no hierarchy, because the players usually run the club. Parental involvement is minimal. Past players involved in the club know how things operate. They are comprised mainly of students and graduates so there is enormous common ground. They tend to be amateur, with only the coaching personnel being paid.

Keith Newton who played with ANU and Sydney University put it as follows:

1. We are less tribal, or more family oriented compared to country or suburban clubs.
2. Our players are more transient, but maybe rely more on the Club for social life.
3. We have younger, more 'player dominated' committees (and often coaching staff), who have less of an interest in politics and more of an interest in getting a game than using the football club to justify social position. Usually the players themselves run the Club, despite being in a very professional competition.

.....
¹ Statistics courtesy of the ANU Planning and Performance Measurement Division

² Student numbers as 9 November 2020, statistics courtesy of the ANU Planning and Performance Measurement Division



Brisbane Intervarsity, 1961.

4. The talent and humour in speeches and other social events has always been incredible from the players, the wit from the university supporters (often professors, lecturers or graduate students, or very senior lawyers, judges, captains of business [or the Public Service] being totally different than that of the usual club President) old players, used car dealers, meat pie merchants (as in the David Williamson play *The Club*) etc.
5. Best of all, university football clubs provided the opportunity for me and my mates to have a terrific social life. In both ANU and Sydney University, the Club was the best way to get to know people at university and in the new city, and to gain long term friendships with similar minded guys.

6. Also despite playing hard, in high standard competitions mostly against professional or semi professional teams, uni clubs always recognised the reality of exams, university trips, work commitments, often not understood by town/district clubs.
7. Finally, the opportunity to experience Intervarsity carnivals.

Despite the strength of our own self-identity, the culture of the ANUAFC has not been widely understood by Canberra's Australian Football administrators over the years.

Many other university clubs have gone on to be powerhouses in their respective jurisdictions. However, the ANUAFC persists as an amateur club. ANUAFC is in fact the only 'Group of Eight' university that doesn't compete in a senior football competition. Put simply, the ANU's endeavour to be the best doesn't extend to sporting domains. You only have to look as far as the South Oval Pavilion to realise the lack of investment in sporting infrastructure over the years. Competition for resources is fierce and the funding structure is tenuous at best. There are also complexities associated with being affiliated under ANU Sport, which is a requirement for ANU sporting clubs competing in registered competitions. The ANUAFC of today is not at liberty to be wild and free as in earlier decades, and is tightly bound by league, university and demographic constraints.

The Blues

In 1961, the ANU Students' Representative Council contributed £80 for the purchase of jumpers for the new ANU Australian Rules Club, to be worn at the Brisbane Intersvarsity carnival. These same jumpers would go on to be used for the 1962 CANFL season and the Adelaide Intersvarsity carnival. The uniform consisted of a jumper with narrow royal blue and white vertical stripes and socks with blue and white hoops.

In 1963, the Club adopted a new playing uniform. The jumper was navy blue with a white 'V' and the socks, plain navy blue. When Belconnen entered the League in 1971 they registered their colours as a navy blue jumper with a white monogram and navy blue socks. Belconnen was the successor to the Turner club which had played in a jumper with blue and white hoops but the new club wanted a new identity and despite ANU protests, the CANFL agreed.

For the next few years, games between ANU and Belconnen were confusing affairs for both players and spectators, as at first, the only difference in team uniforms were the home team wore black shorts and the away team wore white.

A Reserve Grade game against Belconnen in 1971 at Ainslie Oval showed that a change was needed. Rod Cheatley had brought the wrong shorts to the game and took the field wearing the same colour shorts as the Belconnen players. During the first quarter, play was on the pavilion side of the ground, between the wing and half forward for ANU when Cheatley got the ball and was viciously felled in a pack by teammate Dan Prigg. Umpire Don Andrews, confused by the shorts (and most of the rules of the game according to some observers) awarded a free kick to Cheatley who quickly played on and delivered the ball to Kevin Saunders who goaled.

Despite extensive and passionate representations from the Belconnen players and officials, the goal was allowed to stand. Cheatley was sent off to change his shorts. Later that season, in an endeavour to make the distinction between clubs clearer, socks with blue and white hoops were adopted by ANU. This was not effective and the confusion continued.

The ACTAFL refused to resolve the situation and in 1976, to end the confusion, the ANUARFC adopted royal blue as the background colour for their playing uniform.



Students to Blues to Griffins

When the Club first entered the competition, the team was referred to as 'University' or 'the Students'.

During the 1960s the team became known as the 'Blues', and continued to be referred to as such, despite the best endeavours of the Belconnen Football Club to claim the name. Belconnen became known as the 'Bees.'

ANU continued to be the 'Blues' until they withdrew from the First Grade ACTAFL competition. Within a week, The Canberra Times dropped the 'Belconnen Bees' and they became the 'Blues.'

In 1976, the Committee decided a membership badge should be struck for the Club. Eric 'Bolt' Martin, an architect who had previously played for Melbourne University, suggested that a Griffin would be a suitable emblem for the Club, given that tradition considered the Griffin to be king of the beasts, and the location of the ANU campus on the shore of Lake Burley Griffin.

The Committee at that time largely comprised economics, law and political science students, and graduates. They readily deferred to Eric's superior knowledge of matters artistic, heraldic and mythical, and endorsed his proposal. Badges were struck, the Griffin featured on t-shirts and, after leaving the ACTAFL, the Blues became the Griffins.

The Club has had one other name change over the years. Originally, we were officially the Australian National University Australian Rules Football Club (ANUARFC).

The exact timing of the move to ANUAFC is lost to history but was most likely sometime in the 1980s. According to John Robertson: "the name change, unsurprisingly for ANU, involved discussions and a formal resolution and vote – apparently enough of us thought that the word 'Rules' was redundant and by using it to qualify the Australian Football element of our name, it gave too much credence to the lesser codes – our great game needs no qualification!"

In this document we've used ANU, ANUARFC and ANUAFC interchangeably.



“Oh Uni, oh Uni, you beauty”

The Club song was devised by Jim Bradshaw and others during the infamous Perth Intervarsity trip in 1964. Based on the Neapolitan classic ‘Funiculi, Funicula’, the song replaced the resounding refrain ‘let’s go to the top’ with repeated references to self abuse and triumphalism.

The song quickly became a Club favourite and, just as quickly, provided proof to CANFL heavyweights that the ANUARFC was a bunch of undisciplined degenerates. As a result of repeated requests from the League to not sing the song, it became a symbol of defiance, lustily rendered upon the slightest pretext, and now sung on the oval following each win. The first verse, once sung on the field, drew the ire of the various league officials throughout the decades, with the MAFL administrators forcing the song to be reworded without swearing lest fines be imposed.³

The second verse was conceived in 1992 and rolled out the next year to be sung in the sheds after the first verse on the field. Following a less than well attended four-man end of season trip, ANU Griffins Mark Phelps, Doug Williams, Chris Panne and Chris Pepper went to a little town called Tuena, near Crookwell. They stayed at the pub, drank too much, may have indulged in some circle-work in the main street in Phelps’s Datto – but most importantly – created the second verse to the great club song.⁴

The Women’s song has a similarly chequered history. The initial version drafted by some crafty members of the Women’s team in 2001 was, shall we say, a ladies’ version of the first verse of the men’s song. It was proudly published in Vol. 12 No. 6 of the ANUAFC Newsletter in August of the same year. Suffice to say, publication of such a ballad would be

unlikely in the present day. Alas, this version was not long for the world. AFL Canberra promptly banned it after the Women’s team’s first win or two. Apparently it was considered ‘unlady-like’. The double standards of such a move was not lost on the women of the Club at the time, or since. The second version of the Women’s song was a valiant effort to keep to the same tune but focus more on the sporting aspects of playing footy. However, it was, and is, considered by most as subpar compared with the original.

Jump forward to 2018, and the issue of the Women’s song was once again raised at a Committee meeting, with general agreement that it needed reworking. No formal decision was made, but the Coaching Coordinator, Brent ‘Risky’ Ritchie, took it upon himself to draft a new, much improved version. At the next Committee meeting Risky offered up his proposal. There were a couple of minutes of discussion amongst female members to fix up one line before it was endorsed. This new version is sung to the tune of the men’s second verse. In Risky’s own words, part of the reason behind switching tunes was that “if starting again, it would be better to jump across to the more melodic second verse tune, which would then also allow both the Women’s and Men’s songs to share the lines ‘oh Uni, oh Uni you beauty, the glory, the honour, the bliss.”

Despite many disparaging comments about a bloke writing the Women’s song, everyone was in agreement that the new song was just right. Version three has been fiercely embraced by all and in the years since, the Women’s team have made it to a preliminary final, a grand final and a premiership; finally getting their own taste of the glory, the honour and the bliss.

3 Adapted from ANUAFC Newsletter 14 May 1994 – Vol. 5, No. 4

4 Chris Pepper, Questionnaire response, 2020

Women's song

[to the tune of Botany Bay]

Lions heart, wings of an eagle
We're brave and we're proud and we're bold
We rise from our fortress South Oval
To fly like the Griffins of old
Oh Uni, oh Uni, you beauty
The glory, the honour, the bliss
Onwards to victory we're soaring
And on to the premiership
Hey!

Men's song

First verse *[to the tune of Funiculi, Funiculi]*

This is the song of the ANU
You pull your pud, you pull your pud
This is the song of the ANU
You pull your pud, you pull your pud
Smash it, crash it, bash it on the floor
You jump on it, you stomp on it, you nail it to
the wall
You pull, you pull, you pull, you pull, you pull,
you pull your pud!
Forty inches on the slack, what do you think of that?
Hey!

Second verse *[to the tune of Botany Bay]*

If I had the wings of an eagle
An a**hole as black as a crow
I'd fly to the top of the goalpost
And shit on (opposing team) below
Oh Uni, oh Uni, you beauty
The glory, the honour, the bliss
By day time we go out and f**k 'em all
By night time we suck on the piss

Our fortress: South Oval

*"They were shit! But it was magnificent."*⁵

Never a truer phrase has been spoken about the sheds at South Oval of the Australian National University. The oval itself has been largely up-to-scratch over the years (when it hasn't rained more than 1mm in the prior week), but facilities are sub-par. Somehow though, that doesn't really seem to matter.

How is it that a sporting oval with slightly more than the bare minimum of facilities can get under your skin and nestle in your mind, convincing you that turning up there on a miserably cold weeknight or a sunny Saturday morning in the middle of a Canberra winter feels just a little bit like coming home? As one contributor put it "...there was an overwhelming sense of pride and nostalgia inside those rooms."⁶

Training started at South Oval in 1961 and the 'Pavilion' was opened in 1965. For the first few years, the Club didn't have any facilities at South Oval. Rather, "on match day the Club offered the singular glory of playing for the ANU."⁷ The South Oval Pavilion was designed by architects, John Scollay and Theo Bischoff, who had hands in the design of a number of ANU buildings in the 1960s including University House and the John Curtin School of Medical Research.⁸ Since then, generations of students, Blues and Griffins, have whiled away their winter weekends, their youth, or best years, at picturesque South Oval. With its (no-longer) soggy Sullivans Creek pocket, its (no-longer) questionable lights, its (always) generous spattering of duck shit, its (still) spartan sheds – the sheds that were never the height of luxury or opulence (save the parquetry

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⁵ Joel O'Brien, Questionnaire response, 2020

⁶ Nathan Vink, Questionnaire response, 2020

⁷ Andrew Green, Questionnaire response, 2020

⁸ ANU Buildings: Macro Chronology, <http://services.anu.edu.au/campus-environment/heritage>

flooring), even in their heyday.⁹ Hours spent playing, watching, supporting, volunteering, cheering, jeering, drinking, basking in the afternoon sun.

Many promises have been made over the decades for better playing surfaces, new scoreboards, updated change room facilities, perhaps even a space for post-game functions. Some have been met, mostly by those handy and shifty club members that took it upon themselves to undertake renovations and repairs, but most have not.

The location, largely protected from the elements by Black Mountain and the university campus, not only makes it a great place to play Aussie Rules but also defines the type of club that we are. The university location has influenced player demographics from day one. It has also resulted in a history of disputes and resolutions. From player registration debacles with CANFL in the 60s and 70s, and in the Monaro League in the late 70s and early 80s, to the annual battle with other university sports in the 2000s to keep South Oval as the home of Aussie Rules on campus; South Oval is our spiritual home but one that is not entirely ours. We have had to fight to keep it and keep it we have.

Location alone doesn't completely answer the riddle of the place of South Oval in our hearts and minds. The truth of it is that it is only partly due to the location and very little to do with the facilities. But rather that "the camaraderie is the central theme for most of us...the sense of going into battle together, the intensity of the physical effort and the joy of triumph."¹⁰ This feeling then seeps into the location, the landscape and they become inextricably linked.

Over the last six decades South Oval has seen a total of 19 Aussie Rules premierships brought home, although we've never really had anywhere to put them on display. It has supported a lot of great football, and a lot more appallingly average football. It has witnessed over 2200 players train and play in the ANU Blue. With continuing hard work and touch of good fortune, it will see another six decades of the sorts of shenanigans it has survived thus far.

And yet we cling to hope that in the not too distant future the promise of a new pavilion will come to fruition, and that one day we'll return to see new facilities that are finally worthy of gracing the sidelines of our fortress. In the meantime, we'll look fondly upon the facilities that while rudimentary have served generations of Griffins who have found in them a home.



Aerial photo looking west at
South Oval, Lake Burley Griffin and
Black Mountain.
Source: Liam Robertson

.....
⁹ Descriptions taken from various Questionnaire responses, 2020
¹⁰ Michael Bird, Questionnaire response, 2020







Aerial photo looking east at South Oval, Sullivans Creek and Canberra City Centre.
Source: Liam Robertson



South Oval Pavilion
series, 2021.
Source: Rowena Yates



1960s





THE ANUAFC IN THE 1960s

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Club membership 1962 | 16-22 (estimate) |
| Club membership 1969 | 36-44 (estimate) |
| League(s) played in | CANFL |
| Premierships for the decade | 1962 (Seniors) |
| Number of premierships (cumulative) | 1 |
| Post-match venue | The Wellington Hotel (sometimes) |
| ANU population (1961) | 1002 enrolled students 268 staff employed |
| Population of Canberra | 60,000 (1960) |

Season Results

| | Seniors | Reserves |
|------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1961 | n/a Intervarsity only | - |
| 1962 | Premiers CANFL Div 2 | - |
| 1963 | 6th CANFL Div 1 | 7th CANFL Div 2 |
| 1964 | 5th CANFL Div 1 | 5th CANFL Div 2 |
| 1965 | 5th CANFL Div 1 | 6th CANFL Div 2 |
| 1966 | 4th CANFL Div 1 | 5th CANFL Div 2 |
| 1967 | 4th CANFL Div 1 | 6th CANFL Div 2 |
| 1968 | 3rd CANFL Div 1 | 5th CANFL Div 2 |
| 1969 | 4th CANFL Div 1 | 5th CANFL Div 2 |

1961

The Australian National University Blues

In March 1961, two students, Ian Lambert and Geoff 'Watchit' Roberts, spoke of the intention to form an Australian Football club at a sports evening in the Great Hall.¹¹ Jim Cooper, a founding member of the Club and first XVIII trainer, wrote "Some of the leading lights at Bruce Hall wanted to go to Intervarsity and formed a scratch team of students who played with various clubs. The Club grew out of that Intervarsity trip."

The inaugural meeting of the Club was held on 12 April 1961 in the old Childers Street buildings, and subscriptions were set at 10/- (\$1.00). The Club was formed too late for entry into the official competition for 1961 and players registered and played with other clubs. This became contentious when these players sought to join ANUARFC. The Canberra Times first mentioned the Club on 20 April 1961 in an article entitled "Varsity To Play Rules." The article read:

"A new sport at the Australian National University – Australian Football – is being keenly supported by students. Members of a club formed at the University have been showing form in trial games. This season the club will play only social matches in Canberra, but will take part in an Intervarsity carnival at Brisbane. However, club members will be playing with other ACT teams. On Saturday the University will enter a team in the knock-out carnival."

ANU played a practice match against the Royal Military College (RMC) on 8 April 1961 and ANU won by over 100 points. In a second practice match on 15 April, the team went down by four goals to Manuka. The new club then competed in a preseason knockout carnival and acquitted itself well. ANU defeated Turner in its first competition

game 3-6-24 to 1-6-12. The team then met Manuka (the eventual winners) in the semi finals and was very unlucky to lose by a point on the last kick of the game. The score was 2-4-16 to 2-3-15.

"Manuka and University were first to meet in the semi finals and fought the most interesting game of the afternoon. With the defences of both teams holding superiority, the lead changed several times, Manuka leading by only two points at half time. The Bullants won after Heath kicked truly as the bell sounded to give a one point victory."

– The Canberra Times, 24 April 1961

Turner had lost to ANU in the first ever encounter between the clubs. Manuka had scored a lucky win. These clubs were to oppose ANU's entry to the CANFL and their antipathy to the university club was maintained. Of the three clubs, only ANU has survived into the 21st Century.

1962

The season that almost wasn't

1962 saw the first season of regular competition for the newly formed ANUARFC. The Club was admitted to the Second Grade of the Canberra Football League (CANFL) on the understanding that if it won the premiership it would be admitted into First Grade the following season. Professor Arthur Hambly (Department of Chemistry) was Patron and donated the trophy bearing his name which was awarded to the Club's Best and Fairest player for the first 32 years.

The Club's entry had its opponents. On 15 March 1962, The Canberra Times reported that "...A second eighteen is almost certain to represent University..." in the CANFL in 1962. Eight days later, The Canberra Times reported a startling development in a feature article entitled "Shock Ruling: University Refused Rules Team In Seconds."

.....
¹¹ Woroni, March 1961

The article explained that ANU's entry had been refused on constitutional grounds at the CANFL Annual General Meeting. ANU's admission to the competition was deferred until 1963. The League ruled that applications to enter the competition had to be received three weeks before the Annual General Meeting of the League. The ANU Club had not met that deadline. It seemed that the application was not made until students returned to Canberra at the end of the summer vacation and the Club had missed the deadline to submit a valid application for admission to the competition. The Canberra Times made it clear that club interests were behind the move to exclude ANU, with Turner and Manuka unhappy about the prospect of losing players to the new club.

Their reasons differed. Turner Oval was located between Bruce Hall and Barry Drive and many of the 1961 intake of students, especially those from interstate, opted to play with Turner. This was a great recruitment source for Turner which it would lose when the ANUARFC was admitted to the CANFL. Manuka, on the other hand, argued, with some merit, that it had spent considerable resources developing junior players, and did not wish to lose them to ANU for their senior years.

In 1990, Jim Cooper explained *"The main problem was that Turner was a struggling club and was faced with the loss of its only real players if the students were allowed to play for ANU. Students playing for other clubs also wanted to transfer to the new ANU club. We said that we had a duty to give all students a chance to represent the university and had a right to register all students. Hence ANU had a difficult birth. I suspect I attended over a hundred meetings on the single issue of Jimmy Bradshaw and his transfer from Queanbeyan."*

In the end, after public pressure was brought to bear on the League, pressure supported by Ainslie and Eastlake, and after a close delegates vote by the CANFL, the ANUARFC was admitted to compete in the Second Division of the League for the 1962 season.

1962–63

Early years in the CANFL¹²

The ANUARFC, having finally won out and entered the CANFL competition in Second Grade, now had to find a coach. Ian Lambert had been playing for Manuka along with high school mate and fellow science student at ANU, Julian Scott, and both decided to approach the recently retired Manuka and ACT fullback Ian 'Griggy' Grigg to see if he was interested. Ian agreed, despite his considerable responsibilities as a senior public servant at the time. As our inaugural coach, Ian took the Club to its first premiership resulting in the promotion of the team to First Grade in 1963.

The Club had a very good team under captain Peter Engel and capped off an impressive debut season by winning the 1962 grand final. On the road to the grand final, in a very exciting and close preliminary final, ANU was several points in arrears when Russell 'Norm' Parkes took a mark at full forward, just before the siren. Parkes was said to have coolly slotted the winning goal from straight in front and not far outside the goal square. This is not how Norm, a great raconteur, recalled the kick: at every opportunity he described an amazingly long and towering punt, from a distance and angle which have both increased with the years, against all odds. Winning Second Grade brought greater respect for the Club and, true to its word, the CANFL allowed ANU to play in the First Grade in 1963.



Write-up of first CANFL match
The Canberra Times Article,
26 April 1962

12 Adapted in part from contribution by Ian Lambert in *Reflections of The School of General Studies in the 1960s* by Don Larkin, 10 September 2019

Under the presidency of Ernie Lyall (our first ever Life Member and after whom the Best Clubman trophy is named), Ian Grigg began the second of his four consecutive years as coach. Peter Engel captained the First Grade and Ernie Lyall coupled his duties as President with the captaincy of the second XVIII. 1963 was also the year that our faithful old siren was purchased, at a cost of £9 16/-. It's certainly given sterling service since then.

The 1963 season did not unfold as romantically as did 1962, the Seniors finished sixth and the Reserves fifth. While generally outclassed by the strongest teams (Manuka, Eastlake, Ainslie and Queanbeyan) we had a few satisfying wins and were far from disgraced overall. The Seniors team upset the highly fancied Queanbeyan outfit at Queanbeyan on 15 June with a 12-14-86 to 5-7-37 victory and won a high pressure game against fourth place rival Acton (7-14-56 to 7-9-51) to keep their finals hopes alive. However, costly losses in games that could have been won early in the season were the difference and when the side lost to Eastlake on 10 August, they had no chance of making the finals.

In addition to our on-field efforts, 1963 was the first year that ANU had a second XVIII which provided an increased opportunity for students to play football. It was also the first year that we played in the now familiar blue with white 'V' strip, although it was a navy blue. The Club had two players selected to play in the ACT Representative side, those being Andrew Green and our captain Peter Engel. We sent a team to the Intervarsity competition in Sydney where it defeated Tasmania University 10-5-65 to 6-6-42. Alongside this, Ian developed a strong rapport with Andrew Green and coached him to become an outstanding fullback for ANU Seniors, and an ACT Representative.



1962 ANUAFC Division 2 premiers (Source: Ian Lambert)

BACK: I. Lambert, T. Chamberlain, R. Symons, J. O'Kane, J. Hickey (Manager), J. Land, A. Prowse, M. Emmery, J. Hartley (Assistant Manager). MIDDLE: H. Brophy, B. McPherson, M. Meagher, B. O'Grady (Captain), I. Grigg (Coach), K. Johnston (Vice-Captain), P. Engel, A. Green, V. Price. FRONT: P. Murphy, A. Crittendon, E. Lyall, R. Parkes, W. Gilholme. ABSENT: J. Scott



1963 Inaugural First Grade team (Source: Don Larkin)

BACK: J. Reid (Manager), J. Lally, J. O'Kane, P. Engel (Captain), A. Prowse, T. Cuinane, R. Gilholme, R. Thompson (Assistant Manager) MIDDLE: A. Green, B. McPherson, R. Parkes, E. Stewart, M. Meagher, I. Briant, J. Scott, J. McAlvey FRONT: I. Lambert, J. Fingleton, E. Lyall (President), V. Price, D. Larkin, W. Gilholme ABSENT: K. Johnston (Vice Captain), B. Wawn, J. Bradshaw

1964

Infamous Intervarsity

Rather than the CANFL football season, 1964 will probably be best remembered at ANU for the now legendary infamous Intervarsity trip.

It was determined at the Club Annual General Meeting in March that the ANU would be represented at the Australian Rules Carnival in Perth in May that year.

Raising money to meet the cost of the trip became a focus for every player. Babysitting, car washing, and the raffle of a transistor radio were the principal fundraising activities. Prospective trip members were also able to get the Sports Union to contribute £20 per head towards the cost of the trip. The players finished up arranging to wash and detail just about every embassy car in Canberra at more than a healthy profit. They raised an enormous amount of money from the raffle. James Lally was reliably informed the organisers kept drawing the winning ticket until they eventually found a winner whom they knew. The cost of the return ticket to Perth was £49.10.6 and there were quite a number of students who eventually raised more than was required to cover the cost of their ticket.

The trip to Perth by plane made national headlines and proved to be an absolute disaster. The plane left Canberra and flew direct to Adelaide where there was a stopover for three hours which was spent mainly in the bar. The following three and a half hour trip to Perth was most eventful. There was no alcohol left on the plane when we arrived in Perth. At least five life jackets had been inflated as well as one life raft. The life raft was eventually deflated with the use of a pocket knife which someone had on board. Seats had been broken or severely damaged. You could smoke on the plane in those days and cigarettes had simply been butted into seats.



1964 Intervarsity, Perth.

Source: Vic Price

The events of the week included a midweek trip to Rottnest Island where most of the afternoon was spent in the local hotel beer garden. A report was filed by the manager of the Rottnest Island Board claiming that two intoxicated students had driven a steam roller in such a fashion as to be dangerous to themselves and to a number of children from a nearby bungalow. Furthermore, he stated that they did not know how to drive the roller and could only stop it by backing it into a tree. Obviously, this was denied.

On our return home the following Saturday we were accompanied by several Commonwealth Police in plain clothing. Intervarsity football was never the same thereafter and was temporarily cancelled in 1965 following a lengthy enquiry into the events of the week, as well as the plane trip.¹³

The regular competition played second fiddle to Intervarsity shenanigans and eventually Eastlake were the Division One premiers, but ANU improved on their 1963 effort to finish in fifth position. The Reserves also finished in fifth position. Our ACT representative players in 1964 were Andrew Green, Bruce McPherson and Ross Garnaut (squad). Bruce McPherson was the First XVIII Best and Fairest in front of Andrew Green. Peter Collings was the Reserve Grade Best and Fairest with Damien McNamara the Reserves Runner Up. Hugh Brophy became the first to reach a Club milestone, playing his 50th game that year.

Student damage brings protest

The furore arising out of the recent inter-varsity sports carnival at Perth is only now dying down. In nearly every Australian University enquiries are being held to try and find just how much truth is contained in the reports of the Australian press and in certain allegations being made by air-line companies, hotel managers and many irate Perth locals. A.U.S.A., at a recent meeting has banned all future intervarsity sporting activity until the whole mess is cleared up and full reports submitted by every participating University.

Just what did happen at Perth? Even now the situation is not altogether clear but as each University deals with the problem a few facts are becoming obvious. The first of these is that the Press, vastly over-emphasised the whole business. They have exaggerated and distorted what actually happened and in a search for good "copy" have not only jeopardised future inter-varsities of this nature, but have also placed those individuals who were

Majesty's Hotel in more detail. As in other universities it was this Vice-Chancellor's report which was used (along with supplementary information) as the basis of an inquiry held recently by the Sports Council.

SPORTS COUNCIL INQUISITION

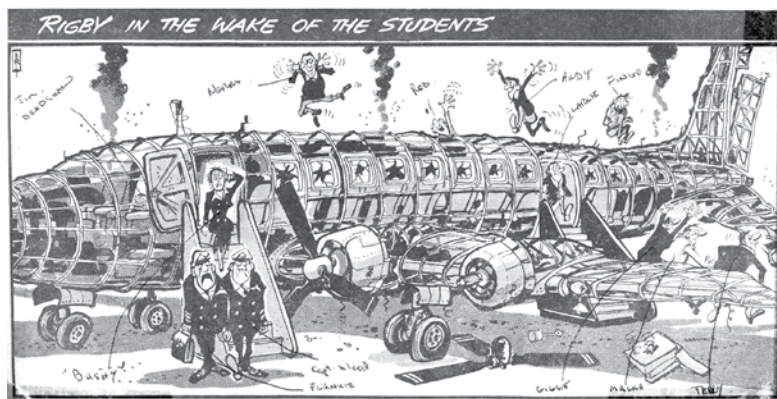
On the night of Monday, June 23, the board room at Childers Street was full. In the Chair was President Clement flanked by aides

not see any others being thrown around. As to the allegations made by Mr. Stump, Manager of His Majesty's Hotel, Chapel stated that he felt the team could dispute most of the claims. He said that, on the whole, the conduct of the team had been good and what small incidents of damage there were he felt to have been more than adequately paid for by the football club. "The Melbourne team were the worst offenders," he said, "most

and announced, "I am sick of hearing about courts of law!" it was decided to hear the statements of the four men individually.

Their accounts of the evening, which all substantially agreed, were definitely in contrast to Stump's allegations.

At 2 p.m. (after the 1-V Ball), they returned to the hotel with their partners, having been assured by him that there would be light supper provided. When it was discovered that this



"I suppose we'll just accept it as their giant university brains letting off a bit of steam."

Page 29, Daily News Friday 29 May, 1964

Source: Don Larkin

¹³ Adapted from contributions by Warren Gilhome and James Lally in *Reflections of The School of General Studies in the 1960s* by Don Larkin, 10 September 2019

1965

First Life Member

1965 loomed as a big year of improvement for the Uni Blues. The recruitment by the Club was impressive, picking up Ron McLeod who had previously played with Port Melbourne and the Melbourne Football Club, another very senior public servant that went on to succeed Ian Grigg as coach in 1966. Ron was quietly-spoken and his pale complexion gave the impression he was a bit frail, but this image was quickly dispelled by his class, vision and skilful use of his elbows to telling effect when in danger of being smashed. The beginning of the year also saw the awarding of the first ever Life Membership. The Canberra Times recorded the event thus:

"The retiring President of the A.N.U. National Football Club, Mr Ernie Lyall, has been elected the Club's first life member. The honour was bestowed on Mr Lyall at the Club's third annual meeting last night. Mr Lyall has served with the Club with distinction during his two years as President. He has been an untiring worker and was a mainstay in overcoming many of the Club's formative problems. He is retiring for personal reasons, and his loss will be a great blow to the Club."

In 1965 both sides only won two matches. However, detailed analysis of the match reports shows we came a lot closer to the top teams than ever before. Ross Garnaut, Ron McLeod, Andrew Green and Vic Price were selected in the ACT squad and Rod Gilholme, Tony Davies, Don Larkin and Geoff Brown were selected in the Under 20s side which played Richmond Thirds. Kerry Jelbart finished Senior Best and Fairest and was awarded a University Blue award for his outstanding performances throughout the year. Of the Intervarsity John Buxton later wrote, "Predictably, IV was cancelled for a year following the 1964 shenanigans. It did have a positive side, allowing the ANU players to sober up."



Source: Jim Lally



1966

First taste of First Grade finals

The main office bearers for 1966 remained essentially unchanged from the previous year, with Vic Price acting as President, Bill Lyons as Secretary and Geoff Brown as Treasurer. Decimal currency was introduced in 1966, and subs were set at \$2.

The 1966 season saw Ian Grigg retire from the coaching position after four seasons, although he maintained a presence around the Club. Kit Stevens joined the Club but, arguably, the most significant arrival was that of ANU legend John 'Bucko' Buxton, who played until 1980, and remains the only player to have played 200 First Grade games for the Club.

The attention of The Canberra Times tipsters was warranted, as ANU opened the season in blistering form, demolishing Turner-Queanbeyan 13-28-106 to 4-7-31. Owen Paton kicked six goals and Ian Lambert three.

The Reserves went down to RMC 14-17-101 to 9-5-59. In the next five games however, ANU showed disappointing form, and did not win another game until meeting Turner-Queanbeyan on June 11. It appeared that the writing was on the wall. However, when written off by commentators for the following week, ANU confounded opinion and snatched the game by eight points.

ANU finished the home and away season in fourth position with our first taste of First Grade finals ahead of us. We were to play third placed Manuka in the first semi final. Having defeated Manuka in our last meeting, victory was a distinct possibility.

ANU began the game well, but suffered the loss of Bruce McPherson in the opening minutes. Still, ANU were in front by two goals at the first change, five points at the second and three points at the last. According to The Canberra Times columnist, we should have been much further in front, having had the majority of the play, but were not able to capitalise. Manuka ran away with the game in the final term, 9-13-67 over ANU 7-7-49.

Representative players for 1966 were John Buxton, Bruce McPherson, Kerry Jelbart and Kit Stevens, with Kerry Jelbart winning a cash award from the Australian Newspaper for being best afield in the representative game against the South West League. Kit Stevens was Senior Best and Fairest, with Don Cowie and John Buxton being tied for Runners Up. Wal Jurkewicz was the Reserve Grade Best and Fairest with John Hicks the Runner Up.

1966 Seniors side.
Source: John Buxton



1967–68

More finals chances

In 1967 Ron McLeod began his second year as the coach of ANU, vowing not to play again. He was eventually talked into pulling on the boots for another year. Not intending to play resulted in him relinquishing the captaincy to Bruce McPherson, with Hugh Brophy taking over from Jim Thynne as captain of the Reserves. Vic Price stepped down from the position of President, with A. 'Bert' Prowse taking over. Vic instead filled the role of Secretary, with Ken Johnston as Vice President and Geoff Brown returning to the role of Treasurer. Subs were again set at \$2, and through the year some consternation was expressed at the low level of the Club's finances due to non-payment of these.

ANU's preseason didn't go well, losing several key players to injury or moving interstate. The season was back on track after a winning streak, though this came to a halt in round 12 when the injury depleted side played Manuka. ANU had lost five players to injury and Don Cowie was suspended. ANU lost its next match to Eastlake by three goals, and was then upset by the lowly Acton, their first win of the season. ANU played Eastlake in the semi final. Eastlake began in blistering form, kicking 6-4-40 to 0-1-1 in the first term to set up a lead that ANU only managed to reel in by one goal over the rest of the game. Overall, we won the last three quarters, but the damage had been done early. For the record, Eastlake 16-8-104 defeated ANU 10-11-71. Eastlake went on to defeat Ainslie in the preliminary final, but were beaten by Manuka in the grand final.

Peter Lyons of The Canberra Times tipped ANU to be the big improver of the year in 1968, stating that "there was a determination to succeed which had been previously lacking. Under new coach Frank Dunin, training has been harder and keener and

University look certain to be far fitter for the earlier games than they have been in the past."

ANU played top class football on several occasions and went deep into the business end of the season. In a nail-biting semi final encounter ANU won by 2 points over Ainslie, thanks to a Hugh Price mark and a timely 15 yard penalty. ANU hit the front with ten minutes to play and held on for a 13-19-97 to 14-11-95 victory. ANU retained the same side for the preliminary final against Eastlake the following week, and Dunin thought that if the team played to its potential, they had a good chance of winning. Bill Drake, captain coach of the Ainslie side also thought so, saying "University has a better chance of beating Eastlake or Manuka than we would." Unfortunately, the fairy tale ended there, with Eastlake handing out our worst defeat for the season, 14-16-100 to 5-15-45.

It was a disappointing end to the season which towards the end promised much, but it was ANU's most successful season in the premier competition and augured well for the future of the Club. Of the nine losses, six were less than two goals. Representative players for the year were Rick Sneeuwjagt, Bruce McPherson and Hugh Price. Tony Walker and Peter Collins were included in the train on squad. John Buxton was the First Grade Best and Fairest, with Mick Rogers the Runner Up. Bill Reynoldson was the Reserve Grade Best and Fairest from Bernie Dowiyogo.

1969

Zoning rears its head in Canberra

1969 got underway on a positive note with the announcement that Frank Dunin was reappointed as First Grade coach and Terry Read as Reserves coach. ANU's draw saw a baptism by fire playing Manuka, Eastlake and Ainslie in the first three games. After losing all three, our first win for the season was done in grand style with a 98 point defeat of Turner. In a year that was plagued by injury and zoning controversy, results were mixed. ANU did well to contest the last finals place but narrowly lost out to Ainslie in the last game of the home and away season. We did not win a game against any of the teams above us, although we came tantalisingly close a few times, and we lost only one game against the teams below us and that only because we were uncharacteristically undermanned on the day.

When zoning was introduced, the CANFL had agreed that it was in the best interest to have ANU play in the CANFL, and, when football was fully developed, it would be preferable for ANU to play

in an amateur or semi professional competition. The position was examined during 1969 and CANFL agreed that ANU should maintain its claim on full-time students and graduates of ANU and other universities.

Later in the 1969 season, the CANFL agreed to the establishment of a Monaro Football Association, and, on the recommendation of the CANFL executive, decided that clubs should consider three proposals:

1. Expanding the CANFL competition to eight teams by including RMC or a Woden team,
2. Eliminate ANUARFC or group the resources of Acton and Turner to form a Belconnen Football Club so as to create a six team competition,
3. The desirability of preserving the status quo with seven teams.

After much consideration it was agreed that there should be an eight team CANFL competition with RMC to be invited to apply for First and Second XVIII status. RMC declined the invitation to join First Grade and it was agreed to maintain the status quo for the time being. Manuka and Eastlake took the opportunity to propose a motion to expel ANU from First Division. The motion was defeated seven votes to four. The motion was supported by the two clubs and two members of the executive, one of whom was the Chairman of the Permit and Match Committee. Five clubs, Acton, Ainslie, Queanbeyan, RMC and Turner and one member of the executive supported ANU.

The ANU Annual Report of 1969 noted the sensitivity of the matter and that the ANU Committee had resolved to seek only to enforce the priority claim on students after careful consideration.

1969 Intervarsity.
Source: Rod Cheatley



ANU Dinners – A social club with a footy problem

ANU Dinners were the crown in the footy calendar. Initially they were held at various entertainment venues around the then adolescent Canberra Village including the Embassy Motel, but were later relegated to upstairs at the ANU Staff Centre or the Sports Union Dining Room after malicious rumours spread around town that the clean up bill outweighed any profit from the bar.

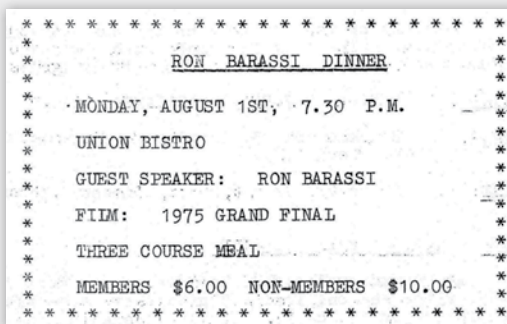
Guest speakers were treated with little respect but few of the notables invited to speak refused the invitation. In 1971, the then Commonwealth Treasurer Billy Snedden who had played football at the University of Western Australia, was the guest speaker. Snedden greatly enjoyed the banter of the evening and thereafter took particular interest in the welfare of one of his Departmental Officers who had been one of the constant interjectors.

Dinners were invariably black-tie affairs. Although Allan Hird's dress sense was always a source of discussion and amusement. Hird did have his moment of glory when he had the pleasure of introducing the Prime Minister Gough Whitlam at the 1974 ANU dinner. Allan was seated at the main table and looked a picture of sartorial elegance dressed in a dinner shirt, black tie and tails.

This image was dispelled when he stood up to give his speech and it was discovered he was not wearing any trousers. He went on to give a brilliant speech, which greatly impressed the Prime Minister.

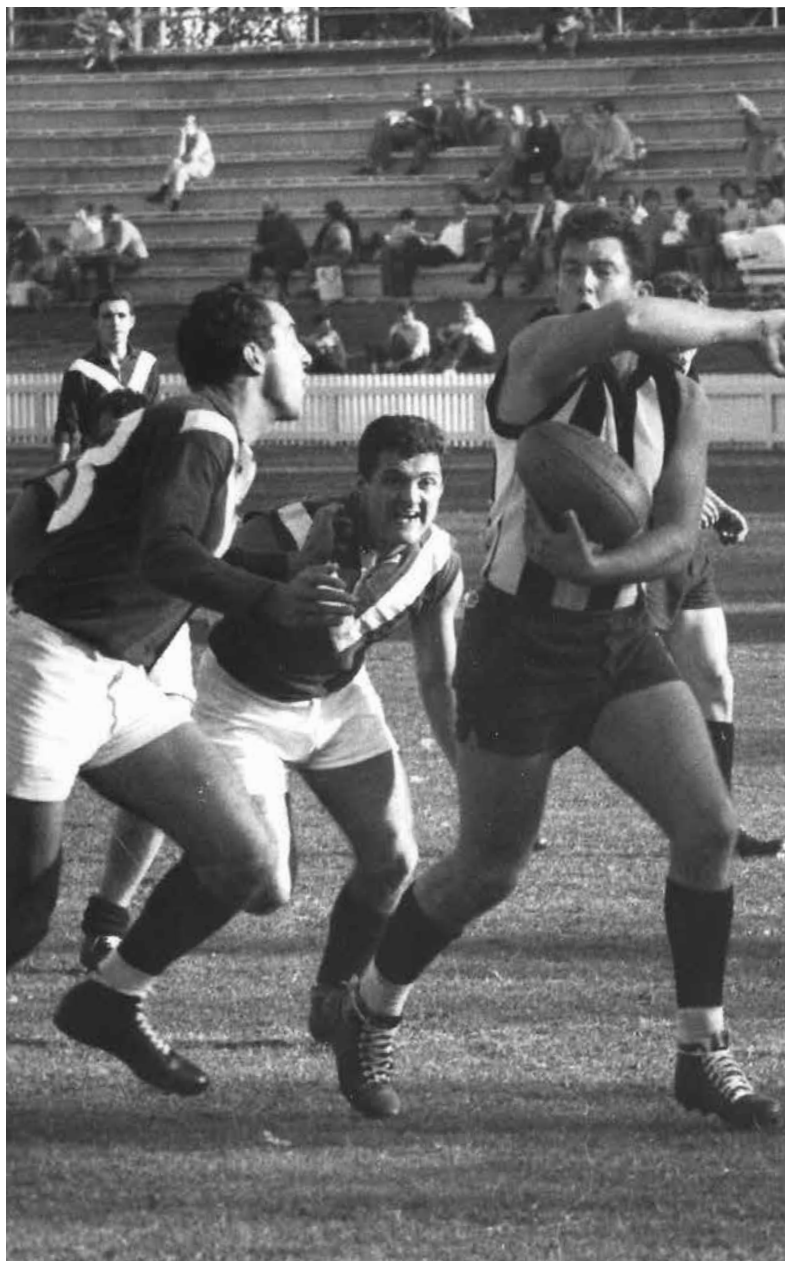
On that occasion, it was a mixed affair. John Buxton had taken a liberal view of the black-tie edict and was dressed in a gorilla suit. He greeted Mrs Whitlam with a kiss. She proclaimed that she had never been kissed by a gorilla, to which Bucko replied in a loud voice, "Neither have I."

Other VIP guests to address Club dinners quickly learned that reputation mattered little to ANU members. Ron Barassi was forced to defend his record when told that he would not be remembered as a particularly skilful player. Ron disagreed, pointing out that he had won the handball competition on 'World of Sport.'



Black tie dinner dress.
Source: *Jim Lally*





ANU v Acton, 1965 (Davies, Price, Benson).

Source: Vic Price



1964, Julian Scott, Warren Gilholme (3), Jim Lally, Bruce McPherson (13).

Source: Jim Lally



First Grade, 1965.

Source: The Canberra Times, provided courtesy of Bill Lyons



John O'Kane and Nick Evers (Manuka) at ruck contest watched by Jim Lally.
Source: John O'Kane



Alex Jesaulenko congratulating Gary Samuels after winning the Sun Kick in Melbourne in 1967 as a 15yo kicking 67m at the Junction Oval, Footscray.
Source: Gary Samuels



1962 Presentation Dinner – Ian Grigg (Coach), Ernie Lyall (President), John O'Kane (Most Consistent).
Source: Vic Price



Jim Lally (ANU Captain) and Neil Graham (Eastlake Captain, 1965).
Source: Jim Lally

1970s



Allan Hird marks over Rod Brown while Gavan Nolan looks on (Right). *Source: Rod Cheatley*



THE ANUAFC IN THE 1970s

| | |
|--|--|
| Club membership (1970) | 36-44 (estimate) |
| Club membership (1979) | 72-90 (estimate) |
| League(s) played in | CANFL/ACTAFL MAFL |
| Premierships for the decade | Nil |
| Number of premierships (cumulative) | 1 |
| Post-match venue | The ANU Staff Centre |
| ANU population (1971) | 4804 enrolled students (28% female) 2804 full-time staff |
| Population of Canberra | 137,000 (1970) |

Season Results

| | Seniors | Reserves | Third XIII | Under 19s |
|------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1970 | 4th CANFL Div 1 | 5th CANFL Div 2 | no data MAFL | - |
| 1971 | 4th CANFL Div 1 | 5th CANFL Div 2 | 5th MAFL Div 1 | - |
| 1972 | 6th CANFL Div 1 | 6th CANFL Div 2 | 5th MAFL Div 1 | - |
| 1973 | 5th CANFL Div 1 | 4th CANFL Div 2 | 5th MAFL Div 1 | - |
| 1974 | 3rd CANFL Div 1 | 3rd CANFL Div 2 | 4th MAFL Div 1 | - |
| 1975 | 4th ACTAFL Div 1 | 5th ACTAFL Div 2 | 7th MAFL Div 1 | (w) ACTAFL U/19 |
| 1976 | 6th ACTAFL Div 1 | 3rd ACTAFL Div 2 | 5th MAFL Div 1 | 5th ACTAFL U/19 |
| 1977 | 7th ACTAFL Div 1 | 6th ACTAFL Div 2 | 8th MAFL Div 1 | 6th ACTAFL U/19 |
| 1978 | 7th ACTAFL Div 1 | 7th ACTAFL Div 2 | 12th MAFL Div 1 | - |
| 1979 | 8th ACTAFL Div 1 | 6th ACTAFL Div 2 | 7th (w) MAFL Div 2 | - |

(w) = withdrew

1970s

Toughing it out in First Grade

The 1970s followed in a similar fashion to the 60s, and were not without controversy. The Club, whilst performing admirably, found it difficult to break through and make its mark in finals against the more professional and wealthier clubs. Zoning continued to raise issues for player recruitment and retention, and the politics of Canberra – which affected the growth and economy of the Territory – had unlikely consequences as the decade matured. Ultimately, in 1979 the Club exited the ACTAFL First Grade competition. Paradoxically, this move consolidated the Club's position as an amateur force and influenced our long term prosperity.

During the 70s, junior football was managed by clubs. This was to have a major impact on the ANUARFC when the League required the Club to field an Under 19s team, despite the fact the Club had no geographic feeder area or junior structure to support the development of young players.¹⁴

Throughout the mid-70s, ANU wins across the board were on the decline. Notably though, Bill Whittakers won the Mulroney Medal in 1970 and Rob Wilson in 1972. A few (non Committee members) suggested ANU combine with RMC on the basis that we were both strong amateur teams and that a combined team would be truly competitive. In the eyes of some clubs, ANU and RMC were pools of football talent to be plundered. In those quarters, we were seen as not contributing to the development of the game in the ACT. In any event, RMC would never agree to a merger of any kind as sport was seen as an important element in officer training; a divergence in values from the ANUARFC.

1970

Vic Price, the first '100 Game Player' for the ANUARFC¹⁵

During the 1970 season Vic Price, one of the early founders of the Club and a former President, Vice President and Secretary, became the first player to achieve 100 First Grade games for the Club. Vic previously achieved the 100-game record in 1968 when combining his earlier total from Turner Intermediates (see newspaper clipping). 1970 was reportedly Vic's finest season at the ANUARFC. He also played in the infamous 1964 Intervarsity fixture and represented the CANFL in interleague representative matches on a regular occurrence.¹⁶

Vic passed away in 2015 and his family planted a tree with a plaque commemorating his life near the Sullivans creek pocket.



14 Australian Rules the best, Bill Mandle 1979. Sporting Print, The Canberra Times

15 Adapted from 1970 ANUARFC Annual Report and contributions from Colin Price, 2020

16 'Century' for Price, The Canberra Times, 22 June 1968

1971

The McNamara case

The most serious incident involving an ANU player resulted in a landmark case in the tort of law.

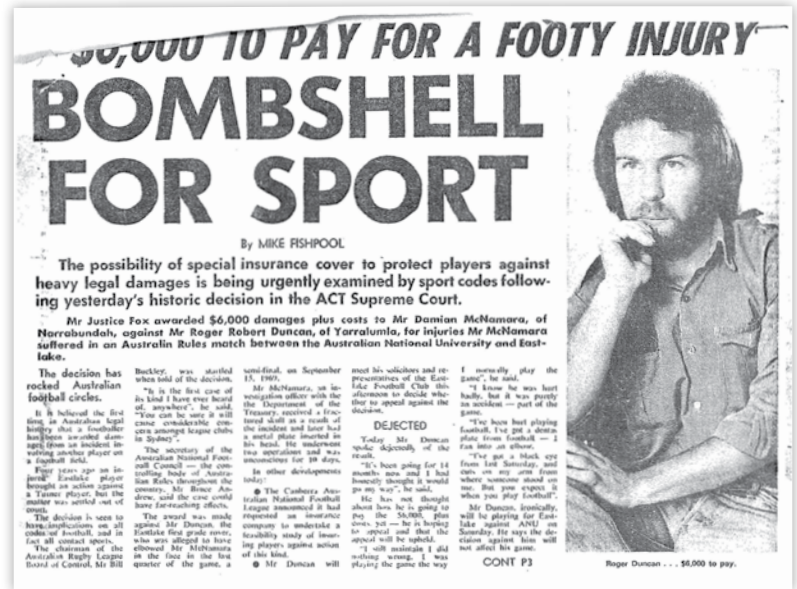
On 9 April 1971, Michael Foster, Sporting Editor of The Canberra Times, wrote that an ACT Supreme Court decision handed down a few days earlier, “must have sent a chill through every player and administrator in every contact code.”

The case involved ANU's Damien McNamara who had been struck on the head and his skull fractured by the elbow of an opposition player in a match against Eastlake on 15 September 1969. He had been struck after disposing of the ball. The opposition player was immediately reported. For Damien, serious medical complications followed and fears were held for his life. He recovered, but evidence was given in the subsequent court case that he had suffered a degree of permanent impairment.

The umpire gave evidence in the case, along with the CANFL umpires adviser who made it clear that an intentional blow of the type delivered was outside the laws of the game.

Sporting bodies had long relied on the principle of *volenti non fit injuria*. This principle asserted that an act to which a man consents cannot be considered an injury, or, no person can enforce a right which he has voluntarily waived or abandoned. The principle had been understood to cover acts which would otherwise be actionable. Legal texts cited injuries suffered in a sporting event such as a boxing match as an example.

The defence argued that the blow was accidental, or in any event, it was the sort of blow which could be expected by a person playing Australian Rules.



Justice Fox noted that both sides accepted that the contact was an infringement of the laws and said that he had come to the conclusion that the striking had been intentional. This, he said, was a serious infringement of the rules and the risk of being injured by such an act had not been part of the game, if the game had been played according to the rules.

Justice Fox said that the central proposition was whether Mr McNamara had consented, or should be taken as having consented, to the injury inflicted. His Honour found that the factual situation was such that he should conclude that there had been an absence of consent on Mr McNamara's part and he was of the opinion that the claim should succeed. Damages of \$6,000 were awarded, plus costs.

The McNamara case clarified the law. From that point on, actions during a game which were proven to be outside the laws of the game were subject to review under the law of the land.

1971–72

Zoning issues rear their head, again

The issues of zoning that were encountered in the late 1960s continued on into the 1970s. Some of the better known and (at the time) more widely reported instances are included here.

In 1971, Gary Robb from Wagga Wagga and Richard Noble from Heyfield in Gippsland, were signed by Eastlake and Manuka respectively, despite being enrolled as full-time students at the ANU. Although the constitution was reasonably clear on ANU's rights, the CANFL Permits and Match Committee had previously dismissed ANU's claims on the grounds that they would create 'financial hardship' for the players involved if they were forced to play for ANU, given that the Club was an amateur one.¹⁷

ANU President, Terry Read, said:

If our claims for players Gary Robb and Richard Noble are dismissed by CANFL's Permits and Match Committee...the League will virtually destroy any meaning for the existence of our zone... The way the constitution reads we have claims on all full-time students. This is the zone they have given us... We believe this reason of financial hardship is too readily accepted... Sometimes it appears there is a correlation between playing First Grade and financial hardship... If the Committee finds in favour of Eastlake and Manuka... it will cause an irreparable breach in our zone and players will just flood out.

The Canberra Times took a stance on the issue when it wrote:

The inducement of being able to study at ANU when the possibility of not being able to get into universities

in their own area has been used before and will be used again by recruiting Canberra clubs and it seems a little high handed of ANU to expect to reap the benefits of such cases. In the instances of players who have not been brought to Canberra by another club, but come merely to study and perhaps play football, then ANU has a case...

Robb and Noble were duly registered with Eastlake and Manuka respectively. The zone had been irreparably breached.

In a further battle in 1971 with Eastlake and the Permits and Match Committee, Allan Hird Jr had his application to be cleared to ANU turned down. Hird, an ex-Essendon player and previously the Captain Coach of Eastlake in 1969–70, desired to play for ANU as he was a full-time student there. Again, The Canberra Times took a stance on the issue, writing:

*Eastlake's position is understandable. It seems most peculiar that a player who cannot attend regular training sessions for one club because of his studies can do it for another, and an amateur club at that.*¹⁸

Of course, the paper neglected to put forward the probability that ANU would make allowances for Hird's study commitments while still allowing him to play at the top level, whereas Eastlake were less likely to do so. This is indicated in the Canberra News who reported that Hird had been "unable to come to suitable terms." Hird was eventually cleared early in the season, commencing a long and distinguished career with ANUARFC.

The David Morgan saga began in December of 1971 when it was reported that Morgan was to move to Eastlake on the basis that he wanted to be paid to play in order that he be able to fund proposed overseas study. Morgan had previously publicly

.....
¹⁷ Canberra News, 1 April 1971

¹⁸ The Canberra Times, 1 April 1971

stated that he was not interested in being paid to play as he did not want to be obliged to provide “5 dollars of football every week.” ANU refused Morgan a clearance on the grounds that he was a required player (anyone who can kick 19 goals in a match is a required player!). Morgan appealed to the CANFL on the grounds of financial hardship and the Permit and Match Committee upheld the appeal.

Soon after his transfer to Eastlake, the VFL club Richmond showed interest in Morgan playing the 1972 season with them. Morgan understandably showed a strong desire to play in the VFL if given the opportunity. He played several successful practice matches with the Tigers and Richmond officials, including Alan Schwab, made several trips to Canberra to negotiate with Eastlake and the CANFL.¹⁹

Eastlake was unable to come to terms with Richmond and Morgan, and so refused Morgan’s clearance application. Morgan publicly blamed himself for the arguments over his services.²⁰ The irony of the situation was that if he had not left ANU in the first place, he would not have had problems in transferring to Richmond and realising his dream to play in the VFL.

Although ANU’s involvement in the affair was rather remote once Morgan’s appeal against ANU’s rejection of clearance had been upheld, it illustrated a problem that had and continued to plague ANU during its time in the First Grade. Once again ANU had unearthed a valuable talent, only to lose them to a big spending club. This situation might not have seemed so bad at the time had clearances from other clubs to ANU gone as easily.

19 The Canberra Times, 27 March 1972, The Canberra Times, 30 March 1972

20 Canberra News, 13 April 1972



Canberra Australian rules player Dave Morgan, right, goes into the CANFL committee meeting last night with the league’s secretary Don Andrews.

MORGAN GETS CLEARANCE

The ACT Australian rules representative full forward, Dave Morgan, will play with Eastlake this season. Morgan kicked 108 goals in 15 appearances for ANU last season.

Last month his application for a clearance to Eastlake was rejected by ANU. He then lodged an appeal, which was upheld by the Canberra CANFL permit and match committee at its meeting last night.

Morgan, an economist, told the committee that he intended to go overseas next year to study for

his PhD. This was an expensive proposition and he needed the money which would be available to him as a professional footballer with Eastlake.

The ANU case was presented by Mr Rod Cheatley, who said the club had a definite need to retain Morgan’s services.

The permit and match committee’s decision is likely to have a vital bearing on Eastlake’s hopes for the 1972 premiership.

Eastlake reached the grand final last year but its lack of goal-scoring ability was a major factor in its loss to Manuka.

Don's goal

Don Cowie was resting in the forward pocket at ANU South Oval, down the scoreboard end. Through some stroke of enormous luck, Don had taken one of his occasional chest marks in the goal square, within kicking range, even for Don, who was not renowned for his long kicking. Don went back to take his kick, pulling his socks up, to find the West Canberra player jumping up and down on the mark. The only other player between the mark and the goal line, was another West Canberra player who was also dancing around trying to distract Don. The ploy obviously worked as Don, in approaching for his kick, took a large divot out of the ground with his right boot, striking the ball on the follow through but forcing it along the ground in front of him. As the West Canberra player leapt into the air to mozo Don, the ball went underneath his legs and proceeded to bounce over the head of the next West Canberra player through for a goal. The crowd over at the ANU pavilion could not contain their laughter for the next 15 minutes.²¹

The most prestigious of awards, the Golden Boot

The Golden Boot is the most dubious and insalubrious of the ANUAFC awards, and, perhaps in a sign of the changing times, is rarely awarded any more. The Golden Boot was introduced in the 1970s by Neil 'Apples' Aplin at the personal cost of a tin of gold spray. Since then, the Golden Boot has been awarded to the degenerates of the Club; a list which funnily enough, lines up quite closely to the list of Club Captains, Best and Fairest Winners, and Clubpersons of the Year.

.....
²¹ Provided by John Buxton



The Golden Boot is classically awarded at Aussie Rules Clubs to the player who is the highest-scoring of the year, i.e. the player who kicks the most goals in the home and away season. This is not so at the ANUAFC. The Golden Boot is awarded to the player who puts on the...performance of the year. Examples are unable to be given in this publication, however, it shouldn't take too much of a stretch to imagine what an award winner might do to earn the Golden Boot. It's generally won by a player who has attended a football trip, a 4P's night, a Mad Monday, or a night at the post-game venue of the day. Mothers may likely be less proud of a Golden Boot winner than of a Player's Player.

The rules are unclear and the award is given on the basis of audience support on awards/presentation night. Most winners are proud, some have been known to refuse the award. Much controversy has surrounded some recent winners and some who were 'robbed'. The best thing you can do to bond with a player of yore is ask them what the Golden Boot winner in their year(s) at the Club did to win the award. You're sure to be entertained and delighted.

1973 First XVIII.
Source: Rod Cheatley

1975

You win some, you lose some...points that is

In 1975, permits were issued for 152 ANUARFC players. This included 38 new registrations for players coming to the Club for the first time. In 1977, when 90 ANU players took the field during the season, the Club had been issued with permits for 129 players.

While Robert Burns wrote, “the best-laid schemes o’ mice an’ men gang aft agley,” ANU team managers seldom went astray. Kerry Hempenstall was able to rely on his legal expertise when Ian ‘Lumpy’ McNeill of Manuka was reported for striking a player named on the ANU team sheet as John Hicks. Unknown to Kerry, Lumpy had grown up with John Hicks but did not recognise the alleged victim of his indiscretion. Kerry was able to give a satisfactory explanation.

In the Monaro League, Neil Aplin had a similar experience after a win against Goulburn, during which four Goulburn players were reported. After completing the paperwork, the umpire appeared in the ANU rooms and asked about a player named on the ANU team sheet. Neil confessed to using a ‘nom de boot’ and that the chap named on the team sheet was interstate. The umpire said he knew the chap was interstate as he lived next door and was feeding the dog. The League took away the points for the win.



David Morgan takes chest mark with Allan Hird looking on. First semi final against Ainslie 1971.

Source: The Canberra Times

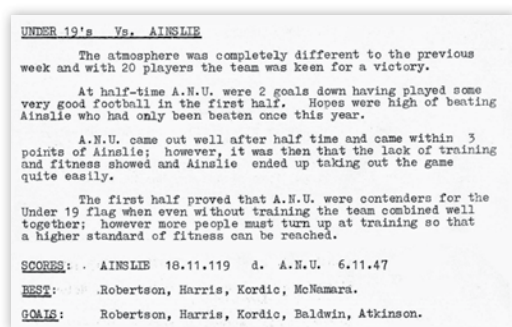


1976

We even had an Under 19s team at one stage²²

The Under 19s team was fielded in response to pressure from the League when those opposed to the institutional teams (ANU and RMC) had been very critical about those clubs not contributing to junior development.

The 1976 Under 19s team made the finals with a final (whether it was a semi or preliminary is a fact lost in the mists of time) in the middle week of the university holidays. Some of the 'freshers' left their families to return early to Canberra for the game. Some travelled overnight on buses to get there in time and started getting changed pre-game only to discover that nearly half the team had not been able, or perhaps not allowed by families in less flash economic times, to come back for the game. We were required to forfeit the final. This no doubt contributed to why some of the ACTAFL hierarchy and local club officials were never supportive of our role in the competition.²³ Despite great work by Bill Thompson and others, there were insufficient numbers available to field and manage a competitive team. We fielded the team from 1975 to 1977.



22 ANUAFC Newsletter, 22 July 1976

23 Adapted from contribution by John Robertson

The unknown footballer

ANU always had difficulty fielding multiple teams during uni holidays. One way around the lack of numbers was to draw upon visiting nephews, rugby players and old hacks since put out into the back paddock. These stand-ins were usually unregistered and played under other names. We ran a system of registering each year a number of players who had since retired or left Canberra but had not sought a clearance. One such person was Greg Ash.

Contrary to popular belief, Greg Ash was a real person. He played the occasional game in Second Grade in the late 1960s and early 70s. Off the football field Greg was a well-known local Morris Dancer and a noted practitioner of the art of lapidary. After Greg ceased playing, his and a few other 'retired' persons' names remained on ANU's books in the event of having to rope in a latecomer or someone new to fill up a team on the day of the match.

For some reason, Greg's name was most commonly used. More often than not the stand-ins were good footballers wanting the odd game after a dry spell. As a consequence, Greg Ash nearly topped the largest number of games played in a club. He also frequently played three games in a weekend, the Firsts, Seconds, and Thirds, and in one year, nearly won the best and fairest in the CANFL Second Grade Competition, much to the consternation of club officials, who, if he had won, would have had to come up with the body.

In more recent years, Tom Wood left administrators and opponents alike scratching their heads. Appearing in Footyweb in 2014 and even paying Club fees despite being known to no one in the Club, Tom Wood proved more financially reliable than some seasoned stalwarts without ever playing a game. Much like the premiership that year, we were left wondering whatever happened to the elusive Tom Wood?

And then of course there's the anonymity of modern-day social media platforms, such as Big Footy, where anyone can participate in the game. This has had a capricious impact on the Club, ranging from Dirk Niggler inciting unfounded rivalries with regional clubs to [WCW01] being used as a pseudonym despite it being the player's initials and jumper number. Enough said.

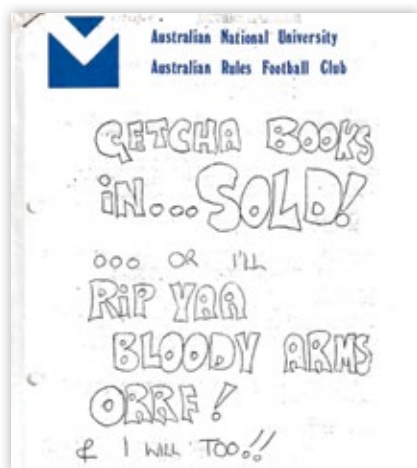
1977

Pavilion extensions and resourcing pressures

The 1977 financial statement for the ANUAFC disclosed income of \$8,801.63 and expenditure of \$9,092.85. Coaching fees were \$250. Other playing expenses totalled \$1,095.29. After allowance was made for un-presented cheques, the cash balance was \$167.30. \$12.09 remained in the coaches fund. Club assets, which consisted of jumpers at their depreciated value, a stock of t-shirts and a barbecue, totalled \$877.00.

At some point in 1977, an extension of the original pavilion to accommodate catering facilities 'appeared' with a minimum of fuss (and paperwork). It would be pointless to search ANU archives to find documentation relating to design and building approvals. It is also possible that 1977 was the last year that the Uni made good on a promise to upgrade the Pavilion...as can be deduced through a clipping from the ANUARFC Newsletter of 7 March 1977.

Having finished last on the ladder in 1977, the outlook for 1978 in the face of competition with clubs with substantial financial resources was bleak.



1978

Moves towards an exit from First Grade

After the 1977 season, a survey was conducted which sought members' views on a range of issues in an attempt to turn around the fortunes of the Club. Issues canvassed were the amalgamation with the Canberra College of Advanced Education Football Club, paying players, more aggressive recruitment of sponsors, sharing a licensed club and withdrawing from the Under 19s competition. The results of the survey were considered and the new Committee, headed by John Molony, took the Club into 1978.

The Committee sought to broaden the Club's financial support base and Molony approached a wide range of prospective sponsors. His solicitations were not always appreciated. The response from one prospective donor is as follows:

"Dear President Molony

Yours dated 21 November 1977: Football

Your outrageous appeal for money found me in ill humour and left me even worse disposed to the ANUARFC. How could you have the effrontery to beg support from me, a loyal Fitzroy supporter, for a team that calls itself the Blues?

If this is the way you conduct your appeal, I can not imagine that you will raise anything but your overdraft. But for the offensive manner in which you sought to touch my pocket, I might have considered a donation of thousands. As it is, you should think yourself fortunate to get the attached. That it is all I can afford is entirely beside the point.

Yours in shame and sorrow"

Clipping from the ANUARFC
Newsletter, 7 March 1977.

Each Thursday night during the year, there will be drinks after training in the South Oval Pavilion. Sports Council has approved the construction of a servery area at the southern end of the pavilion and this will enable us to operate a canteen during matches and after training. So - watch for the grand opening.

The writer of this letter and about 50 others, players, past players, supporters, ANU academics and a number of Canberra football identities contributed.

Despite the best endeavours of all connected with the Club, another wooden spoon resulted in 1978.

The Annual General Meeting at the end of the 1978 season was held in the upstairs bar at the ANU Staff Centre. After electing Allan Hird and Kerry Hempenstall as Life Members of the Club, Allan Hird moved and Doug Anderson seconded, the following motion, “that ANUARFC remain in ACTAFL First Grade in 1979.” The motion was carried by 17 votes to 14 with nine abstentions.

Nominations were then called for the position of President for the 1979 year. None were forthcoming. Peter Searle then moved that the previous motion be rescinded and Alan Fewster seconded the motion. The motion was lost, 14 votes to 12. Nominations were again called for the position of President and Doug Anderson was duly elected.

1979

South Oval hallowed turf²⁴

In early 1979 Doug also became a Council member of the ANU Sports Union, on the lookout for some money or perks for the Club. This initiative was sparked as Doug had been a member of a group of 12 students the previous year that had formed 12 different student groups. Each group, requiring 12 signatures to be recognised by the Student Union, was entitled to some free grog and food to hold their annual general meetings. This arrangement meant that the group had a free party throughout the teaching year.

But initiatives such as this never turn out as planned. Doug was ambushed at the first Council meeting by the combined efforts of soccer and rugby clubs. Fellow councillors moved a motion that South Oval become the domain of soccer and rugby, and that the ANUARFC be booted across Barry Drive. There were more of them, representing both men’s and women’s teams, so there was no argument as far as they were concerned. We had no women’s team then, which counted against us.

Doug made a near fatal early effort when muttering something about how silly it was to plonk square pitches on round ovals. It was the accusation of silliness that sparked anger, and the sparks flew thick and fast. Our sole ally in the room was Phil Brodsky. Phil was employed by the Sport Union to run the show and keep the peace. The meeting was adjourned, with a decision to be made at the next meeting, within a month.

Fortunately, our opponents at the time were students of politics, which meant they could not handle numbers. The ANUARFC found an ally in the Cricket Club, whose rep explained how well the present arrangements worked. Then there were obligations to the ACTAFL. The proposal had one of the wings dipping into Sully’s Creek. This meant that the Sports Union would have to spend money to upgrade facilities, lots of money. The hallowed turf that is South Oval was saved for its purpose.

At the end of the year Rod Cheatley, Doug’s immediate past President, congratulated him on his role as President. Rod, over many years, had presided over the Club as it shifted from powerhouse to cellar-dweller. He feared going down as the worst President ever. Doug, however, in a single year, had managed to take the Club out of ACTAFL altogether, and Rod could rest easy.

.....
²⁴ Adapted from contribution made by Doug Anderson, August 2020

The end of an era

1979 was the year when continuation in ACTAFL proved impossible. The ANUARFC had been overtaken by a combination of factors, completely beyond its control (most notably the introduction of poker machines in licensed venues).

With the League becoming increasingly professionalised, we had some serious discussions about what sort of club we wanted to be.

Everyone in the discussions wanted to offer good quality footy opportunities to ANU students and graduates from interstate. The more professional option involved the Club moving to North Oval and establishing a licensed club with pokies revenue. This was seen as a potential gold mine in the days before RBT and the 0.08 drink driving limit and the target audience were all the public servants driving from Civic, Barton or Russell to Belconnen. Plans were drawn up for a potential licensed club and after much discussion, the Club (or perhaps just the Committee) voted (relatively narrowly) to remain fully amateur and at the hallowed ground of South Oval. At that point, the decision was taken by the Club to withdraw from the ACTAFL First Grade.

It was satisfying that the Club left ACTAFL at a time of its own choosing, not as a result of a conspiracy of competing clubs. While football in Canberra may not have been fully developed, the time had come, or the understanding reached, that the ANUARFC would move to an amateur or semi-professional competition.

Players wore black armbands for their game at South Oval against Ainslie on 30 June 1979. ANU was in the game when it trailed by only 25 points late in the second quarter, but Ainslie soon started to power away. Despite a tongue lashing from coach David Kidd at half time, Ainslie had an easy win. At the wake at the Pavilion after the match, a coffin built by Don Cowie was ceremonially burnt to ashes.

The Reserves played out the season. Players who wished to move to other clubs were able to submit clearance applications before transfers closed. The withdrawal had been effected with dignity and in consultation with the League. The ANUARFC remained in good standing.

In 17 seasons in the top competition, ANU had finished third twice, fourth six times and fifth on four occasions. The Club had entertained, thrilled and exasperated its supporters. Individual players had made their mark. The ANUARFC, the many hundreds of players who had represented the Club and the wider Australian Football community in Canberra were all richer for the experience.

Ever balanced Winton Brocklebank with the ball and Rick Underdown in the background. First semi final against Ainslie 1971.
Source: The Canberra Times



Pokies pushed out the ANU

Sporting Print by Bill Mandle

“Men are we, and so must weep whenever the shadow of that which even once was great has passed away.” Or something like that. No one would claim that the ANU’s Australian Rules Football team was really great (it never won a premiership nor even played in a grand final), but it had its moments, and there was genuine sadness in the hearts of many as they watched ANU troop from the field for the last time in First Grade last Saturday at ANU South Oval beaten, as they had so often over the past two seasons, by a considerable margin. Yet not so long ago ANU were always likely to upset most of the teams in the competition, and none, not even in the Big Three of Ainslie, Eastlake and Manuka, took them lightly. But last year the gap widened. Against Belconnen, ominously, what had once been close games with, over the years, no more than a goal or two in it either way, ANU began losing by ten goals. What had made Belconnen suddenly so much the stronger? The pokies, that is what.

Financial reasons

At a time when, for financial reasons, the Victorian student intake into the ANU was-drying up, economic reasons of a different nature were attracting players from the south to increasingly rich suburban Rules Clubs in Canberra. Professionalism, even of the partial nature prevailing in Canberra football, forced ANU out of the ACTAFL as surely as it did the university club in the VFL in 1914, as surely, too, as it did the amateur old boys’ clubs from the top flight of English soccer in the 1880s. To survive in the professional game demands more skill and more time than the amateur can reasonably be expected to give to his sport. Moreover, the gifted

amateur is open to the temptations of pelf; as all moralists on sport have noted since professionalism entered into modern games.

Coming events cast their shadows before, and the transfer of the eccentrically gifted David Morgan, from ANU to Eastlake in the early 70s, the clearance being granted on the grounds, somewhat dubious some thought, of hardship, indicated what would happen once all the suburban clubs began to approach Eastlake’s level of wealth. Morgan was significant in other ways. His astounding performance of kicking 19 goals in pouring rain against Queanbeyan was achieved after he had been observed in convivial mood, to put it no higher, at four o’clock on the morning of the match. The gifted amateur is always likely to perform the extraordinary. ANU, both as a team and in its individuals, was always worth watching, until very recently, because of its play and its players. It had a penchant both for snatching victory from the jaws of defeat, and defeat from the jaws of victory. In 1974 it converted a ten goal half-time defeat into a two-goal lead inside 20 minutes of the third quarter against Belconnen. That same year Manuka, who never, I think, lost to ANU, scored six goals in the first ten minutes of the last quarter to ensure that it did not happen that day either, despite ANU’s holding a comfortable lead all day — till then.

Notable players

The roll-call of notable players includes characters such as the perpetual-motion Buxton, and the man who strove to achieve such perpetual motion by use of his mouth — Andrew Green. Less eccentric, and more classical, was Mick Healy, a centre half forward who possessed, arguably the best and longest kick ever seen in Canberra, although on a good day (after, possibly, a good night) Chris Bowman could match it. As with all amateur clubs

the range of individual talent and application was wider and more diverse than a professional club would wish to contain.

Discipline of a rigorous sort was, as a succession of exasperated coaches discovered, difficult to impose: you wound them up and, like the little toy men sold on the pavements of Piccadilly Circus, they went their own ways, but, also like those toys, were always fascinating to watch.

Sense of the carefree

To categorise them all as dilettantes would be unfair; Wilson and Whittakers, Mulrooney Medallists both, were as earnest as any pro, so too, in more difficult days, is the present captain Anderson, a player of true grit. But the appeal of ANU lay with the sense of the carefree, with the knowledge that one was watching a team that still played to enjoy as well as to win, that could be moved by sudden gusts of determination to unmatched brilliance, yet just as suddenly lie wallowing and becalmed as opponents swept by unhindered. Such Corinthian spirit has faded into the gloom at the chatter of 10c pieces cascading into the pokies' trays. It is a harsh world and there is now no room in it for such delicate beings. Aussie Rules in Canberra has gained much of late, but lost something of value. And not only in the playing sense. There were no football dinners like ANU footy dinners, as the present Speaker of the House might recall, and there were no spectators like the bar rackers of ANU. To contrast, last Saturday, the solemn-faced Ainslie supporters with the still yelping, slightly scabrous, occasionally very witty, generally smiling, ANU group as they stood in Canberra's bitter cold outside the pavilion at South Oval was to realise that it was more than just a football team that was dropping out of ACT Australian Football League, First Grade.

Pokies pushed ANU out

"MEN are we, and so must weep whenever the shadow of that which even once was great has passed away". Or something like that.

No one would claim that the ANU's Australian Rules Football team was really great (it never won a premiership nor even played in a grand final), but it had its moments, and there was genuine sadness in the hearts of many as they watched ANU troop from the field for the last time in first grade last Saturday at ANU South Oval beaten, as they had so often over the past two seasons, by a considerable margin.

Yet not so long ago ANU were always likely to upset most of the teams in the competition, and none, not even in the Big Three of Ainslie, Eastlake and Manuka, took them lightly. But last year the gap widened. Against Belconnen, ominously, what had once been close games with, over the years, no more than a goal or two in it either way, ANU began losing by 10 goals. What had made Belconnen suddenly so much the stronger? The pokies, that's what.

Financial reasons

At a time when, for financial reasons, the Victorian student intake into the ANU was drying up, economic reasons of a different nature were attracting players from the south to increasingly rich suburban Rules Clubs in Canberra. Professionalism, even of the partial nature prevailing in Canberra football, forced ANU out of the ACTAFL as surely as it did the University club in the VFL in 1914, as surely, too, as it did the amateur old boys' clubs from the top flight of English soccer in the 1880s. To survive in the professional game demands more skill and more time than the amateur can reasonably be expected to give to his sport. Moreover, the gifted amateur is open to the temptations of pelf, as all moralists on sport have noted since professionalism entered into modern games.

Coming events cast their shadows before, and the transfer of



the eccentrically gifted David Morgan, from ANU to Eastlake in the early 70s, the clearance being granted on the grounds, somewhat dubious some thought, of hardship, indicated what would happen once all the suburban clubs began to approach Eastlake's level of wealth. Morgan was significant in other ways. His astounding performance of kicking 19 goals in pouring rain against Queanbeyan was achieved after he had been observed in convivial mood, to put it no higher, at four o'clock on the morning of the match. The gifted amateur is always likely to perform the extraordinary. ANU, both as a team and in its individuals, was always worth watching, until very recently, because of its play and its players.

It had a penchant both for snatching victory from the jaws of defeat, and defeat from the jaws of victory. In 1974 it converted a 10-goal half-time defeat into a two-goal lead inside 20 minutes of the third quarter against Belconnen. That same year Manuka, who never, I think, lost to ANU, scored six goals in the first 10 minutes of the last quarter to ensure that it did not happen that day either, despite ANU's holding a comfortable lead all day — till then.

Notable players

The roll-call of notable players includes characters such as the perpetual-motion Buxton, and the man who strove to achieve such perpetual motion by use of his mouth — Andrew Green. Less eccentric, and more classical, was Mick Healy, a centre half forward who possessed,

arguably the best and longest kick ever seen in Canberra, although on a good day (after, possibly, a good night) Chris Bowman could match it. As with all amateur clubs the range of individual talent and application was wider and more diverse than a professional club would wish to contain. Discipline of a rigorous sort was, as a succession of exasperated coaches discovered, difficult to impose; you wound them up and, like the little toy men sold on the pavements of Piccadilly Circus, they went their own ways, but, also like those toys, were always fascinating to watch.

Sense of the carefree

To categorise them all as dilettantes would be unfair; Wilson and Whittaker, Mulrooney Medallists both, were as earnest as any pro, so too, in more difficult days, is the present captain Anderson, a player of true grit. But the appeal of ANU lay with the sense of the carefree, with the knowledge that one was watching a team that still played to enjoy as well as to win, that could be moved by sudden gusts of determination to unmatched brilliance, yet just as suddenly lie wallowing and becalmed as opponents swept by unhindered. Such Corinthian spirit has faded into the gloom at the chatter of 10c pieces cascading into the pokies' trays. It is a harsh world and there is now no room in it for such delicate beings. Aussie Rules in Canberra has gained much of late, but lost something of value.

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A Valediction: The Blues Lament²⁵

| *With humble apologies to Keats, Milton, Shakespeare, Wordsworth and Eliot*

Our hearts ache and a drowsy numbness pains
Our senses, because much beer and spirits have we drunk
To dull our sense of loss.
For ANU is dead, dead ere its prime,
Who would not sing for ANU? We knew
Of sundry days of sweating and of toil
When all our blood was up and we were one.
The waning sun would see us still forever panting
Ahead the drubbing of the studded boots
Across the sodden turf. The abused pig-skin
Was all our goal and we regarded not
The heart-ache, and the thousand natural shocks
That football flesh is heir to,
Or the umpire's wrong, the opposing team's contumely,
The pangs of despised play, the team's defeat,
The insolence of watchers and the spurns
That ranting coaches of the unworthy make:
We have known all these.
Bold Players, never, never could we win
Though winning near the goal – yet we won't grieve.
We have achieved.
We have known in hours of weariness amid the din
Of liniment and the smell of crowds that press
Upon us in steamy rooms, sensations sweet
Of comradeship, felt in the blood and felt along the heart,
Ignited by a gusty fart of grimy scraps
Of jock-straps about our feet. Six o'clock
The evenings came to consciousness of the crisp dark chill of
Winter days
As on our ways to Staff Club we pressed to hospital to see
Those who real injuries sustained (not the Hypochondriacs
Who complained whenever they missed a goal

Or Mark), but those who, with broken legs or noses
Had forced the moment to its crisis
And in short were not afraid
We have known the nights already, known them all –
Nights of merry-making after football
When the beer flowed long and free and similar days a plenty
At Intervarsity.
We have known the wit already known it all –
The quick rejoinder, the repartee,
The speeches made at football dinners by men
In strange attire and learned Academics
Who sought to inspire and secure our return to play once more
Next year. So let us rise and give a cheer
And rather than lamenting this demise
Let's raise the roof and to the skies
Sing: This is the song of the ANU

.....
²⁵ Written by Marita Buxton and printed in the 1979 ANUAFC Annual Report



John Robertson kicking the ball.

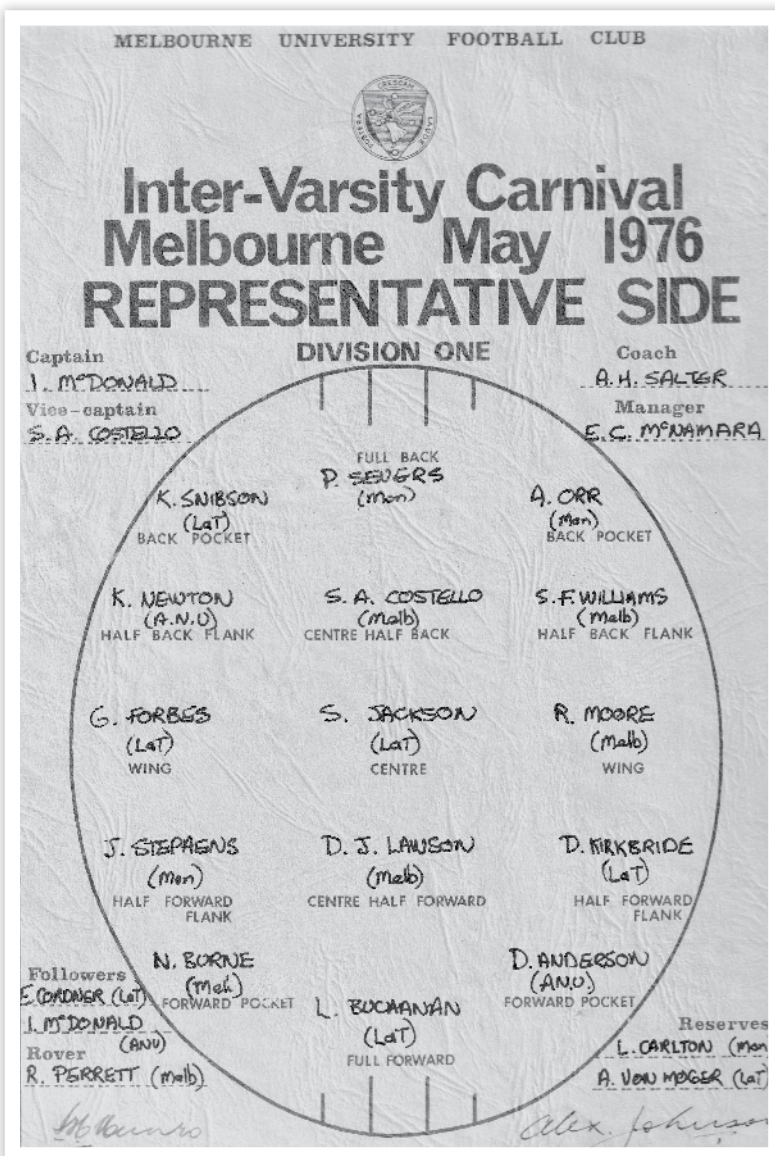


1974 Reserves.



IntersVarsity 1973 at La Trobe University.

Source: Rod Cheatley



Team positions for 1979 May IV Carnival vs. Melbourne University.

Source: Doug Anderson

1980s



1989 Reserves Preliminary Final. *Source: Doug Williams*



THE ANUAFC IN THE 1980s

| | |
|--|--|
| Club membership (1980) | 72-90 (estimate) |
| Club membership (1989) | 72-90 (estimate) |
| League(s) played in | ACTAFL MAFL |
| Premierships for the decade | 1980, 1981, 1982 (Seniors) |
| Number of premierships (cumulative) | 4 |
| Post-match venue | The Ainslie Hotel Other non-discrete locations |
| ANU population (1981) | 5955 enrolled students (42% female) 3359 full-time staff |
| Population of Canberra | 223,000 (1980) |

Season Results

| | Seniors | Reserves |
|------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1980 | Premiers MAFL Div 1 | no data MAFL Div 2 |
| 1981 | Premiers MAFL Div 1 | 2nd MAFL Div 2 |
| 1982 | Premiers MAFL Div 1 | 3rd MAFL Div 2 |
| 1983 | 2nd MAFL Div 1 | 3rd MAFL Div 2 |
| 1984 | 2nd MAFL Div 1 | 2nd MAFL Div 2 |
| 1985 | 2nd MAFL Div 1 | 3rd MAFL Div 2 |
| 1986 | 6th ACTAFL Div 2 | 5th MAFL Div 1 |
| 1987 | 3rd ACTAFL Div 2 | 6th MAFL Div 1 |
| 1988 | 7th ACTAFL Div 2 | 2nd MAFL Div 2 |
| 1989 | 5th MAFL Div 1 | 2nd MAFL Div 2 |

1980s

A return to amateur footy and fresh silverware

Having made the switch from the ACTAFL to the Monaro League competition in 1980, the first six years of the 1980s was a dominant era for the Club. The Club began the decade with a tripartite premiership 1980–1982, and three subsequent years of achieving runners up in the MAFL Division 1 competition. With coach Winton ‘Brockles’ Brocklebank (1980–82) and captain Doug Anderson (1979–85) at the wheel, we were almost unbeatable.

1980

The drought is broken²⁶

1980 marked the start of a new era for ANU and it quickly established itself as one of the Monaro League’s strongest clubs. It was ably led in this transition by President Don Cowie. Don was one of the Club’s real stalwarts who had been involved since the late 60s and stuck with it during this period of significant change. In both First and Second Division ANU fielded talented and competitive teams. The move to the Monaro League after nearly 20 years in ACTAFL ushered in a period of sustained success on the field while the Club’s social traditions continued to be upheld off the field. Division 1 yielded premierships in 1980, 81 and 82. In Division 2 ANU featured in the finals but failed to bring home the bacon until some years later.

At the start of the 1980 season there was a bit of uncertainty as to how the Club would fare. As it turned out there was no need to worry. Established senior players such as Doug Anderson, Noel Baum, Richard Starke, John Warhurst, Mike Bird and Kim Parkinson were joined by some outstanding first year students including Steve Wunderlich, Chris Dahlenburg, Paul Davies, Rick Hanna and

the irrepressible Andrew Georgakopoulos. Then for good measure former First Graders Bill Gould and Brian Haddy turned up. The icing on the cake was the appearance of off-campus players with senior experience including Barrie Cassidy, John Langford, Bob Howlett and Bob Hadler. The task of pulling the team together and trying to achieve a high level of commitment fell to Winton Brocklebank who was appointed Senior Coach and returned to South Oval after a year as assistant coach at Tuggeranong in 1979. Geoff Walsh was appointed to coach the Division 2 side.

As preseason training rolled along Club royalty in the form of John Buxton even appeared on the track. It was soon evident there was plenty of talent and the numbers on the training track exceeded the 40 jumpers on offer for the first round. The focus was on bringing it together and establishing a style that was open and flowing taking full advantage of the talent. The first Division 1 match provided a new experience for most if not all players being played under lights out at the Canberra Showground as it was then. ANU came away with a win but lost a notable player with John Buxton sustaining an injury that brought his comeback to a premature end.

Both teams showed steady improvement and it became clear that they were premiership material. The Defence Force continued to offer the greatest resistance with both RMC and now Harman providing strong and at times successful opposition. Away games at Duntroon and Harman were always a challenge and old rivalries were still evident. On other occasions when the opposition did not offer the same threat it sometimes proved difficult to motivate all players to perform to the best of their ability. Once again ANU traits from times past were on display. The Hall Ball season and the vacations were still factors that had to be managed to minimise damage to the team’s performance.

.....
²⁶ Adapted from contribution made by Winton Brocklebank

The interhall competition still revealed several very good players not yet persuaded to play for the Club.

As had been the case throughout the Club's life there were notable characters on and off the ground. One of the most notable at this time being Peter 'Rimo' Rimington who ably fulfilled the all important role of team manager. Rimo who died some years back in many ways typified ANU. He had no degree, he was an ACTION bus driver. How he came to lob into ANU we don't know but he loved the footy club, he loved a beer and a chat and he rarely missed a match. Nor had ANU's long time band of academic supporters deserted it. Prof John Molony, Ian Richie and Bill Mandle among others were still regular attendees. On the training track and in the sheds notables such as Peter Bishop, Noel Baum and Doug Anderson provided wit and entertainment that has been so much a part of the ANU Footy Club. In the end ANU won a satisfying Division 1 grand final over RMC the final score being ANU 17-17-119 to RMC 11-13-79. In Division 2 a finals appearance but no cigar.

Wunder: recollections of the last quarter of the 1980 grand final²⁷

We were always going to play the Cordies in the grand final. No other side had got close to us that year, and our games against them were fierce. The army boys were one of a kind; thick, obedient, and they could run all day. In other words, there were plenty of ways to beat them. We had beaten them, and they had beaten us, during the year, so we turned up on the big day expecting to win.

It was a bruising clash. By three-quarter time, the result was still in the balance, which was a bit of a worry. We could tell Brockles was concerned by the way he preened his mo. His masterstroke was to move Stephen 'Wunder' Wunderlich down back.

Wunder, who had done bugger all up forward, is a bit of a free spirit. When sent down back, he was told to play in front and cut the leads of their forwards. With a premiership on the line, he took the message to heart.

There was less than a kick in it for the best part of the last quarter. The ball flew up and down the paddock without a break. Something had to give. That was when Wunder worked his magic.

Dutifully playing in front, Wunder was caught out of position. The ball sailed over his head where two Cordies planned to raffle the pill in the goal square. They had not figured on Wunder though. He sprinted back, mouth open, head arched back, shaggy-haired, arms outstretched, and leapt without fear or favour.

Wunder was an aerialist at heart; he could leap, ride and twist in midair like no other. I'll never forget the look on the Cordy's smug face when his moment of glory turned to shit. Wunder flew, plucked the ball out of their reach, swiveled, and wiped the forward's face with his arse. It's a game of inches and arseholes, this game of ours.

The grab came at a cost though. Wunder landed on his shoulder and was dazed. He drove the ball to the wing, and we whipped the ball forward to the front of goal, where Bobby Howlett was coat hangered. Everyone saw it; everyone except the ump, and the game swayed back again.

The ball flew back again. Wunder would not have made it to the contest if it wasn't for the pressure Richard 'Starks' Starke put on the kick. Wunder launched himself sideways at the skied ball. The impact was felt in the stands. A pile of bodies lay mangled in a heap, with Wunder sitting on top of them, ball nestled in his lap.

He had trouble getting up though. One knee was buckled, his vision blurred, his shoulder frozen, and

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²⁷ Adapted from a submission made by Doug Anderson

the last pocket of air blown from his lungs. Not knowing what day it was, he chip-kicked to the flank and limped on to gather the handball and drive the ball down the ground. The ball wobbled off his boot for another turnover.

A long kick sent the pill sailing back over his head. By this time, our entire backline, along with all their forwards, were galloping to the contest. Everyone flew, from all directions, drawn to the same spot. The Hadron Collider couldn't have done it better. Wunder took off on his one good leg, stuck out his one good claw and clunked it, leaving the pack clutching at air. How he managed to sail over them, we'll never know.

That lifted us. We drove the ball forward to goal and slammed on another couple in time on for good measure. Looking at the final score, you wouldn't credit how close the match was.

Wunder wasn't our best player that day. Barrie 'Butch Cassidy' Cassidy was defiant in defense and kept us in the game. Christopher 'Dahlo' Dahlenburg, the sublimely gifted, worked harder than usual, probably because his parents had made the trip from Victoria to watch the game. John 'Langa' Langford ruled the air and Professor John 'the Warhorse' Warhurst cleared the rucks. Mr Reliable, Ricky Hanna, didn't have his best day, but he never put a foot wrong and his opponent did not get a sniff. Noel 'Baumy' Baum, who went on to become the Club's game record holder for many years, played with the passion and dash that only he possessed. Every player can look back on that day knowing that they brought out the best in each other.

There is something special about playing in a premiership team: it lingers and becomes a part of you. Every player in the team becomes a part of you; the better part that feeds joyous reverie. Still, I can't help thinking that Wunder won us the flag that day. His willingness, courage and skill still send shivers down the spine. The more I think about it, and the more I tell the story, the better it gets.

AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

ANU too good for Cadets

A record crowd at Narrabundah South oval on Sunday saw ANU beat RMC in the final of the Monaro Australian Football League.

RMC went into the game as favourite and began playing premiership football. ANU just did not know what had hit it as the Cadets played brilliantly to slam on 6.6 to ANU's 2.2.

RMC, through Gavan Bourke and Geoff McLean, dominated the rucks. In particular, Col Maxfield, centre half-forward, and captain-coach Terry Whelan on one flank kept peppering the goals.

ANU turned the tables in the second quarter. Doug Anderson and Mick Bird gradually took over across the centre, John Langford got on top in the ruck and the ANU defenders played a lot closer and kept pressure on the Cadets.

The half time score was RMC 8.8(56) to ANU 7.7(49).

The third quarter took off at a cracking pace, the game see-sawing up and down the field. There was very little scoring. Both sets of defenders threw themselves on the ball and the tackling was fierce.

Simon Gould (fullback), Hugh Callander (centre halfback) and Geoff McLean, in the ruck, defended extremely well, and at the other end Kim Parkinson (fullback), Paul Davies and Rick Hanner, on the halfback line, played well for ANU.

A great battle won on across the centre. Bruce Quinn and Doug Anderson had a good tussle and Danny

Choo and Mick Bird also had a hard battle. Towards the end of the quarter, Doug Anderson was roaming far and wide.

Three-quarter-time scores were RMC 10.12(72), ANU 9.8(62).

At the start of the last quarter, everyone expected RMC to gradually take over. But surprisingly, ANU attacked from the first bounce and never looked like being defeated.

The long break of only one game in five weeks through the finals took its toll on the Cadets and they just could not keep up with the students. ANU's John Langford won the rucks and took big marks around the ground and teammate Bill Gould took some timely marks in the teeth of the goals to register two goals in two minutes.

ANU kicked 8.9 to RMC's 1.1 to make the final score ANU 17.17(119), RMC 11.13(79).

Division two

RMC caused the upset of the season by defeating hot favourite Goulburn.

Goulburn had no answer to the speedy RMC wingers and flankers. The Cadets won in the rucks and their big men took big marks on the forward line and kicked straight.

Stephen Jones, at centre half-forward, was unbeatable and controlled the half-forward line. Rick Boeck had control of the centre. His speed and accurate passing gave his forwards an armchair ride.

Final scores: RMC 16.13(109), Goulburn 12.8(80).

The Canberra Times, 17 September 1980, page 36.



Back Row: P. Davies, W. Gould, J. Langford, P. McLoughlan,
 S. Winderlich, R. Hanna
 Centre Row: P. Rimington (Manager), R. Howlett, A. Hooke,
 J. Warhurst, B. Haddy, W. Brocklebank (Captain Coach),
 C. Dahlenburg, B. Cassidy, D. Anderson
 Front Row: S. Pryor, D. West, A. Georgakopoulos, P. Bishop,
 R. Hadler, N. Baum, R. Starke

ANU premiers 1980.

Source: Colin Mues

1981

Premiership favourites deliver the goods²⁸

The Seniors side was strong again in 1981 and along with RMC we were the best two teams as was the case in 1980. The final series that year was a final four. We defeated RMC in the first final, which put us straight into the grand final. It was a hard-fought match and a great victory. I remember dislocating a finger in that game when I was ridden hard into the ground. I received a free and thought my hand felt funny on the ball. On inspection, the finger was dislocated at the middle joint and the bottom half of the finger was perpendicular. Having the thing put back in is always worse than the dislocation.

To everyone's surprise, Harman defeated RMC in the preliminary final. I watched that game and remember Doug Anderson barracking for the Hogs. This was logical because we were clearly better than Harman. How Harman won that day shall forever be a mystery (the rumour was a Navy ship arriving in Jervis Bay a couple of days before may have contributed).

We went into 1981 grand final as strong favourites, although I never thought about it in those terms. I remember little about the match, which I think is normal for most of us even about finals. We tend to remember moments and perhaps have a general sense of how the game unfolded. I remember 1980 better. Anyway, we dominated the game against Harman and thrashed them. I was taken out of the game when hit in the head from behind in the third quarter, while admiring my long kick on the run from the wing towards centre half forward. I was playing out of my skin and the ball just kept coming my way. Maybe I was targeted for that. I know I was doing well because I remember Doug Anderson calling out to me "yer goin' well Birdy" and Dougie didn't dish out compliments freely. It was a relief to



play well after my earlier struggles with confidence and accordingly form, which recurred on and off during the season.

1981 First XVIII.

Source: Doug Anderson

It's important to record what an inspirational captain was Doug Anderson. I was in awe of Doug and wouldn't speak to him unless spoken to. He was an outstanding player – skilled with the ball, elusive, defensively brilliant and as tough and as brave as anyone I ever saw. I remember many things about watching Doug play but the towering torpedo goal from about 55 metres in the 1980 grand final was a highlight. I also remember him galvanising the team in the 1980 grand final when we were in trouble. He shouted loud enough for the whole team to hear after another RMC goal "alright, you've had your rest". When Doug spoke, you listened, and this had the desired effect.

.....
²⁸ Contributed by Mike Bird

1982

Confirmation – ANU rules the 80s²⁹

The 1982 season pretty much mirrored 1980 and 1981. John Robertson had taken on the role of playing President while Winton Brocklebank was appointed for a third year as playing coach. Mike Bird took over from Geoff Walsh as non-playing coach of the Division 2 side. Again the Club's meticulous approach to recruiting paid dividends and several ready made senior players arrived at South Oval.

Notable amongst these were Murray Radcliffe who had finally been persuaded to apply his talents beyond the interhall competition. Tony Woodlock and Phil Walker took on the rucking role from John Warhurst and John Langford while Steve Goode and Colin Mues made their mark as first year players who would go on to be important players at the Club for years to come. Doug Anderson continued as captain and duly added another Club Best and Fairest to his collection. If anything the Senior side in 1982 had taken another step in terms of poise and maturity.

The strongest playing rivalry continued to be with RMC. The contrast between the two clubs was stark. RMC was mainly comprised of enlisted personnel doing their officer training. They trained for footy as part of their regular day, so they were a bunch of very fit, strong, clean cut and supposedly disciplined individuals. One would assume this meant they were the 'best of the best' – we had a feeling they were told this over and over and actually believed it.

And therein laid the rub. In their eyes, ANU was a bunch of university louts, with long hair, a disrespect for authority and an attitude. They were also often very talented footballers which overcame some, and often all, of their other shortcomings. So for the

'Corps' to be beaten by the Griffins was a real slap in the face. And they'd been well and truly slapped in both 1980 and 1981!

1982 was a continuation of the strong rivalry between the two clubs with both performing well and ending the home and away season comfortably inside the top four.

There was almost a hiccup along the way when we went to Harman to play the Hogs in the wet. Despite some terribly wet conditions, ANU came out with all guns blazing, jumping out to a six or seven goal lead midway through the second quarter. After a scuffle, young gun Anthony De Vries was sent from the field for an indiscretion. Anthony said to the bench as he departed the field that he'd been sent off, neglecting to say that he couldn't be replaced! A replacement player was sent forth, and play continued, until a player count was called. With only 18 players on the field, ANU couldn't understand what the fuss was about until the umpire clarified that a player had been sent off not to be replaced! Score erased!! That put us several goals behind, in the wet, with a cocky Harman desperate to hang on. But ANU lifted once more – there was a sense of purpose from then on. ANU managed to kick the last goal of the game to win – by memory it was a bomb from Brockles that sailed through to the change room end. Disaster averted.

The third last home and away game between the rivals was played at RMC, and it was a game where both sides were expected to fine tune for the upcoming finals. Well, ANU were belted by more than 100 points. The young players in the side such as Anthony De Vries, Mark Stute, Steve Goode, Colin Mues and others walked away thinking the three-peat premiership we'd been told to pursue was looking a long way off.

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²⁹ Adapted from contributions made by Winton Brocklebank and Mike Bird

But come the finals, ANU shuffled off their winter coats and picked up the pace. According to The Canberra Times, recent weeks had seen the ANU of old emerge with their “fast, open flowing game, forever creating the loose man.”³⁰ We defeated Gallopers in the first semi final, and then dispatched Harman in the preliminary to earn a spot in the grand final against the previously unbeaten RMC. Despite RMC’s unbeaten record, The Canberra Times tipped ANU to win, on the basis that they were “expected to dominate the ruck duels and consistently win around the packs, giving their forwards more opportunities than their RMC counterparts.” Hmm, the author of the article turned out to be a good judge!

With the MAFL being the second tier amateur competition, crowds during the season were few and far between. But come grand final day, the Griffins managed to pull a fairly solid crowd to Boomanulla Oval in Narrabundah. However, the Cordies bussed in their supporters and had us outnumbered.

The mood in the rooms pre-game was tense. A bit like any grand final probably! But Chris ‘Dahlo’ Dahlenburg seemed to take it in his stride. As Mark Stute, Steve Goode and Anthony De Vries battled their nerves and tried to hold down their lunch, Dahlo sat in cross legged on the wooden bench and asked, “So we beat Gallopers in our first final, and then we beat Harman last week by more than ten goals, so if we beat RMC today who do we play next week?”

ANU were first onto the playing field to do their final warm up. The RMC supporters then took it upon themselves to form a long corridor for their team to run through as they entered the ground. It went all the way to the centre circle! By the time they had run past their adoring supporters, they were about ready to run through brick walls!

Remember, ANU RULES THE 80'S!

Sensing this, Brockles did the only thing an opposing coach could do – he took us back into the rooms!

We didn’t do anything special, there was no fire and brimstone. We just chilled for a few minutes while the Cordies came down from their high, and with a few reassuring words from Brockles, we entered the playing arena for a second time. This time our supporters had formed a long corridor which gave the Griffins a well-timed boost, though it certainly didn’t reach the centre circle.

The game itself was a cracker from the ANU perspective. The weather was fine, with no wind to favour any end. The Griffins came out of the blocks with a blistering nice goal opening quarter. How good is this?!? Unfortunately, the second quarter saw RMC respond with nine goals of their own and go into half time with a narrow eight point lead.

The third quarter was going to be crucial. Could the Griffins halt the momentum of the Cordies? You bet we could. A ten goal quarter from ANU put the premiership within grasp.

The final quarter saw ANU maintain ascendancy – there was not going to be another nine goal comeback from the Cordies. With the game in the bag, our Centre Half Forward – Murray ‘Cuddles’ Radcliffe – decided to challenge Andrew ‘Bert’ Arnott to a competition. First to kick a drop kick goal wins! Some strange behaviour ensued which seemed to baffle team-mates who had no idea of the contest underway.

.....
³⁰ The Canberra Times, 12 September 1982

Eventually, John Robertson passed the ball to Bert who ran through the half forward line, kicked a magnificent drop kick goal and straight away turned to Cuddles to celebrate. ANU went on to be healthy winners. Not a bad turn around from a 20 goal defeat in the last home and away game! And The Canberra Times journalist would have been very pleased with himself – ANU forwards proved to have plenty of opportunities kicking 25 goals, and Dave Vanzetti helped himself to a lazy nine goal haul.

Celebrations were held at the Griffin Centre in Civic – how appropriate!

Doug Anderson, Noel Baum, Peter Bishop and Chris Dahlenberg were the only four players to play in all three of the 80, 81 and 82 premierships.

To quote Prof Bill Mandle from his end of year sporting column in The Canberra Times, “The comprehensive overthrow of a side previously undefeated throughout the whole year was achieved with a measure of resolution and skill worthy of a more elevated stage.” It was indeed a victory to savour and rounded out three great years for the Club.

The wet towel

Another problem ANU encountered was its lack of medical support on the field. There was no medical faculty at ANU and (except for one season) no doctor even remotely interested in supporting the Club. Consequently, ANU relied on its own resources, the most effective of which was the wet towel.

The wet towel was always in the control of the runner who was selected with great care before every match, usually the first seen who was not carrying football boots. It was his job to find the first and usually the dirtiest piece of old towelling lying around in one of the corners of the football rooms, dip it in the bottom of the shower every hour or so, and throw it on the dirty ground awaiting for some player to go down screaming in agony. If the screams of the injured player were bad enough, the runner would casually jog out to the player and furiously rub his face or the injured limb with the towel.

The same towel was used for most of the season and sometimes for back to back seasons. Sometimes, if the towel couldn't be found, one of Don Cowie's old jock straps would be cut in half and used instead. As the season wore on, the towel usually became saturated with liniment as it was also used to clean up the rub-down table or spilt liniment on the floor of the change rooms.

To be touched in the face with the liniment soaked wet towel was a fate of unimaginable proportions so that no matter how badly one was hurt after an incident, the sight of the runner jogging out with the wet towel, usually resulted in the player jumping up immediately and getting on with the game. ANU not surprisingly had few stretcher cases and few causes for replacements through injury.

IntVarsity

Where would the ANUAFC be without it?

Every IntVarsity (IV) is memorable and most of the memories cannot be put into print. After the Perth IV of 1964, serious consideration was given to banning Australian Football IV carnivals altogether. The competition resumed in 1966 but was again banned in 1971 following the Melbourne IV of 1970.

In his President's message in the 1964 IntVarsity handbook, Noel Donaldson wrote:

"To win at football is tremendous, but only two can succeed. The rest must go home without a cup – unless they steal one."

Two winners; one in each division, two cups. At the Melbourne IV in 1966, two teams won at football and only one winner took home a cup. Another team refused to accept that they should not have a cup. An ANU player acted on Donaldson's advice and despite failing to win at football, ANU took a cup home.

ANU won the second division competition at the 1967 carnival in Hobart and again in Canberra in 1974. The Hobart win was memorable. On the day of the final, ANU arrived much the worse for wear to find the entire University of Western Australia team doing wind sprints up and down the ground. At three quarter time, ANU was a few points in front and managed to match WA goal for goal for most of the final term.

IntVarsity football carnivals were put on hold for a while in the late 1970s, either banned or for the want of a host. At ANU we tried to rekindle the carnival in 1981, but the plans fell through.

We got as far as Noel 'Baumy' Baum creating an IntVarsity t-shirt depicting an ANU player strung up on a cross, a can of beer in one hand and a smoke in the other, with the caption: Nice way to spend Easter.

After a short hiatus, IntVarsity was held in Tasmania where ANU was one of a handful of teams to compete. It took the Club until 1985 to get its act together and host a tournament. Colin Mues, Steve Follet and Angus Ramsay assumed the role of Organising Committee and through luck or good fortune, it happened to coincide with the Netball IntVarsity. Naturally, it was a success!

As part of the normal fundraising around such an event, some Port was labelled and offered for sale. During the week, Melbourne University managed to steal a case but this was detected and the matter pursued. While the Melbourne University participants refused to pay up, or return the Port, their club was sent an invoice through the respective Sports Associations and lo and behold, they paid up! This was the beginning of a love-hate relationship with Melbourne University that extended into the 1990s.

In 1986 ANU travelled to Melbourne to participate in the carnival held at Melbourne University. No air travel needed. Cue the 15 seater bus. As the size of the bus may suggest, playing numbers were a bit thin. But a few ANU old boys resident in Melbourne, plus a few ring-ins organised by Joe D'Angelo made up the numbers and a side was cobbled together.



Player of the carnival was S. Key, who was positioned on the HB flank of the bus (seating layout was five rows of three seats and the small fold out seat was on the passenger side in row four, the half back flank). The Eskey, or 'S. Key' as he was put down on the team sheet, was a receptacle full of icy cold beer for weary travelers, and he performed manfully. On a more serious football note, Paul 'Harold' McGuinness earned himself selection in the Australian Universities team and was awarded a Half Blue from the ANU as a result.

Intervarsity games became more organised and regulated over the years and the Club's semi-regular admission transitioned into a free for all for any ANU student wanting to participate, generally orchestrated by a third party. The Club's contingent of players has varied year to year, but always seems to coincide with a regular season top of the table clash where players would be unavailable or recovering from injury, generally self-inflicted.

In 2015 ANU Sport hosted Melbourne University and University of Adelaide in a three-way interstate Aussie Rules fixture for the first time. This attracted a great deal of talented students, many of whom were playing First and Second Grade for other senior clubs, and former Carlton player, Anthony Bourke, as ANU's coach. Against the odds, the ANU side beat Melbourne Uni for the first time in history, in Melbourne. Melbourne ended up the eventual winners but ANUAFC was able to poach a number of players who have gone on to make significant on and off-field contributions.



Top: Intersports 1964.

Source: Ian Lambert

Bottom: Intersports 1974.

Source: Rod Cheatley



Contemporary IntersVarsity

The year was 2016, ANU was in foreign state lines and the odds were stacked against us. The ANU Owls travelled to Melbourne on 6 April to take on the University of Melbourne in their second IntersVarsity fixture for 2016. ANU v Melbourne Uni was an iconic game with equal levels of skill and scrappiness. The victory marked the first win for the ANU Owls in the IntersVarsity AFL program.

ANU 2016 IntersVarsity
side in Melbourne.

Source: ANU Sport

1983–85

Changing of the guard

Jim Burnell took over as coach in 1983, followed by Ian Geary in 1984 and 1985. There was a changing of the guard over these years as the players who had represented the Club in ACTAFL began to retire, or move away from Canberra. New talent continued to arrive, such as Richard Smith and the elegant Alistair Sarre, which replenished the playing stocks but despite making the grand final in each of these years, the next premiership eluded the Griffins. 1984 and 1985 also saw the first female President of the ANUAFC in Sheila Ross.

Doug Anderson was playing his final games with the Club over these years. His body was close to being worn out by then, but his class stood out regardless. The sight of Dougy wheeling onto his trusty left foot, bandages flowing from the strapped knees, flapping in the breeze, it was a sight to behold. The Cordies still hated him – he stood for everything they were against, like long hair, no respect for (their) authority, and attitude – but they couldn't beat him even in those last few years!

Slow starts to the season were sometimes experienced. After being belted by RMC in the first game of 1985 by more than 100 points (RMC 17-23-125 ANU 1-7-13), Ian Geary scoured the weekends footy results in the Herald Sun to find another side who had performed just as poorly. There was a side from the East Sunshine League (or similar) and 'Gears' vowed to follow that team's performance over the remainder of the year to make sure we performed better than them! Thankfully we did. We found enough form to contest the grand final but unfortunately lost on the day. The only saving grace on that opening day of the season was that the Reserves gave RMC a 133 point drubbing!

During the first half of the 1980s the rivalry with RMC was intense but the relationship between the

two clubs was actually fairly amicable. After games at RMC, ANU players would be invited to post-game drinks at the Officers Staff Centre, or some such venue. Interactions were generally friendly, perhaps as the students saw it as an opportunity to enjoy the cheap drinks and complementary food they put on for the visitors. ANU would return the favour by inviting the Cordies to the ANU Refectory for post-game drinks. The surrounds were not as deeply rich with history and honour as the Refectory, but hey, you can't have everything.

The awkward 'friendly' relationship continued when, the night after one of their premiership wins against Uni, several RMC players left their own celebrations to join ANU players at Robbo's place in Ainslie. Says something about life at RMC I guess!

1985–88

The move up to ACTAFL Reserve Grade

In October 1984, ANU wrote to the ACTAFL seeking to join the ACTAFL Second Grade competition in 1985. Reasons for the move included an ability to attract and retain good players, elimination of the bye in Second Grade, an additional source of recruits from ACTAFL First Grade possibly through a system of permits, and some personnel resources to assist with junior coaching. Recent performance showed we would be competitive if complemented by a sound financial position; a compelling set of arguments! However, this proposal was rejected.

In 1986 the ACTAFL decided to expand the Reserve Grade to nine teams – incorporating RMC, ADFA and ANU. This gave the opportunity for ANU to compete in a much stronger and more even competition. Winton Brocklebank returned to the Club in 1986 to lead us into the ACTAFL once again, albeit in the Reserve Grade competition.

ANU performed well in this competition finishing just outside the finals in 1986. In 1987, under the guidance of Gary Cox, known as 'Ucker' to his Bruce Hall teammates, ANU made the finals. The first semi final was between ANU and RMC and was played at Football Park in Woden prior to it being redeveloped. ANU was triumphant and the team stood in one defiant line, faced the grandstand and – much to the amusement (or disgust) of some in the crowd, belted out the ANU club song from the centre square. ANU fell to Manuka-Weston the following week in the preliminary final but the year showed ANU could be very competitive in ACTAFL Reserve Grade.

1988 was a more difficult year as injuries to key players depleted our stocks and our Seniors finished near the bottom of the table. Reserves had a much better year under coach Con Moraitis and made the grand final at Erindale Oval. However, the first Reserves premiership eluded the Club. Almost two decades was to pass until that milestone was achieved.

At the end of the 1988 season, ACTAFL decided to revert to six teams in Reserve Grade, booting out ANU, RMC, and ADFA to the Monaro Australian Football League. The reasons behind the decision were never perfectly clear, though it was known that the established ACTAFL clubs didn't appreciate having their Reserve Grade team occasionally play at a separate venue to their Seniors. Perhaps there was a grand vision for Australian Football in Canberra at the time, but it wasn't shared with the ANU Committee.

1989

RMC jumper number 27³¹

In 1989 the ANU Second Division battled the RMC in the ultimate test for the modern day warrior: the grand final. Unfortunately, the Gods of War favoured the Cordies this day and the ANU was narrowly defeated in a grisly affair.

Knowing that the Cordies were also playing in the First Grade grand final (the next match) and desperately wanting to regain the initiative, a young Sapper from the ANU launched a desperate counter-attack.

It went something like this:

"As he was patrolling past the beer tent on the northern perimeter, Sapper Williams (AKA Dougie Wombat) just happened to find a large box labelled 'Property of RMC.' Noting the absence of sentries and thinking (hoping) that it was an esky full of RMC 'supplies' (grog) the young Sapper peered eagerly inside. On opening the box he found it was the RMC First Grade jumpers required in the next game. After the initial pang of disappointment (on discovering a large box full of football jumpers and not beer) young Doug hatched a cunning plan. Doug really wanted to pinch the whole box, as the jumpers would make nice winter smocks for the sheep back home and the box would make a really great esky, but, realising the odds of escape were slim, he and his accomplice Laurie 'Lozza' Byron quickly donned as many jumpers as they could hide beneath their clothes. Just as they were really getting going, a loud voice boomed "Oi, what are you two up to?" Realising that the Cordie Sgt Major was onto them, the lads bolted, blending back into the safety of the milling throng around the beer tent. Cautiously they made their way back to the ANU HQ where their prize was carefully hidden lest the Cordie MPs were to conduct a search.

Later that night at the home of Con the Fruiterer, also the Second Grade Coach, or should I say, the Coach of the Second Grade, the story of the cunning raid was told. One of the jumpers was given by Doug to me as a token of our friendship and my service to the ANU in my last year at the club.

It was gestures like this one and others that night such as Phelps' Ox Tongue, Smithy's lady friend (and the look on her face when she saw Phelps' Ox Tongue), Macca's videos and Doug's chunder after drinking a flagon of Brown Muskrat (that spelling is right, it was worse than Muskat) that make playing for the ANU truly memorable ... oh yeah, the footy was OK too."

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31 Taken from a contribution by John Kennedy (RMC Jumper Number 27)

An outsider's perspective of ANUAFC³²

In 1987 and 1988, Royal Military College Duntroon Australian Football Club (RMC) played in the ACTAFL Second Grade and wore a jumper of navy blue and a red 'V'. The RMC jumper was not too dissimilar from the royal blue emblazoned with a white 'V' that fellow amateur club, the ANUAFC, wore in the same league.

What both teams had in common back then was that both were amateurs playing against semi-professionals from Ainslie, Eastlake, and Belconnen among others. In fact, one day when RMC played Belconnen, I looked over and saw the opposition only to realise it was Alex Jesaulenko addressing his troops. I knew that day was going to be a tough one, and it turns out it was. I'm sure ANU experienced the same challenges that season against returning VFL players. Such was the calibre of the league at the time, very much of two halves.

My recollection of playing against ANU was they were borderline competitive, like ourselves. Also like us, the outcome on the day largely depended on the troops that ran out onto the field. I played a game or two at South Oval, which I remember as one of the better grounds around the ACT at the time. Manuka, Weston Creek and Ainslie interchanged as premiers in 1987 and 1988, with RMC and ANU not featuring prominently in the flag race those years. The handful of times the two clubs met in those years saw the ledger square. One thing that has always stuck with me about the ANUAFC was how exceptionally gracious ANU players were in hosting post-match functions.

While we always referred to our ADFA counterparts as 'weenies' given their slight student frames, but in keeping with my somewhat positive reflection of the ANUAFC, and despite the harsh criticism of the Cordies in these pages, I must congratulate ANUAFC on remaining a standalone amateur club into the 21st Century.



Source: Doug Williams

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32 Adapted from contribution by Peter Buckley



1983 Second Division finals team.



1980 Second Division.

Source: Peter Volker



1981 grand final.

Source: Peter Volker



1981 grand final.
Source: Peter Volker



Doug Anderson Circa 1980.



Winton Brocklebank circa 1980.



1981 grand final.
Source: Peter Volker

1990s



Seniors running out in the 1994 grand final. *Source: Doug Williams*



THE ANUAFC IN THE 1990s

| | |
|--|--|
| Club membership (1990) | 72-90 (estimate) |
| Club membership (1999) | 80-100 (estimate) |
| League(s) played in | ACTAFL MAFL |
| Premierships for the decade | 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996 (Seniors) |
| Number of premierships (cumulative) | 8 |
| Post-match venue | Canberra RSL Club Eureka Stockade (Braddon) |
| ANU population (1991) | 7845 enrolled students (50% female) 3424 full-time staff |
| Population of Canberra | 282,000 (1990) |

Season Results

| | Seniors | Reserves | Third XIII |
|------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1990 | 5th MAFL Div 1 | 2nd MAFL Div 3 | - |
| 1991 | 2nd MAFL Div 1 | 3rd MAFL Div 2 | - |
| 1992 | 3rd MAFL Div 1 | 3rd MAFL Div 2 | - |
| 1993 | Premiers MAFL Div 1 | 4th MAFL Div 2 | - |
| 1994 | Premiers MAFL Div 1 | 5th MAFL Div 2 | 4th MAFL Div 3 |
| 1995 | Premiers MAFL Div 1 | 2nd MAFL Div 2 | 5th MAFL Div 3 |
| 1996 | Premiers ACTAFL Div 1 | 3rd ACTAFL Div 2 | 8th ACTAFL Div 2 |
| 1997 | 3rd ACTAFL Div 1 | 5th ACTAFL Div 2 | 8th ACTAFL Div 2 |
| 1998 | 3rd ACTAFL Div 1 | 5th ACTAFL Div 2 | 10th ACTAFL Div 2 |
| 1999 | 6th ACTAFL Div 1 | 7th ACTAFL Div 2 | 10th ACTAFL Div 2 |

1990s

New decade, new ambitions³³

The early 90s saw the ANUAFC embark on a recruiting and revitalisation effort in the Canberra footballing and broader community. A February 1992 ANU Woroni student newspaper article claimed the ANU, together with Ainslie, “satisfy the full spectrum of football ability” in the Capital.

It was made clear to students that “the ANU Australian Football Club offers an attractive alternative to the demands of playing ACTAFL.” We were obviously trying to recruit the players that were on the fringe of playing for Ainslie and other ACTAFL clubs and were connected to the university, a recruiting campaign that continues to this day.

Having established ourselves in the Monaro Amateur Football League, then Club President Murray Lembit was on record as saying “the standard of the Monaro competition is very high but the ANU Club is more sympathetic to the special requirements of students and non-students alike... Intensive training with an ACTAFL club can easily become a burden for a student, the Club realises this and caters for study requirements where possible, for a start we only train two nights a week as opposed to the three compulsory nights at Ainslie.”

But of most importance to this particular campaign was emphasising how a university football club and social functions are synonymous. “We are a football club first, and a social club second” said Murray Lembit, “the Club is a great social outlet and a very effective way to meet people.” While that might have been the case, we tended to disagree with Murray and suggest sometimes the Club might be a social one first.

In 1990, the ANUAFC newsletter was once again resurrected. Over the years, there were numerous match reports and newsletters produced and these have been an incredibly valuable resource for collating the history of the Club. In that year, David ‘Devil’ Molnar, Brian Chugg, Nigel Gibson and Peter Calver began producing a regular newsletter again. Their first edition promised much.

“This is the first time a newsletter has been produced for the ANUAFC in a number of years, we hope it survives. Each week or fortnight we hope to bring you information of upcoming social events around the Club, upcoming games and match reports from previous games. We also hope to have some regular features including an editorial on issues of the moment, a ‘did you know’ section on the club and players, profiles of players (and coaches), the Golden Boot award nominations, i.e. those things that people do that are really embarrassing, will be completely revealed in full living colour (the full truth of course...) maybe a skill of the week section and interviews with club personalities.”³⁴

They were true to their word. What they didn’t say was that there is a standing agreement that defamation laws don’t apply, and following the trend set by the editors of previous years, each edition would include a reminder to pay your subs!

Fintán O’Laighin soon joined the Editorial team, and became the driving force behind the newsletter for much of the 1990s. Fintán played in the Club’s lower grades, but his enormous contribution to the production and distribution of the newsletter for such a long period deserves special recognition.

Without a doubt though, the standout achievement of the decade was the Seniors quadripartite premiership glory.

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³³ Adapted from Woroni Newspaper, 1 February 1992

³⁴ ANUAFC Newsletter 1990, Vol. 1 No. 1

1990

Raw F***ing Power falls just short³⁵

After finishing on top of the ladder following 15 rounds of home and away football, it was expected that the Twos would finish the season with a premiership. Unfortunately this did not happen, and ANU had a disappointing finals series, losing twice to Goulburn, in the semi final and in the grand final.

The less said about the semi final the better. It was a miserable performance from a flat, uninterested team. ANU were thrashed and on its display would have been pushed to beat ADFA.

The change in the team for the final against Weston Creek the following week was incredible when ANU set about getting into the grand final the hard way. Coach Mark 'Macca' MacNamara vented his ire during the week at training and inspired the team to play to its potential.

This match was the highlight of the series and possibly the year, for ANU. It was a display of Raw F***ing Power by ANU over a Weston Creek side which included a number of First Graders. The performance of ANU was awesome, particularly in the third quarter which saw a 40 point turnaround, going from 20 points down at half time to 20 points up at the next break.

The fourth quarter saw the Creek fight back and draw within one goal of ANU. At this stage the Griffins were getting panicky, and Weston Creek were gaining momentum. Macca settled the side down with the benefit of his age, experience, reading of the play, and taking bloody ages to kick the ball whenever he got a mark. This combination had the desired effect, and ANU regained control of the game to win comfortably. What was particularly

noteworthy was that ANU withstood the pressure put on them by Weston Creek.

There were a lot of stars out there that day, but I'll mention only Matt Harris who, playing in his first ever final (in his first ever year of football), so outshone his experienced opponent, that he copped a fist in the head shortly before the end and was taken off concussed.

ANU played better in the grand final than in the semi final, but did not reach the heights or intensity for the final against Weston Creek. It was a particularly frustrating start with ANU doing all the attacking but getting only points, while Goulburn took the lead with goals scored against the run of play. This trend persisted for the first quarter, but ANU weren't far behind at the break.

By half time however, ANU were dropping back. Although Goulburn were the better team, they were also getting the luck of the bounce, and were scoring goals whilst ANU were scoring points (ANU certainly had opportunities to score). The scoreboard was not a true indication of the game, but it is disheartening for a side to put so much in and have little return.

ANU could not get it right. Unlike the previous week when everything combined and worked well, the grand final display lacked cohesion. Passes went astray, marks were dropped, goals were missed. These things should have been second nature by that time of the year if everyone had trained sufficiently. The effort was maybe there but the execution was lacking. Brett Jones was named ANU Player of the Finals.

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³⁵ Taken from ANUAFC Newsletter, 1990

1991–92

Bittersweet success³⁶

1991 was a terrific year for the Griffins on the field. It was a stellar effort to make the finals in both grades, especially given the depth of talent that both sides faced. Seniors finished second after the home and away season, beating stiff competition in University of Canberra, ADFA and East Canberra. The preliminary final performance against ADFA was outstanding. The Reserves also made the finals but finished third, going down to Goulburn in the preliminary final.

We lost several quality players overseas and through injury in the second half of the year which affected our performance in the end, especially in the Reserves, although the efforts of the players were outstanding all the same. A change in Second Grade coach mid-way through the season was also a factor – credit to Brian Chugg who took over the post, initially with all the enthusiasm of Andrew Denton facing Craig McDermott. Steve Wood did an outstanding job keeping up supplies, doubling as master electrician. Kevin Jeffries and Murray Lembit carried more water bottles than Lawrence of Arabia and his crew.

Unfortunately, the Seniors were beaten in the grand final by RMC 13-6-84 to 20-12-132. The loss in the grand final detracted from our achievements during the year but the 1992 season presented itself as an opportunity for us to learn from our experiences. In what was becoming a theme of the early 1990s though, both sides finished third in 1992.



1991 MAFL Division One runners up.

Source: Doug Williams



IntersVarsity 1991, Flinders University, South Australia.

Source: Doug Williams

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³⁶ Adapted from Mike Bird's Coach's Report on the ANUAFC 1991 Season

1993

The sweet taste of success³⁷

What can be said about the 1993 season for the ANU Australian Football Club? After ten years without tasting premiership success the ANUAFC was finally back where it belongs – on top, and on track for a bright future.

The season started extremely well for the Club. With a wealth of playing and coaching experience, Club Coach Peter Foley proved to be an excellent choice, fitting in almost immediately and establishing a rapport with players. With Brad Douglas reappointed as Reserves Coach, the coaching team was as strong a one as we had seen in many years. Preseason was enthusiastic and it was good to see such an optimistic outlook at the beginning of the year.

On the field the depth of playing talent and coaching expertise was self evident, with success following success after a slow start and a fairly ordinary draw which saw the Club having byes in the first three weeks of the season. Both sides eventually settled into a routine which saw the Firsts finish second and the Reserves third after the completion of the home and away season.

The key to our success was our depth and more than half our regular Reserves players played Firsts at some time during the year. As injuries and unavailability took their toll, there were replacements ready, and it was only through the mid year break that the Reserves really felt the drain of players.

It was the sixth straight year as finalists for the Reserves, and the third for the Firsts. The Reserves, after putting ADFA out of the finals, bowed out in the preliminary final against Harman.



Colin Mues and Peter Foley with 1993 premiership flag.

First Grade went straight into the grand final after beating ADFA, and defeated RMC by ten points to take the premiership, our first in ten years. The most satisfying thing was that at last we did not fall short of our objective and did not have to find any excuses for letting what might have been slip away. Actually, that is a lie. The most satisfying thing was beating the Cordies for a flag. The second most satisfying thing was that at last we did not fall short of our objective and did not have to find any excuses for letting what might have been slip away.

1994

Return of the Thirds and premiership number two for the 1990s³⁸

1994 marked a departure from the norm for the ANUAFC when we fielded three sides in the League. The last time we had three sides was in 1977 when we had an Under 19s side in the ACTAFL. The Thirds team played in the new Third Division of

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³⁷ Adapted from the 1993 President's Report

³⁸ Adapted from ANUAFC News, 22 February, Vol. 5 No. 1

the Monaro Australian Football League (MAFL). At the time, the Club had hoped that by fielding three sides, everyone who was interested would be able to get a run, rather than waiting to break into the Seconds. This would improve match fitness and experience, and that the Club would be stronger in the long run.

First Division Grand Final Match Report by Leigh McPhan, Club Coach – ANU v ADFA

Training was the most consistent for the year and there was confidence and encouragement shown during the week. The selected side was hard to pick with several players very unfortunate to miss out. Once again however we had a slow start as far as the scoreboard was concerned. While ADFA led at quarter time, we were getting ball and misusing it. The backline was already beginning to get on top. During the second quarter it was tight for about eight minutes or so and then the side clicked and we kicked six goals to nil in this quarter to take a 23 point lead into half time. This was the most important quarter played for the year. Other second quarters had produced more goals, but this one against ADFA meant they had to play catch-up which they did not do too well. While not saying that the scuffle started by no. 2 of ANU stirred ANU into action, it probably caused several ADFA blokes to lose their concentration in a crucial game.

Batto decided being fit wasn't his go, and broke his wrist which was strapped at half time – this was a grand final and you play without much care for yourself. ADFA swapped their players to new positions to try and regain the initiative and they kicked the first two goals of the third quarter. Batto had to leave the field – the sideline thought he was sent off, but it was only to the bloodbin. However, the next bounce in the centre resulted in a soccer goal to Joycey and shortly after Brad finally slotted his wide-angle goal in front of the ADFA cheerleaders.



So there was still a margin there at three quarter time that ADFA was struggling to overcome.

1994 premiership team.

The last quarter had several great moments. One was Tooan fixing up an ADFA bloke who originally walked away from a collision then collapsed, the next two belonged to Simon 'Dunny' Stanfield. The game was basically in the balance but Dunny took two crucial and great marks to kick goals. Another mark to Dunny who passed to Millsy almost resulted in the mark of the day to Millsy, but the umpire was unsighted on this and play continued. At the final siren, 12-10-82 to 9-10-64 reflected fairly the difference between the two sides. A grand final win that was savoured for one or three hours afterwards (or should that be days?). A great team effort although Goofa, Jacko, Milley, Tooan, Lefty and Dunny deserve mention. Geoff Shalders won the Jim Branchi Perpetual Shield for the Best Player of the Finals Series.

'94 Club Patrons Dinner³⁹

The Patrons Dinner in 1994 was combined with what we called a 'Finals Dinner' where we tried to inspire those who will be playing for the Club over the final weeks of the season. Our Patron, Mr Phil Cleary MP, attended (along with members of his staff, Val and George) and spoke twice on a range of topics which indicated that he was indeed the ideal Patron for the Club. In the first speech, topics ranged from what a "piss poor array" of Patrons we have had before him. He spoke about the state of football in Victoria (crook), about how the AFL's Five Year Plan is a thinly veiled attempt to piss off Fitzroy, and the fact that in the Oxford Dictionary the definition of 'idiot' has a group picture of the Board of the AFL. Towards the end of his speech he mentioned that football was about male bonding and a bit of a metaphoric group wank. This was the ideal cue for a rendition of the Club song which was duly sung with great enthusiasm. Phil was presented with a Club membership badge for his efforts on the night.

Phil's second speech was a little more serious as he outlined his Marxist theory of football, saying that it was about subsuming the ego and the talents of one into the team as a whole for the good of all. "Football", he concluded, "is a little bit of socialism and that's why I like it." He also spoke on the need for total commitment to achieve a goal such as a premiership. He related his obsession with winning and playing good football during his playing and coaching career and how that obsession, as opposed to an extraordinary amount of talent, carried him through a successful career in the VFA. Phil offered the second speech as he felt he had not addressed the seriousness of the occasion with two teams heading into the finals.

I think his competitive spirit was showing as Andy Finlay threw down the gauntlet by saying "my speech is going to be a bit more cerebral than Phil's." Phil rose to the occasion admirably.

1995

Proving ANU doesn't just rule the 80s

1995 was another good year for us. The Ones, coached again by Leigh McPhan, made it three in a row. The Twos, coached by Brian Chugg, made it all the way to the grand final only to fall just short again. The Threes had another tough year with a couple of wins, a couple of close games and a fair few floggings, although not without spirited performances.⁴⁰

First Grade Grand Final Match Report Saturday 16 September v RMC 1⁴¹

The ANUAFC made it three Australian Football premierships in a row when it defeated Royal Military College in the Monaro Division One grand final on Saturday. Played against the backdrop of the Open Day at the Defence Force Academy, the 1995 team emulated the ANU sides of 1980 to 1982 which won three consecutive Monaro League flags.

The grand final was one of contrasts. RMC started the game in awesome fashion, displaying great attacking form which saw them score five goals before ANU even had a point on the board. By quarter time, the score was 8-4-52 to ANU's 1-2-8, and it looked as if the game was going to be something of a whitewash. RMC's performance in this quarter was brilliant, moving the ball freely around the ground, and playing some of the finest quality football seen in the Monaro League.

39 Adapted from ANUAFC News, 27 August, Vol. 5 No. 10

40 Adapted from season reports in ANUAFC News, Vol. 6 No. 13

41 Taken from ANUAFC News, Vol. 6 No. 13

In the second quarter, ANU steadied, and scored the first five goals, reducing the margin to just 14 points. ANU's Dave Garner had an inspirational quarter at half forward, taking some strong grabs and scoring two goals which fired the team up. The second of these was a kick which fell short and wrong footed both the full forward and the full back, and bounced its way through. A late goal in the quarter gave RMC a bit of space, and at half time they led by 9-6-60 to 7-5-47.

The second half started torridly as RMC were roused from their slumber, and play moved swiftly from end to end. RMC had what turned out to be the scoring end, with Clayton Wehner (who finished the game with six goals) an excellent target up front. RMC again broke away to a seven-goal lead mid-way through the quarter, and ANU looked as if they were beaten. But some late goals to ANU had the margin down to less than four goals at three quarter time. The score at the last change was 14-6-90 to 10-7-67.

Whatever ANU coach Leigh McPhan said to his team at three quarter time worked, and ANU finished the game with a controlled quarter of football. Tensions were getting high on the boundary with both sets of spectators trading abuse – ANU fans were getting excited, RMC fans were getting worried. With Alan Maskell in the centre, and Andrew Lancaster and Simon 'Dunny' Stanfield in the forward line, ANU ripped into RMC and with about seven minutes to go gained the lead for the first time.

ANU's defence was superb in the last quarter, keeping RMC scoreless. Matt Stephens (Best on Ground for ANU) was easily the best of the back six – the number of RMC attacks which he broke down with either strong marks, or hard tackling was huge. Even under pressure, the ANU backs had the



confidence to run the ball out of the backline rather than rush the ball through for a behind. Simon Stanfield, the League's top goalscorer, ended the game with seven goals, making it a total of 21 that he scored in three finals games, and 109 goals for the season.

Doug Williams 150th game, 1998.

Source: Doug Williams

The final score was ANU 16-12-108 to RMC 14-6-90. RMC had the consolation of Bede Galvin being named Player of the Match, whilst Ben Boyle won the Jim Branchi Perpetual Shield for Best Player of the Final Series.

Past player Donovan Newton recalls his personal recollections of the lead-up to the 1995 grand final: "I did my ACL at the last training before the grand final in 1995. Needing a knee reconstruction and no way to pay for it I applied to go on Wheel Of Fortune. I went on to become the biggest winner ever being on TV for six nights and winning two cars. I sold everything, paid my debts, and went overseas. Came back ten years later with a wife and two kids. Aside from that I am still great mates with a number of guys I met while playing for ANU 25 plus years later."⁴²

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42 Donovan Newton, Questionnaire response, 2020

Second Grade Grand Final Match Report – Saturday 16 September v Harman⁴³

ANU got to the final with a thrilling goal-after-the-siren upset over Harman in the major semi, but this game the Seconds had to win (no surprises there). We had the opportunity to make Club history as the first Reserve Grade squad to take a flag, as well as double up with the Firsts. Harman came out fired up and looking like a team who had been runners-up for a number of years, and kicked a few goals quickly, before we had really settled in. Fortunately, we rallied in the latter part of the quarter to keep in touch at quarter time.

The second quarter saw an almost completely different team. We began to apply greater pressure to the opposition forwards, and our tackling and talk improved markedly. Our disposal also improved, particularly into the forward line, who began to kick goals. A couple of late goals to Harman had the difference down to two points at half time with the Twos looking in reasonably good shape.

The half time break gave the Harman team a chance to fire up again, and us to slow down. Harman lifted their work rate again, and kicked clear in the first part of the third quarter, but the Twos rallied again in the later stages to be four goals down at the last change, and still in with a good chance if we could kick a couple of quick goals.

We didn't.

Harman kicked a couple of quick goals in the last quarter, and unfortunately the wheels began to fall off a bit. The endeavour was still there, but the communication lapsed, and so did the disposal. We began to put the pressure on ourselves, rather than the opposition, and they made use of it, kicking a number of goals in the final quarter to run out



winners fairly easily, and the Twos had to be content with runners up.

Best players for the day were mostly in the backline, who battled valiantly all day, often giving away a lot of height to their opponents in what turned into a tall man's game. Best on Ground was Tom Gilbert, who kept his opponent pretty quiet, but Matt Barber, Tom Denman, Justin Harsdorf, Duncan Turner and Dan Landon all played well. Brett Quester and Ross Tully played their usual valuable games. The forwards generally worked hard to make the best of the opportunities that came their way, particularly Scott Rudder and Jens Light, but also Steve Barwick who made himself an option up the ground and covered a lot of territory. Individually, no one had a bad game (although some will tell you they did), but as a team we couldn't maintain our performance of the second quarter throughout the day. It turned out we'd played our grand final two weeks earlier.

1995 premiership side.

Source: Matthew Barber

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43 Taken from ANUAFC News, Vol. 6 No. 13

South Oval closed for the year (or two)^{44,45,46}

Controversy surrounded the ANUAFC, the ANU Sports Union and the University in 1995 and 1996. South Oval was due to be closed for the entirety of the 1995 season in order to undergo substantial resurfacing work to improve the drainage of the pitch. However, the closure extended into the 1996 season with the Club not having access to the ground for training until April 1996 and not being able to host any home games for the entire season. The delays in the work and the end product was the cause of angst in many a club member.



South Oval restoration 1991.

Source: Doug Williams



44 Woroni article, 15 August 1996 (Adrian Lynch letter)

45 Woroni article, 12 September 1996 (South Oval Uncovered Response article)

46 Clippings from various editions of the Australian Football Club News in 1996, 1997 and 1998

letters

AFL Club: We just want our oval

Dear Woroni,

Returning to uni at the start of the year I was pleased to see that the shit-heap that was South Oval last year had been transformed back to its original state. I, like many fellow footballers was prepared to put behind me the inconvenience and disadvantage incurred last year when ANU did not have a home ground. However, I was appalled to learn that one year and over \$350,000 later students at this university are still not allowed to use our only Australian Rules football ground. From mid June the ANU Football Club has been allowed to train there but nothing more. This still leaves them without a home ground and leaves the colleges with neither a place to play or even an oval to train on.

This really gives me the shits. Two years ago the CG was ripped up at the end of footy season, resurfaced and replanted ready for the first game of state cricket two months later. I'm not asking for miracles, but would like a few answers.

Staff claim that the restrictions have been imposed to protect the renovation work which was done last year at such great expense. It was interesting to note however that ground management were prepared to allow the VC's Town and Gown cricket match played there at the start of the year. While the whole fiasco may have served as a convenient operation to justify their over-inflated budget, it has been nothing but a pain in the arse for students wishing to use the facilities they pay for. Management argues that the work completed will help the ground drain better after heavy rain. Well, I don't know if you saw South Oval at the end of July, but I was beginning to think that those campaigning for an ANU swimming pool had finally received their wish. While red-faced management point the finger, I'd just like to see the problem solved and be able to play footy on our home ground. Money well spent? I don't think so.

Adrian Lynch

SPORT

South Oval Uncovered

by Beth Mitchell

After Adrian Lynch's letter, "AFL Club: We just want our Oval", published in the last edition of *Woroni*, attention was turned to the many unanswered questions remaining after last year's restructuring of South Oval.

Was it really necessary?

According to the Sports Union, South Oval was in desperate need of attention. The state of the oval had deteriorated considerably as a result of poor drainage. Further delays in addressing the problem would have increased the cost of reconstruction.

How much did it cost?

Over \$300,000. \$150,000 was provided by the Sports Union and the remainder by the University.

Has drainage improved at all?

Management at the Sports Union claims that the full benefit of the oval's new drainage system will not be realised until after a full season of growth (a full summer season). The oval's surface (currently quite uneven) will improve with time but may require further rolling and aerating over the summer months.

South Oval

Just exactly what did they do to South Oval last year? If they dug it up to improve the drainage, why is the ground always so wet? It's almost as if they hose it down before training. We've now lost four consecutive training days because the ground has been closed, as well as a few others during the season. On one Tuesday, it hadn't rained since Saturday, and the ground was still too wet to use! I don't know what the Sports Union's view is, but I'm not sure if it was money well spent, even allowing for the fact that July was a wet month.

Why is use of South Oval now restricted?

The Sports Union was advised by those responsible for the oval's reconstruction to allow for a full growth season before returning to full use of the oval. Presumably ground management was prepared to allow the Town and Gown cricket match (but not football matches) to be played there because it believed a cricket match would not damage the pitch in the same way a season of football matches could. The ANU Football Club has been allowed to train on South Oval on the condition that they refrain from using it after heavy rain. College football teams have also been training on the oval during the day. Football matches will not be allowed there, however, until Management is assured that there will be no resulting damage to the cricket pitch. According to the Sports Union, South Oval will return to its regular use after a full growth season.

Many students have been inconvenienced as a result of the time-consuming restructuring of South Oval.

However, in defence of the university's management and administration, given the substantial resources invested in the oval, decisions made with regards to the oval's current use, have been justified.

Our return to South Oval is drawing closer and closer. Our first training run there will be on Tuesday 4th June. Training times will probably change, so keep your ear to the ground. We will also probably have some sort of celebration to mark our return to the hallowed turf.

Some blokes have never trained or played at ANU South. It's luxury. Change rooms right on the edge of the ground, showers (of sorts), a canteen that doesn't have to be carted around in eskies, pie warmers, store rooms for footy equipment, a footy pump, the list goes on and on.....

Still, it is four weeks away, so we need to keep training attendances up around the fifty mark at Aranda. It's been pretty good this year so far, but we can't let it drop off.

What a bloody shocker South Oval was this week - closed on both training nights. On Thursday we trained at Willows which was bone dry. Why is it that South Oval, which we couldn't use for two seasons because of the drainage work, seems to be in a worse state than before the work was done?

Football Returns to South Oval

For those who came in late, although we have trained at South Oval since the middle of last year, we haven't been able to play here for the past couple of years due to some major drainage work which involved the whole playing surface being dug up and relaid.

Contrary to what Al said at training on Tuesday night, we are back at South Oval on **Tuesday 11th June**. We will train on the night, and retire to the South Oval Pavilion for a pie night to celebrate the long awaited return. The pies will be put on courtesy of the club, the beer will be discounted, and we'll have a few videos (clean ones), on a big screen to keep us entertained. Make sure that you turn up for the long awaited return. Who knows, we might even arrange for the showers to be cleaned beforehand..... nah, actually we probably won't.

Club Patrons and famous faces

Every now and then a football club needs some sort of outside representation to lend credibility and support. The ANUAFC has had several high-profile personalities as Club Patron over the years to help raise awareness of our amateur organisation.

The following list of esteemed individuals had the honour of holding the position of ANUAFC Club Patron:

The Hon Bob Hawke, AC, GCL, MP

Prime Minister of Australia and Leader of the Labor Party from 1983 to 1991

The Hon Phil Cleary, MP

Commentator on politics and sport and a former independent Federal politician

The Hon B.M. Snedden, KCMG, QC, MP

Federal politician, leader of the Liberal Party and Speaker of the House of Representatives

The Hon Pru Goward, MP

Liberal member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly and former Australian Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner

Professor C.M.H. (Manning) Clark

Australian historian and the author of the best-known general history of Australia, often described as “Australia’s most famous historian”

Professor Arthur Hamblly

Professor of Chemistry at the ANU School of General Studies and Research School of Chemistry

Professor Jack E. Richardson, AO

Former Dean of the ANU College of Law, and first Commonwealth Ombudsman

Dr M.R. Jacobs

Former Commonwealth Director-General of Forests

Dr John D. Ritchie, AO

Emeritus Professor of History at the ANU and Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities

Professor Deane Terrell, AO

Former Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University

David Combe

National Secretary of the Australian Labor Party and infamous for the 1983 Combe-Ivanov affair

There have also been a staggering number of successful athletes, community organisers, politicians, academics and other celebrities who have spent time at the Club. While we aren’t suggesting that they were fundamentally nurtured by the ANUAFC, we will definitely be ‘borrowing’ some of their credibility for our own purposes. Here is a non-exhaustive selection with links (tenuous or otherwise) with the ANUAFC:

Ross Garnaut, AC

Australian economist, current Vice-chancellor’s Fellow of Economics at the University of Melbourne and author of the Garnaut Climate Change Review in 2008

The Hon Senator Pat Dodson

Current Senator for Western Australia in the Australian Parliament, former Commissioner into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody in 1989

David Morgan, AO

Australian businessman, former CEO of Westpac Banking Corporation and former chairman of the Australian Bankers Association

Nick Warner, AO, PSM

Former Director-General of the Office of National Intelligence, former Director-General Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS), and former Secretary of the Australian Department of Defence

Ron McLeod, AM

Former Commonwealth Ombudsman

Barrie Cassidy

Journalist and former host of Insiders, former press secretary to Prime Minister Bob Hawke

Geoff Craighead

Former Australian Rules Footballer, played with South Melbourne in the VFL for seven games in 1973

Alana Lowes

Third place in MasterChef 2011, editor and food and travel writer

Bernard Dowiyogo, MP

President of Nauru on seven separate occasions over 25 years

Roger Pescott, MP

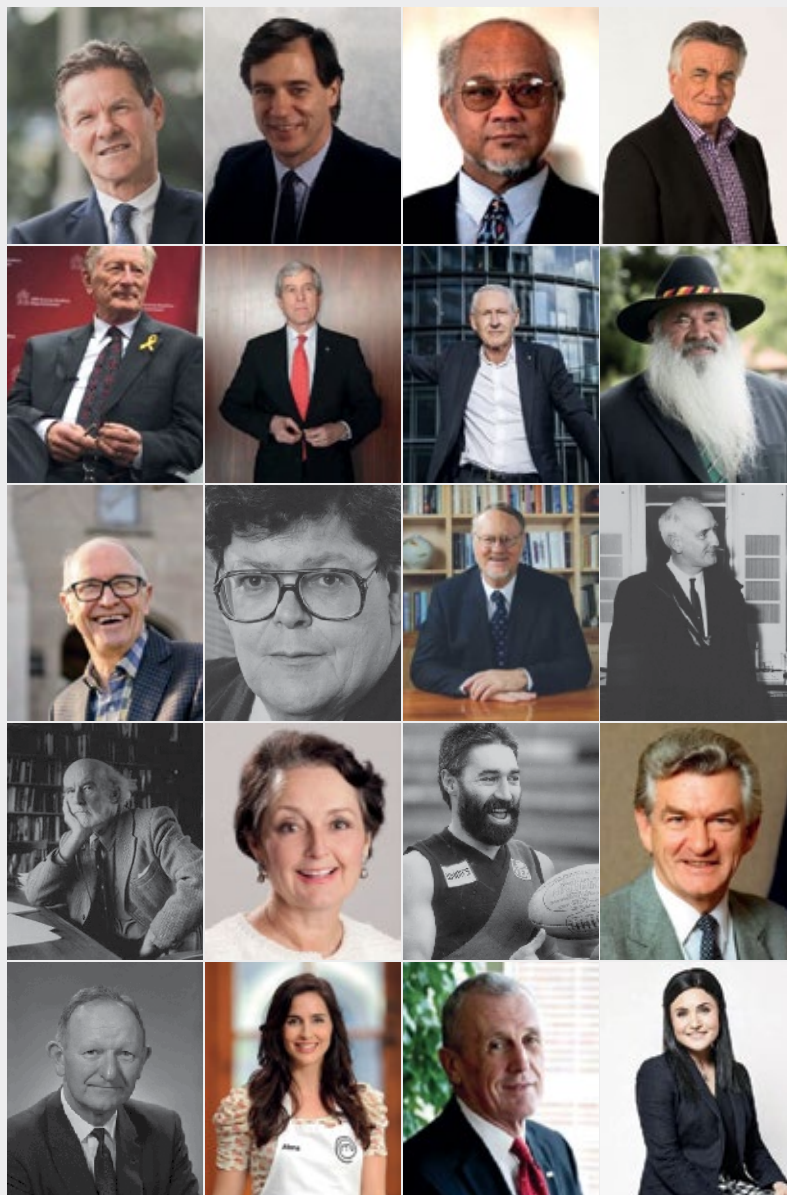
Former Australian diplomat and former Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly

Peter Woolcott, AO

Current Australian Public Service Commissioner, former Chief of Staff to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and former diplomat

Tal Karp

Olympian, former Matilda, former Captain of Melbourne Victory and lawyer



1996

From Monaro to ACTAFL^{47,48}

In 1996 ANUAFC left the Monaro League after 17 years to join the ACTAFL's Canberra District League. The move to the ACTAFL competition had been on the cards for a number of years and was taken after much consideration within the Club. Originally, we had hoped that there would be an amical merger of the two competitions. However, this never eventuated. The following two articles go some way to showing the discussion in the Club on the issue. In the end, ANU's decision to leave the Monaro League sounded the death knell for that particular competition structure.

Four in a row⁴⁹

In 1996 the First Grade team made the grand final again, lining up against the Kingston Wolves. The team was chasing a fourth consecutive flag, having been premiers in the Monaro League in 1993, 1994 and 1995. Kingston, on the other hand, was aiming to retain the title of Canberra District League premiers after winning the inaugural premiership in 1995. Unfortunately the Magoos suffered a three goal loss to Kingston in the preliminary final, ending their season a week too early. The Third Grade side was a story of both success and unfulfilled potential. We had more numbers for that side than we'd ever had. The good numbers continued throughout the year, particularly when for most of the season, the Thirds were being comprehensively beaten. The hope was that the next step would be to consolidate the team in 1997 and win a few games.

ANUAFC Stays in Monaro

1995

At the Club's AGM on Thursday 9th March members rejected the proposal that ANU should leave the Monaro League and join ACTAFL's recently formed Canberra District League.

The impetus for the proposed move was the League structure which Monaro has introduced for 1995 - specifically that the twelve teams will compete in one division for the first part of the season before dividing into two divisions of six. Quite a few people argued that this would mean that Monaro would not be able to provide an appropriate level of competition for the Club's better players.

This was conceded by opponents of the move, but it was argued that the District comp would provide even less of a challenge. Monaro will have at least two, and possibly three, strong opponents for ANU firsts - ADFA, a rejuvenated RMC (with 15 ex-ADFA first graders), and maybe East Canberra (who are never easy to beat), whereas the District League will have only Kingston. The other clubs in the District comp are teams which were uncompetitive in the Monaro 1st Division in 1994 (Canberra Uni and Belconnen/West Canberra), teams which competed in the Monaro 2nd Division (Ainslie and Murrumbidgee), and the newly formed (and reputedly struggling for numbers) Tuggeranong 3rd grade.

Had ANU left ACT-MAFL, it is likely that this would have sparked an exodus of clubs, resulting in the end of the Monaro League. It was agreed that the amalgamation of football administration in the ACT (something which ANU supports) should be the result of a negotiated merger between ACTAFL and ACT-MAFL rather than the collapse of one League. A negotiated merger will put us in a stronger position to achieve the Club's aim of being eventually re-admitted to the ACTAFL Reserve Grade.

Anyway, this issue has been hanging around the Club for a while, and it has been resolved for 1995 at least. The Club hopes that those players who wanted to join the ACTAFL will stay with the Club for this season and help us get our third straight premiership.

47 Australian National Football Club News, 14 March, Vol. 6 No. 2

48 Australian National Football Club News, 19 December, Vol 6. No. 14

49 Adapted from ANUAFC News Vol. 7 Nos. 10 & 11, *A Review or Something Akin' and 'Grand Final Match Report'* extracted from Vol. 1 No. 11

ANU Joins Canberra District League

Well, it's official, ANU and the rest of the Monaro clubs (except RMC) will be joining ACTAFL's Canberra District League (CDL) next season. Despite our expectation that our 1sts would be offered a place in ACTAFL Reserve Grade, we are in fact in the first division of the CDL, whilst our 2nds AND 3rds are in the CDL's newly formed second division.

Next season ACTAFL is expanding to eight teams, the two additional sides being Campbelltown formerly in the Sydney competition (and has been Premiers for most of the last ten years or something), and a Combined Defence (i.e., RMC/ADFA) team. Campbelltown will enter teams in all three grades, and the Combined Defence side will be in 1sts and Reserves, with an ADFA U/19 side for the Colts.

The CDL's two divisions will each have eight teams, although there are queries over the continued existence of a couple of the clubs (particularly Goulburn). Besides ANU, the first division will have Ainslie, Canberra Uni, East Canberra, Harman (! and at their own request), Kingston, Murrumbidgee, and Woden (a new side). The other six teams in the second division are ADFA, Belconnen, Cooma, Goulburn, Kingston (2), and Tuggeranong.

What this all means for ANU is uncertain. With ADFA and RMC both moving to a different competition, we are still lacking quality opposition for our first grade, with only Kingston likely to provide any sort of challenge. Whilst we won't have the idiotic structure of 1995 which saw first grade sides play third grade sides, I'm not sure if the competition will be a vast improvement. Although combining the Monaro clubs and the Canberra District clubs into the same competition is a good move, we still haven't got the ideal structure from our point of view.

Having our 2nds and 3rds in the one competition is not great, although there's not much we can do unless things change. Fielding three grades has resulted in ANU being a stronger club overall, and I would argue that we should continue with three sides, even though we will have to play each other a couple of times through the season. One of the big plusses as far as thirds is concerned is that ALL games will be played on Saturday, which means that we won't have the end-of-season clash with college football.

It is possible that ANU may end up as a weaker club. The standard of football provided for our better players in 1995 was woeful, but in 1996 it won't be much better. We were able to keep a lot of our better players this season because it was a short term arrangement, but it is questionable whether or not we can do that in 1996 if we don't have a decent standard competition to play in. The Canberra District League won't have the 40 goal floggings over the third grade sides, but we will have ten and fifteen goal beatings of Harman, Murrumbidgee, Ainslie and Woden. The only competition we'll have is Kingston, and to a lesser degree East Canberra and Canberra Uni. But I suspect that some of our players will leave ANU and either go to other clubs (ACTAFL ones), or else not play football, as there seems to be no incentive to hang around and win an easy competition.

It is a shame that ACTAFL is intent on maintaining its nice neat structure and has overlooked ANU's claims to be in Reserve Grade. Even when there were strong doubts over Campbelltown entering the League, ACTAFL was reported to be favoring seven teams in all grades, rather than have ANU 1s even up the numbers in Reserves. I think that this was and is a very narrow view, and one which ignores the nature of football within the ACT and Monaro region.

Teams of a comparable standard should be able to play against each other, rather than have ACTAFL Reserve Grade standard teams (ANU and Kingston) languishing in the District comp. I would argue that the ACTAFL should amalgamate the Reserve Grade and the two Canberra District divisions into one three or four division structure, possibly with promotion and relegation between the divisions (with certain caveats to have more than one side from each club in the top division or two).

Despite its failings, the top of the Monaro League was a strong competition, indicated by the fact that its representative side won the NSW 2nd Division Regional Championships in 1995, and only a couple of years ago defeated the ACTAFL Reserve Grade rep side (unfortunately ACTAFL pulled out of the rematch). Monaro's strength has been recognized by the inclusion of the Combined Defence team in ACTAFL, what we need now is for ACTAFL to include the Monaro Premiers in its plans.

A Review or something akin by Leigh McPhan, Club Coach

A new competition that had no RMC sides and only one ADFA side. No Mike Tabart. Some new challenges for the coaches with some new opponents and new players around.

We played Batemans Bay down at the Hanging Rock Oval again this year and I think they won but who cared? It was a hit out and gave a few new players the chance to show their wares (wears?, where's?). They were a better side than last year but we were able to have a good run regardless.

From a First Grade perspective this was not seen as a challenging year once all sides had been played (probably before that for some sides). The first game against Kingston was great for a first up game and the game was over by half time. Their physical game was still in evidence but they lacked avenues to goal and fitness was not big. The second game against UCAN was held at the great Giralang Oval, without changing rooms, which was seen as some sort of omen that even Monaro couldn't beat.

The 'Bidge was no challenge and then we faced what was expected to be the best other side in Gungahlin. This was a Tuesday night game which was won by about 100 points and the most notable thing of this game was the efforts of Ross Howe to try and run past Griff with his head down. Griff obliged him and the rest was history.

We lost to Kingston with a slightly depleted side during the year. ANU was minus several 'regular' Firsts (hard to decide who was a regular player sometimes this year). Other than that, notable games were:

- Playing Ainslie with 16 men and finishing with about 13 fully fit (and still winning by 18 goals)
- Dunny being reported against UCAN
- Dunny kicking a shit load against the 'Bidge

- Running onto the field against Harman the second last time with only 17 men with a call to the two blokes who turned up as we rang on the field 'whoever gets changed first plays in the forward pocket' (Dunny won the race)
- Batto and Chris Elstoft showing, at least in Batto's case, extreme stupidity in taunting that man Federow
- Pete Calver for actually leaving his face in the vicinity for Feds to hit (you stopped him winning the Best and Fairest for the League Pete)
- Batto and his umpire mate at UCAN (Brad Douglas was seen at the same game – any connections?), and
- Elstoft taking a speccy against the 'Bidge in the last game against them and Dunny wanting to know whether his was as good.

The semi against Kingston never reached great standards. Our ability to kick straight and pass to a player made a difference in the end. Some minor injuries but we had gained the week off. The lead up to the grand final was going to be interesting with several players coming back from injury able to train and of a possible 26 final squad members 24 trained on the Thursday night before the game. Picking the side was not easy and the Captain, Vice Captain and Deputy Vice Captain all had selected sides.

The grand final was pretty similar to the second semi. The windy conditions ensured that it wouldn't be much of a spectacle. They kicked against the wind in the first quarter which suited us fine. Muskrat blew a shoulder in this quarter and that was his grand final. They were probably happy that we were only two goals up. However they could not capitalise on this and we actually outscored them. This quarter saw Bart finish his grand final with concussion. The second half basically saw us extend our lead by the end of the third quarter. Goof did a finger and that was his grand final. The final quarter must have

looked ugly with numerous out of bounds but once again we outscored them. The final score of 8-9-57 to 3-11-29 was a great sight and a fully deserved win to go with the minor premiership. Chris Elstoft picked up the League Best on Ground award.

Congratulations to Shaun Manning and the Magoos for making the finals. It was a good year for them as there were many changes in personnel and the usual interruptions with uni holidays. They played with a lot of commitment and I thought even in the preliminary final that they were the better side but were unable to kick a couple of quick goals to get the machine running fully. There are some very good players whose aim for next year is to take the next step and, depending on what the League is like and how many ANU Ones do not front again next year, the opportunity will certainly be there.

Axe and Ed. What a combination. Between them they produced sides each week, gave many players the chance to have a game and were playing some very good football in their last five or so games. A good effort by those two and to the players for enduring a long season which still provided some great highlights for the players.

Grand Final Match Report

Hosting it seems to be the only way that ADFA can be involved in a grand final. They did it last year when they tried to buy the premiership (as then-President Joel Garner stated at the League meeting which approved it being held there). This year they didn't make the finals in any grade.

Anyway, it's a good ground so maybe we shouldn't complain. It's a pity the conditions were so bad. For grand final day we had some of the most miserable weather we've seen all season (not as wet as July, but much windier). This put paid to any chance of this game being a spectacle. Interest was maintained by the fact that it was so low scoring that there was always a chance that Kingston could get back in.



In fact, after looking out of it for half the game, the quick two goals in the third quarter saw them draw to within four points. This however was the only time they really threatened.

The most exciting part of the game was when Batto got attacked by the Kingston runner and the entire Kingston bench. Apart from that, there was not a great deal of interest for the spectators who huddled together to keep warm (although at times there was a lot of space around Batto). Another highlight was one of Griff's mates from Tassie streaking across the ground. An awful sight but a gutsy effort given the weather conditions.

It was good to win a fourth consecutive flag, although this game was probably the most ordinary of the four grand finals. It certainly didn't have the excitement of 1993 when we won for the first time, or the excitement of 1995 when, on two occasions, we came back from five goals down.

To their credit, Kingston played fairly. I thought that a few of their less disciplined players might have started making cheap hits when it was obvious they were going to lose. They didn't.

1996 ACTAFL Canberra
District Division 1.
Source: Doug Williams

I should mention that I was pleased to see Chris Pepper make the starting line-up after being named first emergency on Thursday night. He took Jack Backen's place after he dropped out with a knee injury. The ACTAFL awarded Chris Elstoft the medal for Best on Ground.

ANUAFC Four in a Row Club⁵⁰

Who belongs to this illustrious pryde of Griffins that played in all four senior's premierships from 1993–96? There are four:

- Al Maskell
- Andrew Lancaster
- Simon Stanfield
- Simon Tuan

There are four others who were named in all four squads, but who missed out because of unavailability or because they were an emergency: Greg Adcock, Damian Battisson, Mike Court and Justin Heighway.

For completeness, six others played three (not always consecutively): Adam Donaldson, Marty Jaugietis, Leigh McPhan, Chris Pepper, Dan Ryan and Geoff Shalders, whilst Joel Garner and Jim Leitch were in three squads but only played in two grand finals.

1997–99

Riding out the 1990s

In 1997 we again tried to move up into the ACTAFL Reserve Grade but our entry was blocked. The short version of this sorry saga goes something like this...Late in the 1996 season some changes were made to the ACTAFL constitution and by-laws which allowed us to seriously nominate a side for whatever grade we wished. At the ACTAFL Annual General Meeting the clubs voted in favour of these changes. Subsequently, clubs were asked to place team nominations for the grades in which they wished to compete. ANU nominated teams for Reserve Grade ACTAFL, First Grade Canberra District and Second Grade Canberra District. The ACTAFL Executive, being in favour of our nomination, sent a circular to all clubs announcing the proposed makeup of the divisions with ANU listed in Reserves.

Unfortunately, the ACTAFL clubs had the final vote on any proposal, and a Special General Meeting of the League was called to vote on our inclusion. At this meeting, despite arguments from the Executive, ANU Delegates Ed Scully and Ben Harris, and also from Combined Defence, ANU was voted out of the Reserves comp seven votes to six. The main arguments for not allowing us to play Reserves was that we will muck up their system of playing Firsts with their Reserves every week. The ACTAFL Executive were reportedly unhappy having voted unanimously to let us in but this support did not change the clubs' minds.

We were left with no option but to do our best to defend our Canberra District title and hope that no players were lost to other clubs due to a perceived lack of competition.⁵¹

50 Adapted from content in ANUAFC News, Vol. 7 No. 11

51 Adapted from ANUAFC News, Vol. 8 No.1



Rounding out 1999.
Source: Doug Williams

After this initial drama play did eventually get underway for all three teams in the Canberra District Divisions. The First Grade team did a great job to finish second on the ladder and get into the finals after losing a lot of players from the previous year's team. Only about half a dozen or so regular senior players from 1996 returned to play the whole season. One of the curses of a university team. Despite best efforts we couldn't make our finals appearance end in another flag. The Twos narrowly missed out on finals, just another thing which went wrong and probably summed up their season. They lost each of their last three games by less than a goal. The Third Grade team improved on no wins in 1996 to win three games in 1997.⁵²

1998 was a season of mixed fortunes. There were some achievements and some missed opportunities in all three grades. The Thirds season was a pretty familiar tale. Lots of enthusiasm and endeavour but few results on the points table. Victories for

Thirds seem to be moral ones these days, such as the result against the Seconds in the second round and the 130 point turn around between the first and second matches against Kingston. A slow start for the Reserves, dropping games that should or could have been won, cost the team at the business end of the season. The Firsts also started in see-saw fashion losing first round games to Gungahlin and Belconnen. With the inclusion of ADFA and a strengthened Belconnen it was always going to be a harder year for our Seniors. The preliminary final was as far as we got.⁵³

1999 was, all up, a rough season for the Club. Off the field it seemed that the burden of running the Club was falling to less and less people. On the field, our First Grade missed out on the finals for the first time in recent memory. Second Grade failed to make the finals for the third year in a row, while Third Grade forfeited several games and its future looked bleak.⁵⁴

52 Adapted from ANUAFC News, Vol. 8 Nos. 14 & 16

53 Adapted from ANUAFC News, Vol 9. No. 12

54 Adapted from ANUAFC News, Vol. 10

The 'P's', the Gift, and the Guineas

| Anyone who has spent any time at the ANUAFC in the past 30 or so years surely knows about the 'P's'.

The event you might have attended, or probably heard about, could have had a different numerological prefix on the night, but whether it was the 3P's or the 4P's (or the anticipation of 8P's in 2021 to make up for the absence of 4P's in 2020), you would have been guaranteed to experience piss, pies and punting in some form or other. The fourth P we will leave to your imagination, or as a flyer from 2005 said, *"the other P's are self-explanatory"*.

From unknown genesis, and then morphing into a Casino Night held at South Oval in the 1990s or thereabouts, turned into a staple of the Griffins social calendar of events. Entirely above board games of two-up, blackjack, and roulette, all using fake Griff cash were the main activities. The food and beverages account for the other P's in the event equation (including a ubiquitous amount of Port, the unofficial fourth or fifth P depending on the decade).

Other staples of the evening include red mood lighting, various raffles and fundraisers, as well as a semi-clothed 100m dash for self-nominating players, although blow-ins have been known to participate at times. With temperatures dipping as low as -8 degrees celsius on some winter nights at South Oval, and the race marshall having consumed their fair share of liquid courage before measuring the track distance, the 'Griffin Gift' as it has come to be known, is not for the faint hearted.

The standout event for each 3P's or 4P's is the phantom horse race known in more recent times as the 'Griffin Guineas'. The inaugural race was 'run' in 1991. We'll let the introduction from the 1992 Form Guide (see image on the right) tell you of the honourable origins of this great race.

Over time, the Calver's Fart Memorial 4P Race Carnival transformed and grew into the Griffin Guinea's over which many ANUAFC punters have won and lost wads of Griffos cash. Like many grand events, to truly understand the thrill and excitement of this great race you need to experience it for yourself. The South Oval Racecourse is waiting for you...

Calver's Fart

An Introduction

To those who are new to the **South Oval Jockey Club** the Members and Officials offer you a warm welcome, and hope your stay is extremely profitable (for us). For some of you the title of the carnival may be a trifle puzzling, and the management offers this small presentation by way of explanation.

The great horse **Calver's Fart** began his career at the **SOJC** in 1989. A Tasmanian bred runner, he quickly made his mark on the regular punters on South Oval race days. In no time he became one of the most feared and respected of his kind, and through many, many, many outings, established a reputation for consistent performance.

The potency of **Calver's Fart** was lovingly cultivated by his owner/trainer P.(The Meat) Calver, and this man was directly responsible for the sublime stealth of **Calver's Fart**. Many of the older punters will bear testimony (and probably scars) to the ability of the horse to sneak stealthily into an unsuspecting pack, unnoticed until far too late, or the awesome power which could be unleashed after the immortal battle cry "Hey Cibber, catch this!".

Sadly, last year, **Calver's Fart** was retired to the land of the rising sun. Any carnivorous Japanese gentleman contemplating his favorite horse steak would do well to steer clear of **Calver's Fart**. While **Calver's Fart** was always experienced raw, in the fashion of most Japanese food, any encounter with him inevitably left an extremely unpleasant residue. Similarly, with his atomic proportions, **Calver's Fart** may not be well received around Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We have received little information on his whereabouts, and regard him as missing in gastric action.

In 1991 there was held the inaugural staging of the **Calver's Fart Memorial 4P Race Carnival**. It is so named to perpetuate and honour the memory of one of the greatest ever, and to inspire us to achieve his standard. We honour the motto **Audible Iritus Odorous Methaneum** and the memory of

Calver's Fart

The birth of the ANUAFC footy factory

Any good football club has a strong pipeline of talent, so far the only fool-proof strategy identified for the ANUAFC has been to rely on each year's student intake. Everyone at the Club knows whenever a first year player or two from Melbourne blows in, we're in for a good season.

As for other strategies, father and son recruiting has been an under-utilised avenue. Some of the known examples include Brian Wawn and his son Mick, and Matt Brown and his dad, Rod. The Wawns were likely the first father-son pairing, and the Browns even took to the field together in a third grade game against Defence in 1996.

Ever the socially progressive club, the ANUAFC turned its attention to father-daughter recruitment even before the Women's team came into existence! In the mid-1990s it was lamented in a club newsletter that Seniors stalwart (by student standards) Geoff Shalders had overseen the birth of a baby daughter. His teammates were worried about the effect this might have on the club's player prospects some 21 years later.

As it turns out Geoff was actually onto something. The late Geoff Shalders played 47 games for the Club in the mid-1990s, including the 1994, 1995 and 1996 premierships and 1994 Best and Fairest. Rumour has it that his relative seniority (as a mature-age student) led to a few jibes before his first match for the Griffs – but his Victorian Country footy blood ran true and saw him play a key team role during his time at the Club. 23 years later Grace followed in her Dad's footy footsteps, coming down to South to don the royal blue and white. Her football career includes playing in the Women's first premiership in 2019. And that's not the end of it – Grace's younger sister and brother, Eliza and Joe, have also joined the Griffs fold.

For Grace, playing with the Griffs is important. "I joined the Griffs knowing my late Dad had played there. I'm so glad I did, because that connection to him through the Club and the game feels really special. Playing women's footy is something that wasn't available to me when I was a kid, so I find so much joy in game and particularly in the community of the Women's team here at the Griffs."

The clear lesson from this illustrative tale is that to ensure the Club's longevity we need to support our key student recruitment strategy with some 'parent and offspring' recruitment.

We're sure you don't need us to tell you what to do...



Australian National University
Australian Football Club News

15th June 1996

Vol 7 No.7

It's A Girl!!

No, this is not a reference to Jack Backen's hairstyle. It is in fact the announcement (in case you have been comatose over the last week or so ie, Brett Quester), that Sarah Shalders gave birth to a bouncing baby girl in the wee hours of Saturday June 8. Grace Laura Shalders was born at Woden Valley Hospital and weighed 9 pounds. Sarah and Gracie are healthy and doing well. Sarah on day two in hospital was pretty much running the ward in between feeds, and between being showered with flowers, chocolates, champagne and gifts. And she thought that she got it good when she was on the stage!!!

On being quizzed about the choice of the name Gracie, Sarah said that it was in honour of her long lost food fighting partner Mark "Graysa" Gracey, who has moved back to WA. "Her middle name was going to be Flora" said a disappointed Sarah "after Geoff's field of study at Uni, but Geoff's a bit slow the poor darling, and he didn't quite cotton on. Now that he's told everyone that it's Grace Laura I guess that's how it'll have to stay". "Don't blame me" said an indignant Goolf "I wanted 'Geoffry' as her middle name, spelt with an 'ie' instead of a 'y' - that has a nice feminine ring to it - and I said that if that wasn't on, you call her what you bloody well like!! Any way I'm only a 3rd year Forester, I can't be expected to know that trees are flora".

Serious questions are however being asked about Geoff's commitment to footy, as he failed to front for the UCan game later that day. Geoff, many people will tell you that 30 hours without sleep does not stop you playing footy. Just ask Quester, Sloane or Leitchy. Ten years ago you could have asked Cibber, Joel, Fintan or Peps, but they're all pretty well past it now.

Seriously though, the ANUAFC offers its salutations, congratulations and other polysyllabic offerings to Geoff and Sarah on the new addition to their family and hope that all goes well in the years ahead. We know that you'll be great parents, and that little Grace is as lucky as you feel at the moment. However Goolf, now that you've got a daughter to dote on - got it out of your system so to speak, please try for a gender correct child next time, as our Forward Planning Unit indicates that we'll be short of numbers on Saturday May 6, 2017.

Editors Note: Woden Hospital authorities are investigating rumours that an as yet unnamed father was so ecstatic at the moment of birth that he tore off down the corridor with the baby, doing blind turns around the nurses and having the odd bounce on the way. Some eyewitnesses claim that he was shouting something like "lead Dunny, lead", but this could not be confirmed nor denied by authorities.

2000s





THE ANUAFC IN THE 2000s

| | |
|--|---|
| Club membership (2000) | 80-100 (estimate) |
| Club membership (2009) | 95-115 (estimate) |
| League(s) played in | AFL Canberra ACTWAFL |
| Premierships for the decade | 2004, 2005, 2009 (Seniors) 2007 (Reserves) |
| Number of premierships (cumulative) | 12 |
| Post-match venue | Canberra RSL Club Belconnen Magpies Club in the City Olims Hotel |
| ANU population (2001) | 9794 enrolled students (52% female) 3071 total staff |
| Population of Canberra | 344,000 (2000) |

Season Results

| | Seniors | Reserves | Women's |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 2000 | 6th ACTAFL Div 1 | 2nd ACTAFL Div 2 | - |
| 2001 | 2nd ACTAFL Div 1 | 6th ACTAFL Div 2 | 7th ACTWAFL |
| 2002 | 3rd ACTAFL Div 1 | 4th ACTAFL Div 2 | 7th ACTWAFL |
| 2003 | 4th ACTAFL Div 1 | 6th ACTAFL Div 2 | 2nd ACTWAFL |
| 2004 | Premiers ACTAFL Div 1 | 4th ACTAFL Div 2 | 6th ACTWAFL |
| 2005 | Premiers ACTAFL Div 1 | 2nd ACTAFL Div 2 | 5th ACTWAFL |
| 2006 | 2nd ACTAFL Div 1 | 5th ACTAFL Div 2 | 4th ACTWAFL |
| 2007 | 2nd ACTAFL Div 1 | Premiers ACTAFL Div 2 | 5th AACTWAFL |
| 2008 | 5th ACTAFL Div 3 | 8th ACTAFL Div 4 | 8th ACTWAFL |
| 2009 | Premiers ACTAFL Div 4 | 3rd ACTAFL Div 4 | 6th ACTWAFL |

2000s

A new millennium, a changing club

Like it did for so many institutions, the Naughties brought in winds of change and exciting new challenges for the mighty Griffins. The upside of the demise of the third men's side was that it opened the door for the potential introduction of a Women's team. Over the next 20 years, this would prove both socially and culturally significant.

On the field, the decade was a mixed bag for all three teams with some definite flag-winning highs and some three-figure thrashing lows. We lost our much beloved RSL as our local watering hole, played-up downstairs at the Magpies club before moving even further across town to Olims. Of course all of these changes didn't dampen our ability to celebrate and commiserate in equal (and perhaps at times excessive) measure.



Canberra Festival Club fundraiser.

Source: Doug Williams

2000

Two teams and a near miss for the Magoos (or 1990 all over again)⁵⁵

Coming out of the malaise of the 1999 season, there were a few changes to the Club in 2000. The biggest being the loss of the Thirds team. As has already been outlined, our Thirds struggled to make head-way on the field since we reinstated the team in 1994. In 2000, the League increased affiliation fees by 50 per cent for each team. We just couldn't afford to pay for all three teams anymore. The Thirds had acted as an excellent nursery for the Club for the preceding five years, with many players starting in the Threes going on to bigger and better things. So the nursery was no more. In other Club news, the relatively inexperienced Ones team finished outside the finals.

The biggest achievement of 2000 was the Ressies reaching the Big Dance for the first time since 1995. A withering run into and during the final series came to a stop in the grand final. We were seven points down mid-way through the last quarter and we were surging forward only to turn the ball over and give away a goal. From possibly being one point behind to 13 points behind and it slipped from there. The Ressie's premiership remained an elusive thing for yet another year.

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⁵⁵ Adapted from ANUAFC News, Vol 11. No. 1

2001

Inaugural ANU Women's team

2001 was a busy year at the Club. Along with the usual set of fundraising efforts and the purchasing of two new sets of jumpers, we hosted the huge 40th Anniversary weekend which included the unveiling of the Club Honour Board. The Seniors made it all the way to the grand final but were unable to come home with the trophy on the day.⁵⁶

In the 2000 off-season, the possibility of introducing a Women's team was raised with President Brian 'Chuggy' Chugg. The ACTAFL had been running a Women's competition since 1998. Market days had shown that there was appetite and interest for a Women's team within ANU. The time seemed right to usher in a significant transformation to the ANUAFC history and culture.

A decision was made to include a Women's team sign-up sheet at the 2001 O-week Market Day stall and see what happened. As it turned out, from the Market Day and the (soon-to-be yearly) positioning of recruitment posters on the back of toilet doors around campus, there was indeed enough interest to establish a team.

Nick 'Creany' Crean, who manned the Market Day stall and convinced so many to sign up, acted as 'caretaker' coach of the team until a permanent coach could be found. In his own words "It was only my third season playing AFL, and as a back pocket with not much game sense, I soon imparted all I knew to the players. Still, we had fun and had ourselves the makings of a team." Jens Light, a club stalwart of the 1990s, was head-hunted for the coaching role by Colin 'Cibber' Mues. Jens stayed on to coach the team in 2002 as well. Creany then helped out in between his duties playing for the Ones.



Creany remembers carrying around a sheet of paper with the names, phone numbers and email addresses of a few dozen women. "As is often the way, only about a third that provided a signature on Market Day were fair dinkum. I found that out the hard way by making phone calls down the list and leaving a lot of answering machine messages to no reply. I recall that bit of paper got pretty tatty and I had to rewrite it a couple of times, each time narrowing the list a little. These were the days before I knew what an excel spreadsheet was, and I didn't have a mobile phone, let alone a laptop."

Nonetheless, a dedicated group showed up to that preseason and the right pocket near Sullivans Creek, with its poor lighting and soggy pitch, would soon become the unofficial home of the ANUAFC Women's team for many years to come.

The team's first major test was a preseason carnival hosted by ADFA. It was also the first game of footy for most (if not all) of the players. We hadn't yet organised jumpers so the league jumped in and loaned us the ACT Women's jerseys – old school

Final game of the 2001 season.

Source: Erin Junck

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56 2001 President's Report

woollen, yellow with a blue 'V'. Thankfully, Penny Fischer (with Shaun 'Manno' Manning's help) organised the first kit of jumpers before the start of the season.

Jing-ting Chan recalls turning up to the ground for this "I remember approaching the oval and [Creany] saying not to worry because the people on the field, who looked like giants, were definitely men and not our opponents...but as we got closer we realised they were. We lost by over 200 points with our opponents not even letting us off for a pity score."⁵⁷

In the match against carnival hosts ADFA, our star midfielder Julia Minty got bumped off the ball by an absolute tank. It sent her airborne and she landed awkwardly on her upper back and lay still for a very long time.⁵⁸ Jens remembers liaising with ADFA to get an apology as his first significant challenge in coaching the team – the incident having occurred before he started.⁵⁹ This highlighted the huge experience gap when it came to overall footy sense and awareness among the first team.

Needless to say, we struggled on field a little in that first season, being beaten fairly consistently and thoroughly every week. Everyone you ask will tell you that the highlight of the season was Melanie Calvert scoring the team's first goal. It was the only goal we scored all season. Erin Junck recalls "We celebrated like we'd won a grand final. The men's teams came pouring out of the sheds to cheer on the from the sidelines. It was hilarious and ridiculous and probably one of my favourite memories."⁶⁰

During the season Jens had concerns about the appropriateness of the size and weight (especially in the wet) of the size five Sherrin and the damage

it could do to players' fingers. He took a personal campaign to the ACTWAFL Committee to seek the use of a smaller WA football designed by Burley (a size four). The ACTWAFL were very hostile to the idea; there was great resistance to doing anything differently from the men's competitions at this point in time. To support the campaign, the Club purchased two of these balls and tried to use them in a home game. The potential use of the smaller ball almost triggered a walk-off by the opposition. Time has proven Jens' arguments well justified. Now days all women's competitions, including the AFLW, use a smaller sized footy.

Another highlight from the season was having Danica Ralston, Rebecca Dixon, Rebecca Minty and Lana Palmer all selected for the ACT Women's AFL team. Danica also won the league Rising Star and was named in the All Australian Team.⁶¹

They wrote the Club a letter of thanks for their support (see insert). Sadly, but not unsurprisingly, the stubby holder went missing in the 18 years between the beginning of the Women's team and the winning of the first premiership.

The introduction of the Women's team added a new element to the Club. While women had certainly played important non-playing roles in the past (including Sheila Ross as President in 1984 and 85 and Judy Liddle as Treasurer in 1991), a few more adjustments needed to be made to accommodate the

Dear ANUAFL Committee,

We would like to extend our thanks for your support and financial contribution in response to our selection in the ACT Women's AFL team this year. This experience has developed us as players and shown ACTWAFL that ANU women have the ability to play at State level.

This year being ANU women's first we are also grateful that you have taken us so seriously from the very beginning. Your continued enthusiasm and support has been noticed by all and is a credit to the club.

As a token of our appreciation we would like to present the Committee with this souvenir stubby holder. This may be placed in the trophy cabinet, to be replaced on that glorious day when ANU women win their first premiership trophy.

Yours in footy,

Danica Ralston

Rebecca Dixon

Lana Palmer

⁵⁷ Jing-ting Chan, Questionnaire response, 2020

⁵⁸ Adapted from email correspondence with Nick Crean, 2020

⁵⁹ Adapted from email correspondence with Jens Light, 2020

⁶⁰ Adapted from email correspondence with Erin Junck, 2020

⁶¹ ANUAFC 2001, *ANU Player Makes Australian Side*, ANUAFC Club News, Vol. 12No. 6

Women's team in an integrated club model. Rumour has it that 2001 was the last time a scantily (or not at all) clad form of entertainment was invited to 4P's, for example.

As Chuggy put it "It was important that the Women's team be an integral part of the Club, so we ensured they were to wear the same jumper as the men and also train at the same time as the men."

It wasn't always smooth sailing – it would be glossing over history to say there was no sexism or double standards shown every now and then. However, the addition of the Women's team and the concerted efforts over many years to ensure all teams worked together as one club, has added significantly to the cultural landscape of the Club over the last 20 years.

2002

Women get their first taste of victory

The 2002 season saw both men's teams play finals footy. Unfortunately the Ressies bowed out in the semi finals defeated 4-4-28 to 10-12-72 by Belconnen. The Seniors made it to the preliminary finals but likewise were unsuccessful, going down 9-7-61 to 12-5-77 against Belconnen.

The season saw the consolidation of the Women's team as part of the new club structure. The 2002 Season Launch was dedicated to 'Women in Sport'. In a letter to the Minister for Sport, Senator the Hon Rod Kemp, regarding the Season Launch, Club Vice President, Andrew Brettargh, noted:

"The introduction of the Women's team has had an enormous impact on the Club. The changes, culturally, socially, and even spiritually have been undoubtedly



*positive. The ANUAFC will be promoting the merits of women's sport and the overwhelmingly positive effects the introduction of the women's team can have on male-dominated sporting environments. The Club is committed to ensuring that the Women's team becomes a permanent and integral part of the ANUAFC."*⁶²

First win for the Women,
South Oval.
Source: Jen Craig

The 2002 season saw definite improvements in the Women's team. Whilst most games still resulted in a loss, we were more competitive. The ball made it into the forward line more often and the backline was able to rest a bit more. The real highlight of the season though came on 20 July 2002 on South Oval's hallowed turf. We beat RMC 4-3-27 to 4-1-25. Lana Palmer kicked three goals and Rebecca Dixon kicked the fourth.⁶³

The week before this historic occasion, members of the North Melbourne Football Club (David King, Leigh Harding and Digby Morrell) came down to South Oval and ran a light training session with the Women's team. 2002 Club Vice President,

⁶² Correspondence from Club Vice President, Andrew Brettargh to Senator the Hon Rod Kemp, 30 January 2002

⁶³ Adapted from email correspondence with Erin Junck, 2020

Penny Fischer, later wrote of the session:

*“They (David, Leigh and Digby) were very professional, patient and encouraging which was really appreciated. The session was very enjoyable and rewarding and as a consequence the girls gained a lot from it. We are certain that the team carried some of the impetus and skills learnt at the session to finally win our first game in two seasons! I am pleased to say that on Saturday, 20 July we scored four goals and three behinds to beat our opponents (Royal Military College, Duntroon) by two points.”*⁶⁴

Looking beyond the win-loss ratio of those first two years, the Women’s team included some pretty outstanding playing talent. In addition to the 2001 awards and state selections, in 2002 Alana Lowes was selected for the ACT Representative Team and Jennifer Craig as a reserve. Alana was named in the All Australian team for the first of four years.⁶⁵

2003

Women’s first grand final appearance

2003 was an up and down type of year – the Seniors and Women’s team made finals but didn’t manage to bring home a flag. Andrew Hermann won the Canberra District Division 1 Best and Fairest Award and Alana Lowes gained All Australian selection. The Wal Pepper Memorial Trophy was added to the season schedule and ANU brought home the trophy in this inaugural year. Off the field, ANU Soccer launched a proposal to take over South Oval, which we and ANU Cricket had to respond to.⁶⁶



For the Women’s team, the 2003 season saw a new coach in Michael ‘Sinko’ Sinkowitsch and an influx of players, seven of whom came across from Ainslie bringing already developed skills and experience with them. The playing and training environment became more competitive and attendance at training became mandatory if you wanted to get a look in for a spot on the weekend. The new injection of talent led the team from wooden spooners in 2002 to a first grand final appearance. Led by captain Lana Palmer, we beat Tuggeranong by the skin of our teeth in the preliminary final. A punched ball in front of Tuggeranong’s goal and a save in the backline in the dying minutes saved the game, a very cool way to reach the grand final.⁶⁷

Women’s team celebrating the 2003 preliminary final win.
Source: Michael Sinkowitsch

64 Letter from Penny Fischer to North Melbourne Football Club dated 22 July 2002

65 ANUAFC 2002 Records

66 Adapted from the 2003 President’s Report

67 Adapted from input provided by Kendelle Williams (Treloar)

Cassidy ‘Cass’ Boyd, a first year player in 2003 recalled the following from that season:

“It was a bit of an upset for us to make the grand final, I think we beat Tuggeranong to get there. I remember being so excited to play at Manuka Oval (it’s such a huge oval I would never be excited to play there again). We weren’t expected to win, and we didn’t. We put in a good showing, however, and we didn’t get completely trounced either. Of the loss, I remember it being a really joyful occasion – we were all proud of our season and happy to have got the chance to play in a grand final. Many of us were quite young too, and for lots of the women on the team it was the first of many ACT Women’s AFL grand finals they would play in.

One thing that stands out to me now, looking back on the women I played with, is that many of them went on to have a huge impact in Women’s AFL in Canberra. Many of them went on to play hundreds of games of football in Canberra or elsewhere. To list a few – Kym Rose was ANU’s first female coach, and the first female Women’s AFL coach in the ACT. Bek Hall and Hannah Gill went on to play many games at ANU and then Eastlake, winning a bunch of premierships, and Bek went on to be the Eastlake Women’s coach. Kendelle Treloar also went on to play many games, and eventually founded the Women’s team for Molonglo – and also coached that team. Lauren Gallagher went on to be a trainer for Ainslie and Molonglo.”⁶⁸

2004–05

The start of something

Seasons 2004 and 2005 were very successful on field for the Club. The Firsts managed to snag a premierships double. The Twos made finals both



Women’s team 2007.
Source: Jana Lewington

years, losing the grand final in 2005 in what would become a common occurrence in the 2000s and 2010s (one team successful, one team not on grand final day). The women couldn’t quite match the success of 2003 but remained very competitive. In 2004 Maddie Bacon became the first woman to play 50 games for the Club, a great achievement from a pioneer Griffnette.

In late 2004 ANU player Kendelle Treloar became the first woman to play 100 games in the ACTWAFU competition. Kendelle played approximately 40 of her first 100 games for us and was captain of the Women’s team in 2006. The remainder of her first 100 games were played at Ainslie and in ACT representative games. Kendelle has played 178 games for Ainslie, ANU and Molonglo and helped establish and coach Molonglo’s Women’s team.

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68 Input provided by Cassidy Boyd

Seniors premiership double: the students did the teaching – by Rohan Langford

2004

Victor Violante, fine sports writer for The Canberra Times that he was, wrote:

“...as the pressure and intensity grew throughout the game, it was the students doing the teaching, finally coming away with...a win over the minor premiers.”

– The Sunday Times, 5 September 2004

It was indeed an intense grand final out at Football Park. Belconnen had rightfully earned the title of Minor Premier; however, ANU had beaten them once during the season – a commanding 30 point victory at the picturesque South Oval. That said, Belconnen got their own back a few weeks later in the preliminary final, defeating ANU by a whopping ten goals to head straight to the grand final as almost unbackable favourites.

In a first half arm wrestle, Belconnen hit the sheds at half time slightly in the ascendancy. It was the old guard that was keeping ANU in the match. Names like Tuan, Lancaster, Vink and Reed stood out like beacons, providing a glimmer of hope for the rest of the team if they were able to come together after the break. Again, in the words of Victor Violante, “With the demoralising defeat from a fortnight ago still fresh in the students’ minds, ANU came out aggressively in the third quarter.” That aggression was served up by warriors such as:

- Tom Gibson, an undersized, yet understated ruckman who literally struck fear into 22 Belconnen hearts that day;
- Charles Craig, whose manic attack on the ball and man lifted his team mates the whole afternoon;
- Ben van den Tol, who, playing against his old club, was a colossus across half back; and,
- Man of the Match-Nick Crean, who completely blanketed Belconnen’s star player, Matthew Walsh and was both courageous and skillful in doing so.



2004 premiership side.

One of my abiding memories of coaching at ANU occurred right on the three quarter time siren.

The electric Chris Smith had the ball (somewhere near the full back line, I believe) and took several bounces, evading numerous opposition players along the way. Chris found himself forward of centre, took a couple more bounces (now starting to rival Michael Long) and from about 55 metres out set sail for home with a perfect drop punt that sailed through two-thirds post height. That was goal five for the quarter. We went into the break 19 points in front after a six point half time deficit, and Chris’ words ring in my ears to this day: “THAT’LL DO!” He was right and the students well and truly did the teaching!

2005

Twelve players from the 2004 premiership team backed up in the decider in 2005. Specifically, Damian West (superstar captain), Tom Ballantyne (VC), William Quinn, Simon Tuan, Daniel O’Reilly, Andrew Reed, Chris Smith, Tom Gibson, Andrew Connor, Ben v/d Tol, Wes Heincke and Andrew



2005 premiership side.
Source: Roban Langford

Lancaster all pulled on the Guernsey again against Belconnen at Jamison Oval. In the off season, a couple of superstar players had been added to the ranks (Ed Knight and Ryan Forsyth), together with a towering young gun (Grayson Stopp) and a raging bull (Joel O'Brien). The team was a very strong team indeed with an even spread of skill, pace and temperament. We were well aware that Belconnen were still a very difficult opponent; throughout the course of the season, we played them three times losing twice – once by ten goals, once by a point and then playing out an exciting draw at Kippax Oval mid-season.

I felt we had their measure, but would still have to play well to beat them. Belconnen must have been supremely confident, judging by their club website write-up a couple of days before the game where they stated: "We expect a close tussle until three-quarter time at which point Belconnen's superior skill will see them prevail by five goals coming home in the last." What actually occurred was anything but!

Five goals to two at half time, kicking seven goals to four in the second half proved too much for Belconnen. Inaccuracy also hurt the result in the end with ANU kicking 12–15 (albeit five were rushed to further underline how much pressure Belconnen were under throughout the game). Club stalwarts Andrew Reed and Tom Ballantyne both kicked two goals, with ten of the team getting on the score sheet, which highlighted the attacking nature of the side and the skill by which they played the game in general. James Lauchland was named Best on Ground – a very well-deserved honour for a very good player.

The best reporting came from the Belconnen Magpies club website where they wrote: "Belconnen had not lost a game in 2005 (one draw) up until Saturday and it must be a bitter pill to swallow for the players and coaching staff who have fallen to ANU in two grand finals." It was a great honour to be associated with these two premiership victories. Together with Damian West and Tom Ballantyne, who led the squad superbly, an indelible bond was forged amongst that group that exists to this day; and, especially amongst the 12 players who played in both.

Same shit, different year

While the years pass and the world changes, some things stay the same. Here is a selection of club messages that reach across the generations.

This document grew out of a history project that I began back in 1991, coinciding with the last reunion. Like other attempts at writing a history of our club it has been an on again, off again affair.

- Wombat

Finally, I would point out that the ANUAFC does not have at its disposal the financial and human resources available to other clubs. In the main, administrative and funding matters are handled by players and it is important, therefore, that the work be spread as evenly as possible amongst as many members as possible.

4. Availability for Matches.

To ensure that the Club meets its playing commitments, and that teams give of their best, it is essential that all players make themselves available, so far as possible, for all matches, especially during vacations. A draw for this season is attached so that players can make adjustments to their commitments.

Subs

At the time of writing this column, 45 blokes have paid their subs. They were due at the end of May, and it's now the middle of August.

The views expressed in the ANUAFC News are not necessarily those of the ANUAFC.



ACTAFL Looks to Restructure

As discussed on numerous occasions we will be implementing a fining system for leaving your shit behind after training and games.

\$5 - boots/shoes left behind

\$2 - per other item of clothing (this includes belts, ties, etc. socks count individually)

\$10 - leaving your guernsey behind after a game



"Tuan - the rubber man, gets smashed, yet simply gets up again and again and again . . . magnificent" - something like that anyway

Trivia Night A Huge Success



The Wal Pepper Cup⁶⁹

The Wal Pepper cup or the 'Peppergrinder' as it was warmly named in the early days was brought about by the passing of my father, Walter Pepper (affectionately known as Wal or Wally).

Dad was an English gent and for anyone that had the privilege of meeting him this is an apt description, a gentleman in every way. Dad fought in the Second World War in Her Majesty's Service on the aircraft carrier HMS Fencer. The war ended and Dad moved to Australia where he later met Mum (Shirley), started a family and in short fell in love with the game of Australian Rules Football. He loved the Melbourne Demons and I vividly recall being at the 'G' and hearing his cheers of "go boy, go" whenever Robbie Flower ran the wing ball in hand, taking bounces at leisure. It was from these days at the footy and living and going to school in Melbourne where the three Pepper boys picked up the Aussie Rules bug. All three of Wal's boys played locally and Dad could be relied upon to taxi us around (including the girls to netball), wave the flags or contribute to the game in some small way.

The eldest son Mark followed in Wal's footsteps and entered the Navy and was based in Canberra (Harman) for a period of time. Mark and I being inseparable in those days meant it wasn't long before I made the move in 1988 to the Capital. Looking for a club where I could make some mates, I settled on the mighty Griffins. In 1991 and '92 Mark also joined the Griff's, a proud moment for Dad to see his two boys playing football together.



Mark aspired to be an administrator and I suspect the unruly ANUAFC might've lacked a little bit of structure for the sailor and he took off. He left the Griff's to play with his mates at HMAS Harman (the Hogs), though in those days clubs didn't come much more unruly than Harman! I stayed at South Oval and took on roles for the Committee and loved every moment of being a member of the Griff's.

The two Pepper boys were now at opposition teams and it would be fair to say the rivalry really began. We would get up a head of steam advocating for our own club and looking for any opportunity to bring the other down a peg. The Griff's had great success from '93 winning flags and taking everything on offer. As you can imagine, the rivalry got stronger to the point of spite and sideline banter, which further fuelled the brothers' passion.

The Wal Pepper Cup.
Source: Chey Bowers

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⁶⁹ Contribution from Chris Pepper, November 2020

In 2002 when my father passed away, members from each team attended the funeral in Melbourne, united on this occasion to pay respect to a man who just loved watching his boys play footy. It was decided at this celebration of our father's life that every year, both clubs should play for a Cup in Wal's honour, in the first game we faced each other each year. We all agreed and the 'Wal Pepper Cup' was born.

If you were around back then you would know the rivalry prior to the Cup, for those that weren't, understand it was fierce. I think it would be fair to say the emotion once the Wal Pepper Cup was introduced further motivated both teams and it really did become a game on the calendar not to be missed. Players past and present would make a day of it and watch both teams go over and above for the privilege of holding the Cup aloft.

Both Mark and I are life members of our respective clubs. Both still take great interest in the clubs and Cup and are very proud of the ANUAFC and Harman (now Googong) for continuing to honour Wal and us, by playing in great competitive spirit and in memory of our beloved father. I hope the two clubs continue to play for the Wal Pepper Cup for many, many, more years to come. Go Griffs.



"Wal Pepper Memorial Cup"

The Wal Pepper Memorial Cup came about the way things usually do in football.....over a beer !
The concept was conceived when a few lads from Canberra were attending Wal's funeral in Melbourne and discussed the idea with Mark and Chris. Needless to say both boys jumped at the idea.

Both the Harman and ANU football clubs are synonymous for one thing: they both have a Pepper involved with them. Mark having also spent time at ANU, and Chris being quite close with a few of the Harman lads. Their hardwork and dedication to each club has been rewarded with both Mark and Chris subsequently being awarded Life Membership.

When Harman and ANU play, the games are generally a fiery affair, and today should prove no different. Infact, it would be argued that because the players have a more tangible object to play for it could prove more heated than usual !!!

"Game Day"

Harman and ANU will compete against each other on the Morgan Dunbar Oval at the following times:

Reserves: Commences at 1200
Firsts: Commences at 1415

The "Hogs Trough" will be open and selling all club merchandise as well as the normal range of hot food, drinks and confectionary.

"This ones for Wal"

Chris Pepper, Wal Pepper
and Mark Pepper, 1991.
Source: Doug Williams

2006

Merger talks yet again⁷⁰

During the Seniors premiership double in '04 and '05, the Club Executive was also seriously considering a proposal from the ANU SRA (Sport and Recreation Association) and the University of Canberra Union to create a combined Universities Australian Rules Football Club.

The proposal itself was detailed, as was the Club's consideration of it. The proposal suggested, as there was no University of Canberra (UC) Australian Rules club, the ANUAFC could establish itself as "the only non-military university Australian Rules Club in Canberra". The proposal also listed how such a combined enterprise would operate, including UC students paying for ANU SRA associate memberships, both universities providing sponsorship on a player headcount basis, the combined use of UC and ANU (South Oval) facilities, as well as a requirement to hold at least one function with the UC Union to acknowledge its sponsorship (apparently not an "onerous or difficult requirement to fill").

The Committee, under then President David Ellis, weighed the pros and cons of the proposal, making clear to all involved the proposal was for a combined club, not a merger of the previous UC team and the ANUAFC. The listed positives included greater numbers and more competitive squads, improved facilities and more opportunities for fundraising, counterbalanced by the negatives such as a possible 'loss of identity', a perception that ANU was 'taking over' the UC playing base, increased administration and other practical issues brought on by operating across two locations. One of the greatest considerations was as to whether the iconic ANU royal blue and white 'V' playing guernsey would have to change radically to incorporate the UC design.

The proposal was ultimately rejected given the outsized negatives and risk to the legacy of the ANUAFC. Needless to say, the Griffins would have been a very different outfit in 2021 should the proposal have been successful.

2007

Reserves' inaugural premiership at last!⁷¹

The Reserves had been close to clinching the premiership many times before the 2007 season but couldn't quite get it done in the finals. Shaun 'Manno' Manning had taken up the coaching role – his body had taken a lifetime of punishment on the field in the preceding years and although he was able to muster the odd cameo, he was ready to shuffle the magnets to place the players somewhere around the field. As Australia Day passed, players began to head down to South to begin preseason. A good mix of new and old players gelled quickly and a strong standard was being set on the training track. Manno could sense that a strong playing group was forming and decided to bring together a third of the team to form a leadership group – a coaching decision that has inspired many successful modern AFL teams to follow this leadership model.

The season began against old rivals Harman. During the warm ups one of the newly appointed leaders had to pull out at the last minute with the squirts – fortunately there were many emergencies waiting to step up to fill the void. During the game another newly appointed leader ran out of the backline and tried to bounce the ball...a skill at which he wasn't quite adept – the end result being caught with the ball and earning a broken shoulder for his efforts. In better news, the Reserves began the season with a strong win.

70 Adapted from email correspondence between ANUAFC Committee in February 2004

71 Adapted from input by Phil Lewington with the assistance of Shaun Manning, Dan Jones and Ben Hermann

The Reserves used 61 different players – rotating ten players a week in the first nine games with each player pulling on the famous Griffin guernsey playing their part whilst trying to decipher Manno's coaching tips. During the season the team kicked 14 goals or more in 14 games, scored more than 200 points in a game and scored 2000 points in 18 games.

Many players used in the Reserves in 2007 could easily have slotted into the First Grade team – the strength of the team can be summed up by the Club legend who played through most generations – Simon Tuan – who was heard to occasionally argue that the Reserves would give the First Grade side an even contest...if the Reserves turned up to the ground sober!

Some highlights of the regular season included Simon Tuan playing his 250th, Jim Leitch kicking seven goals one week, then seven points the next and Steve Barwick's lazy ten goals in a half.

Heading into the finals series, Manno had to make some tough selection decisions. The players who were selected stood tall in the first final in a top of the table contest against Gungahlin. The Reserves completely dominated the match to not only book themselves a place in the grand final but also a big night of celebrations at the RSL. Anyone who has played for the ANU will have fond memories of moments on the field and the success that has gone with it over many years, but without a doubt it is the social aspect that has continued to make this Club extra special. To keep players somewhat focused the week before the grand final, Manno called for a rare weekend training session – potentially fearing what the players might be getting up to. Manno kept the training sessions simple with plenty of 'up-downs' and an emphasis on second efforts. The weekend session did allow a small contingent of players to stay together for some afternoon beers to help begin focusing on the weekend ahead!



The grand final was played against Belconnen – the team was full of confidence heading into the game. The first quarter was a bit of a battle, there seemed to be a bit of nerves amongst the playing group and, along with a few tough calls and some unlucky bounces, the game was in the balance at quarter time. Manno pulled us all together and gave some clear directions. The tide turned in the second quarter and the Reserves got on top and took a solid lead into half time. During the third quarter, ANU players ran much harder and faster all over the ground – the up-downs in training had boosted our fitness levels. By the end of the game, ANU had run out comfortable winners. Celebrations began straight after the game with the players able to sit back in the stands with beers in hand watching the First Grade side in their grand final (sadly it wouldn't be until 2020 that ANU would taste victory in the Seniors and Reserves in the same year).

It wasn't until the 2007 Presentation Night that most of the players realised that this was the first time the ANU Reserves had tasted premiership glory. The 2007 Reserves were a special unit of players that began a successful era for the Magoos – many different players made the season exceptional but special thanks has to go to our amazing coach Manno!

2007 Reserves premiership side.

Source: Bec Jones

A tale of two Ressies⁷²

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times

We are both children of the 70s. One of us (SB) was born in the Aussie Rules heartland of Bendigo, Victoria, with a Sherrin in his hands and the Bloods in his blood. The other (GB) was born in the Steeden-littered wasteland of Mackay, Queensland, where Aussie Rules was only played on the ABC.

Our paths converged on South Oval, where we would become both Griffin millennials and Griffin centurions. Joining the Club in 2005 we each went on to play over 100 games solely in the Reserves (aka Ressies, Twos, Magoos). For both of us – one a premiership-winning captain and Best Clubman, the other a Griffin Revue-winner and most-capped emergency player – playing Reserve-grade footy for the ANUAFC was undoubtedly the best of times.

Ressies fixtures were a perfect mixture of city and country footy, with many a road trip to places even more rural and remote than Tuggeranong. Those long drives home to Canberra with a busted ankle, knee, shoulder, finger, face, after drubbings at the hands of Cootamundra or Cooma or Goulburn or Batemans Bay or Yass were very much the worst of times.

It was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness

Everyone is welcomed with open arms at the Griffs, but this is especially the case in the Reserves.

Being part of a university club in a cosmopolitan metropolis, the Ressies provided the perfect place for visitors from foreign countries – China, Germany, North Queensland – to try, learn, and

play our indigenous game. Rarely were goals more Didimiotisly⁷³ celebrated than when scored by one of our international imports in what was usually their first and only game of Aussie Rules.

Part nursery for the up and comers, part purgatory for the down and outs, the Magoos had the generational mix and fraternal feel of that cinematic masterpiece *Old School*. As ‘older blokes’ in the Twos, some misguided first years may have mistakenly looked up at us⁷⁴ as wizened fonts of footballing-wisdom. But, despite being young, dumb, and full of courtesy and respect for their elders, they soon cottoned on to the fact that our returning/starting to play footy as unfit 30-somethings was truly the height of foolishness.

It was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity

In reflection, our years with the Ressies really were an era of belief, confidence, and optimism. Since 2005, we have seen the Twos win six premierships – making the Magoos the most successful team at the Club this century! Looking back, we see that this success was built on the solid foundations laid and contributions made by Griffins legends past.

The first of those premierships, in 2007, was coached by ANUAFC Life Member Shaun ‘Manno’ Manning whose Honour Board listings cover almost every award category and span 19 years from 1991 (Reserves Runner-up Best and Fairest) to our next premiership in 2010 (Reserves Players’ Player).

72 By Shane ‘Bolithimo’ Bolitho and Geoffrey ‘Joffa’ Buchanan (apologies to Charles Dickens)

73 Term coined after renowned goal celebrator Kosta Didimiotis, Reserves Player/Coach 2013–14

74 Figuratively speaking, as we are both short arses. Despite being the same height, SB is 5’7” and GB is 5’6”

If anyone had told us that in 2010, we would win a grand final at Manuka by a point in extra time, we would have laughed in their faces with incredulity!

It was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness

It truly was the season of Light. Waking up on the Sunday after the 2007 grand final, in the fug and dregs of the previous night's beer-soaked, RSL abominations was, however, the season of Darkness.

It was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair

Each preseason, we returned to South Oval refreshed and fully carbo-loaded having taken great care to avoid maintaining any fitness over the off-season. Each preseason would see a hundred new smiling faces pledging allegiance to the Mighty Griffins! A hundred new names to try to remember, but ultimately just calling everyone 'Mate!'. The start of each year brought renewal and a renewed sense of hope.

Then, as the season progressed, we would inevitably encounter those frosty July mornings in the depths of uni holidays. In despair, we would find ourselves, twenty minutes before siren time, phoning in favours from Griffins long retired, struggling to get at least eighteen bodies on the field.

We had everything before us, we had nothing before us

Without fail, come the first magpie-swoop of the season and with the alluring scent of finals in the air, they would re-emerge, coming out of the woodwork, suddenly we would have everything before us.

Making the trek out to Amaroo, the despair elicited by the shivering sheep in the opposing paddock, and that bloody windmill over at the school! We lost the toss and had to kick into the six-goal breeze, we had nothing before us.



We were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way

But we won! Time to sing that ripper of a song! "Second verse! Second verse!" In the rooms we were flying to the top of the goalposts! Later, at Hellenic, Hutch got the mug for Best on Ground. He tried to go to Heaven, but the mug had other ideas and after sculling ten too many beers young Hutch went the other way. He went 'Down! Down! Down! Down! Down!'.
Down!'

It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known

For both of us – the seasoned veteran and the 31-year-old virgin – heading to that first training session at South Oval in 2005 was one of the best things we have ever done. Since the 1960s, the Ressies has opened the door to the joys of footy for anyone wanting to give it a go. For that, and for the friendships and memories we have made along the way, we will be forever grateful to the Griffs. It is a far, far better rest that we will go to for having known the glory, the honour, the bliss.

*Singing with gusto at
Manuka Oval.
Source: Bec Jones*



Simone Huntington winning the tap against Riverina.

Source: Bec Jones

2008

The times, they aren't always great

2008 turned out to be a tough year for the Club both on and off the field. None of the three teams made it to finals, although the Club still fielded over 100 players across the three divisions. The Ressies were competitive for most of the season but lacked consistency and the Seniors suffered “from the perennial ANU problem of trying to field a settled team from week to week.”⁷⁵

There was also drama off the field with uncertainty regarding the future of South Oval (again!) and the loss of the beloved RSL as the major sponsor (and drinking hole of choice).

The Women's team added its fair share to the drama of 2008. The preseason began with an exodus of players to other clubs or interstate and the search was on for a new coach. The remaining players banded together to recruit as best we could from all that the university campus had to offer us. At the start of the season our squad stood at around 30 players, with only about ten of the women having previously played and the rest having only the range

of experience from ‘a bit’ to ‘never having seen a game of Aussie Rules.’ A new coach was found only to be lost in an unedifying meltdown at the umpires mid season that earned him a trip to the tribunal. First year player, Emily McGuinness, and men's player, Dan ‘Almost Best’ Jones, valiantly stepped up to the plate and coached the team through the rest of the season. As the games rolled by it became clear that we lacked the depth of experienced players needed to take it to the top teams in the league. Despite the setbacks “the team maintained their enthusiasm and competitive spirit throughout a season in which they battled to win a game.”⁷⁶

This began a (relatively) long and tough period on the field for the Women's team. Losses in the triple digits were not unheard of and many a player called in favours from friends who had never played footy before in order to field a team. That being said, this period also brought with it a great sense of camaraderie, sportsmanship and sheer love for the game (despite the thrashings). The escapades off the field never faltered and the relationship with the mens' teams was strengthened through several years of mens' players stepping up and coaching the Women's team.

75 President's Report 2008

76 President's Report 2008

The Steve Barwick Memorial Shield⁷⁷

My fondest memory of Steve was Presentation Night 2002. Steve and I were sitting together at the back of the RSL function room (now Hellenic in the City). It was my first year at the Club, and to be honest, I'd had a good year. Round after round I was invited to skol a beer, with Steve leading the chant "Here's to Hermy, he's true blue..."

If I managed to get back to the table, Steve was there to ensure I kept my water levels up and that I had a clear run to the bathroom should I need it (I did). The night culminated with Steve and I ceremoniously launching champagne glasses tied to helium balloons 'into orbit' from the balcony. I'm not sure if we were successful or not, as my next memory was paying the \$80 cleaning fee to a taxi driver...

I think that typifies everyone's memory of Steve – he was the life of the party, always the one to push you to your limits, but also the first one to pick you up and hand you a glass of water in times of need.

Unbeknownst to even his closest friends, Steve was hiding something. And whatever it was, he hid it well – an unwaveringly positive bloke, a stellar footballer, and a professional with a career that was taking him to the top.

In October 2008, the world lost a top bloke and great friend. To pay tribute to Steve, the Griffins challenged Eastlake for the inaugural Steve Barwick Memorial Shield on 27th June 2009 at Kingston Oval. The game was opened with some stirring words from Noel and Matt Barwick, Steve's father and brother. ANU came out on top that day, a fitting and emotional end for the sea of family and friends there to support.

Each year, the game was honoured by Noel Barwick's attendance to toss the coin and say a few words. Both clubs held fundraisers in support of Beyond Blue.

In 2015, the League was restructured and ANU lost the opportunity to play Eastlake on an annual basis. Although efforts have been made to continue the tradition, the passion of the early years has faded, as Steve's friends and family drift away from Canberra and the ANU. I hope that this annual fixture is revived, so that the next generation of Griffins can also share this important piece of Club history.

Steve will always be remembered as an ANUAFC legend, who played 177 passionate games and provided many years of incomparable service as Treasurer and Committee member. The shield remains proudly displayed at KPMG's Canberra Office, blessing me and many others with the memories of Steve and his time at the ANU.



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⁷⁷ Contribution from Andrew Hermann, December 2020

2009

Hogs slaughtered as students bring home the bacon⁷⁸

It is impossible to reflect on the 2009 premiership without reference to the week before, the preliminary final versus Woden. After witnessing the Magoos bow out by less than a kick, the Seniors were headed in the same direction at three quarter time. Down by 21 points and staring down the barrel of an embarrassing straight sets finals exit, the lads picked themselves up off the canvas and stormed into the Big Dance booting an unanswered 44 points in the final term. Ryan 'Rhino' Forsyth, Cameron Lauchland, Jack Doherty and Steve 'Buttons' Heincke led the charge. From the moment the siren sounded that afternoon, most at the ground knew the 2009 pennant was going to end up with the Griffins.

Co-coach (with Mick Kirk) and premiership player Billy Quinn recounted the details of the week leading up to the grand final:

"Despite all the reminders that the grand final is like any other game – it isn't. There's an obligation to attend and sink a few mid-weekers at the League Best and Fairest, it's the only time in the year when there is a strong 50 person plus attendance at training, there's whispers of Mad Monday clobber, and there's nerves – the injured and out of form sweat for a week to see whether they'll be named in the final 22. After the prelim heist, the decision to go in with an unchanged line-up was a simple one."

Our opponents in the grand final were the Harman Hogs – a team who had knocked us over a couple of times throughout the year and most recently, in the preliminary final by three points. Harman were a great team, who were spearheaded by five or six blokes who had played a lot of footy at a much

higher level in their earlier and slimmer years. To have success against Harman, you needed to keep their best quiet, which was our primary focus for the game.

The day itself got off to a rough start. Matthew 'Mero' Meredith couldn't get through a fitness test and was forced to hand his spot over to David Orr who had missed a month off footy with a back injury. Had the coaches known he'd wear a skivvy under his playing jumper, they would've handed the vacancy to someone else. The blue skivvy/helmet combo was, and is still to this day, one of the most embarrassing things seen on a football field.

There's a couple of things that make the grand final a different game to those that you've played earlier in the year. You have to pay to get into the ground, there's a footy record (where some punter has a crack at writing a match preview when they haven't been anywhere near a game of Third Grade footy), there's supporters, and you take the field via a passageway lined with about 100 heavily intoxicated supporters. However, nothing is more local footy

Post grand final celebrations.



78 Adapted from contribution by Billy Quinn

big dance than standing arm in arm with your teammates and belting out the national anthem while looking into the empty Manuka Oval stands – it is truly spine tingling stuff.

The game started in a bit of an arm-wrestle. After an exchange of early goals, we took in a small advantage at the first break. While Harman were made up of quality footballers, they were old and round. It was important for us to be with them early as we knew we could get away from them in the latter stages on the wider expanses of Manuka Oval.

The second term was feisty and after weathering a couple of blows, our midfielders started showing signs of getting the upper-hand. Harman were starved of the prune and when they got it, they didn't want it – they were belted from pillar to post. They played the second stanza without troubling the scoreboard attendant and when we kicked away late in the quarter, we took in a comfortable four goal lead.

In each grand final there is a defining moment that separates the two teams. Think Steven Milne's wicked bounce in '09, Scarlett's toe poke in the same match, or Leo Barry's mark in '05. Bizarrely, the defining moment for this grand final happened during half time. As we took to the field for the second half, our opponents were nowhere to be seen. Unaccustomed to playing on the big stage, Harman found themselves lost within the palatial Manuka Oval sheds and after several warnings, the umpires lost patience and got the second half underway with only one team out there. With no opponent and pressure, it was no surprise to see Brent 'Risky' Ritchie bob up and get on the end of an uncontested Rhino centre clearance to slot a major.

After literally not showing up for the second half, it was clear that Harman were out of breath, ideas and contention. With a fitness edge and an unrelenting desire, our midfield led the charge as we pulled away to record a convincing ten goal victory.



Seniors with the 2009 grand final spoils.

In such a dominant display, it's always difficult to shortlist the better performers for the day. Robert 'Sirry' Sirr, Anthony 'Pooch' Quinn and David 'Orry' Orr ran amok in the middle, while Jack Doherty and Josh 'Cliffy' Cliff were a handful up forward. Five or six blokes were given a role to nullify Harman's best. Craig 'Spanner' Spencer and the skipper, Matthew 'Crawsh' Crawshaw were fantastic, their opponents didn't give a whimper. Chris Clowry had the unenviable job of tagging the league Best and Fairest winner and it was that effort which saw him take out the mug later that night. Unfortunately for Chris, his medal was paired with a sling around his neck as he did his collarbone in the dying stages of the match. The medal recipient for best afield though went to Brent Ritchie. A half-time move from the wing to full forward saw the bald beacon ram home four second half goals to complete the slaughter.

It was a well-deserved title after missing finals the year before and it was no surprise to see it celebrated long into the following week.

Wag saves punter's cup

THEY celebrated long and hard at the ANU Australian Football Club after securing the AFL Canberra Division 3 premiership, but the silverware nearly didn't make it home. A player's girlfriend was wandering in the Canberra Casino area the morning after Mad Monday shenanigans and noticed something shining in the bushes. Lo and behold, it was the premiership Cup, which a tired and emotional player and punter had forgotten to collect after a late-night flutter. A quick phone call and the girlfriend was able to return the Cup to its owners in time for presentation night.

Source: *The Canberra Times*

ANU Old Boys

While we will always consider ourselves to be forever young, there comes a time in everyone's playing career when we decide to 'hang up the boots'. One thing that is certain, however, is that we often wait until that choice is made for us rather than of our own volition.

Many over the past 60 years have experienced the slow slide into 'retirement' (if one can truly retire from an amateur sporting endeavour). It's a relatable experience: watching one's footballing prowess fade, noticing your place in the selection order for the Seniors slowly sink lower and lower, realising the fact that you've been permanently dropped to the Reserves and not just going back for a week or two to 'find some form'. In fact, the shame of being permanently dropped to the Twos and increasingly unlikely to return to the Ones is the true death knell to a once promising footballing career.

For those determined to chase the glory days of yesteryear, or for those determined to hold out from retirement while the knees have been reconstructed (in some cases replaced) and the greying hair has gone fully grey (or disappeared entirely), the ANU Old Boys exist to serve this purpose.

The establishment of the ANU Old Boys is murky at best. 'Masters' football, as the competition is often referred, has been around in the ACT since 1981. Since then, generations of past players of the ANUAFC have been known to frequent Masters tournaments all around the Territory and indeed, the country.

The only difference between other Aussie Rules matches is the supposed age range, although the ANU Old Boys have opted to cast a wide net by setting a minimum age of 30 years for any aspiring players, always ensuring a high standard of football against main rivals: the AFL Masters ACT.

Since around 2010, the ANU Old Boys get the annual opportunity to dust off their boots and showcase Masters footy down at South Oval. Usually coinciding with a triple header of the ANUAFC, the matches have been dutifully organised over the years by super volunteers Darryl Symons and Stephen Darlington, Club stalwart Simon Tuan, the ANUAFC Committee of the day, and with many others involved.

So successful have these days been that in subsequent years, fringe Twos players have lined up for the Old Boys despite themselves being in fact 'young boys'. The ledger stands at roughly 10-1 in favour of the ANUAFC Old Boys.

The connection between the ANU Old Boys and the AFL Masters ACT runs deep. So much so, past ANUAFC players Gary Robb and Alan Reid have been inducted as life members of the Territory's peak Masters footballing body.

In recent years, and with the progression in age of club games record holder Tuanny, the ANU Old Boys seem to be taking the second chance at a footballing career more seriously. While Griffins Alan Reid, Leigh McPhan, and Stephen Darlington have won AFL Masters ACT Best and Fairests over the years, Tuanny and Leigh McPhan have also been selected in the Masters All Australian teams following national carnivals in 2018 and 2017 respectively.

So whenever you may think to yourself ‘the mind is willing but the body is weak,’ just think of the second chance at glory.

ACT Masters vs ANU Old Boys 2019.

Source: Brianna Williams





Shaun 'Manno' Manning 200th game, 2006.
Source: Shaun Manning



Women's quarter time huddle, 2010.
Source: Jana Lewington



2002 Canteen.
Source: Jen Craig



David Wagland winning the tap against ADFA, 2007.
Source: Ryan Forsyth

2010s





THE ANUAFC IN THE 2010s

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Club membership (2010) | 95-115 (estimate) |
| Club membership (2020) | 120 (estimate) |
| League(s) played in | AFL Canberra |
| Premierships for the decade | 2010, 2012, 2013, 2016 (Reserves) 2019 (Women's), 2020 (Seniors and Reserves) |
| Number of premierships (cumulative) | 19 |
| Post-match venue | Olims Hotel Hellenic Club in the City |
| ANU population (1920) | 17,466 enrolled students 3819 total staff |
| Population of Canberra | 398,000 |

Season Results

| | Seniors | Reserves | Women's |
|------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2010 | 4th Div 3 | Premiers Div 4 | 7th |
| 2011 | 4th Div 3 | 2nd Div 4 | 9th |
| 2012 | 2nd Div 2 | Premiers Div 3 | 9th |
| 2013 | 2nd Div 3 | Premiers Div 4 | 2nd Div 2 |
| 2014 | 6th Div 1 | 9th Div 2 | 9th |
| 2015 | 2nd Div 3 | 2nd Div 4 | 9th |
| 2016 | 2nd Div 3 | Premiers Div 4 | 10th |
| 2017 | 3rd Div 3 | 3rd Div 4 | 9th |
| 2018 | 4th Div 3 | 4th Div 4 | 2nd Div 2 |
| 2019 | 2nd Div 3 | 3rd Div 4 | Premiers Div 2 |
| 2020 | Premiers Div 3 | Premiers Div 4 | 3rd Div 2 |

2010s

More finals, less flags

It is fair to say that the sixth decade of the ANUAFC was exhilaratingly successful on many levels and hair-tearingly frustrating on others (perhaps explaining the increasing emergence of the bald eagle, often seen patrolling the wing or scaling great heights across the half-back line). Across the three teams, the Club participated in 15 grand finals from 2010 to 2020. Seven of those 15 encounters resulted in flags coming home to South.

In 2019, the women had their first taste of premiership glory after losing two previous grand final berths in 2013 and 2018. For six of the ten years we had two or more teams competing in grand finals but it wasn't until 2020 that we managed to get the Club's name engraved into the trophy for both men's teams in the same year. Needless to say we got pretty adept at celebrating and commiserating at the same time during this decade.

In 2014, along with ADFA, all three ANU teams competed in the AFL Canberra Senior competition; Men's First and Second Grade and Women's First Grade. This was a challenging and rewarding year, with few causes for celebration yet demonstrating again that we can compete beyond our means. This trip to the lofty heights of senior football reminded us why we strive to be the best amateur community club.

Off the field we consolidated our Club values and our place at the top of community football in Canberra. The off-field innovations and successes in this decade are something of which we should all be proud.

2010

What to say about the 2010 Reserves grand final?⁷⁹

For over a decade now, "we won by a point in extra-time" has proven sufficient description for what was, most who were there agree, one of the most intensely fought and ultimately magical games of footy they have ever witnessed. While some memories may fade into the mists of time and merge and mutate like fever-dreams, certain scenes and sequences of events from that incredible day will remain etched indelibly. Not least of all those last few frantic minutes in the second period of extra-time.

Grand final day was a magnificent, sunny spring day. The team wasn't announced until game-day. As with many a grand final team throughout history, up to a dozen deserving players missed out. Coach Richard Bartlett had to make some big calls. One call in particular: the selection of Matt 'Moskow' Armstrong. Some said it was contentious (he had barely played the requisite games to qualify to play Reserves,) others that it was a no-brainer (he was a bloody good footballer, not to mention, shit-stirrer extraordinaire). After the fact, everyone agreed it was an inspired decision (even if he did wear non-regulation white ankle-socks): Best on Ground.

I remember clearly the interesting shade of green Brook Dixon went when Rich told him he would be lining up on Goulburn's Heath 'Rusty' Russell. To be fair, anyone tasked with defending against that bloke would have been justified in feeling some trepidation, because Rusty routinely kicked big, big bags, and would get 40-or-more touches to go with them.

I remember Shaun Manning had Steve Barwick's number-2 scrawled on the back of both hands.

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⁷⁹ Input provided by Shane Bolitho with contributions from Brook Dixon, Shaun Manning, Richard Bartlett, Chris Mitchell, Warwick Jay, Andrew Reed, Ben Hermann and Josh Davey

For many of us, that grand final was played in the shadow of losing Steve. His name came up during the half-time team huddle. He was on a lot of our minds that day. At the end of the game, as well as the immense sense of pride and exhilaration, there was also grief and distress. In the rooms, the players in a circle about to sing the song, we talked about Steve and what this flag would have meant to him. The premiership cup was placed on the floor in the middle of the circle of players. A few of us were in tears and could barely muster voice enough to sing the songs.

I remember the warm-up in the rooms was loud. Rich had us pumped. He was amped, but calm.

And then Andy 'Finners' Finlay went his famous shade of raging-red during what was just about his finest pre-game rev-up of the year. Heart bigger than Phar Lap's! That night after the game he smashed out 50 push-ups on the piss at Olims!

I don't remember if we won the toss or not, but we kicked to the northern end.

"The Swans jumped out to an early first quarter lead but ANU took hold of the match in the second as they kicked five unanswered goals. The Goulburn side relished the chance to play at Manuka Oval for the second time in two seasons, but were harried at every turn by a stubborn ANU outfit. It was their opponents' tenacity that Russell said was a deciding factor in the match."

— The Goulburn Post, 13 September 2010

Late in the fourth quarter, not long to go, Andrew Reed takes a mark 30 metres out, straight in front at the southern end. A goal would put us 11-points up. Game over. Reedy goes back, hits the right-hand goalpost. Goulburn go end-to-end and kick a goal.

With only a minute remaining, a Goulburn player deep in their forward-line is unmarked and the ball is kicked in his direction. A certain uncontested

mark. ANU hearts sink. From out of nowhere Justin Rheese, covering the length of a half-sized Olympic swimming pool with each stride, somehow gets a fist to the ball, sending it up into the air. Without breaking stride, Rheesey continues full-pelt, dives and catches the ball ala Glenn McGrath circa 2002, cradling it like it is a newborn baby.

Extra-time, here we come! Warrick 'Wazza' Jay kicked the only score of the first five-minute period of extra-time. A behind, that many have said, won us the flag.

In the second five-minute period, Moskow receives a handball and mongrels a running shot at goal that somehow ends up looking like a lace-out pass to Chris Mitchell who takes the mark, 45-metres out, on a 45-degree angle. He goes back and wobbles it through to put ANU seven points up with only a couple of minutes left. 'Clutch' I think they call it these days.

After the maiden ANU Reserves premiership in 2007, the Twos endured the dreaded hangover in 2008, missing finals and finishing an unremarkable mid-table. But in 2009 we made finals and although we lost to Goulburn by a point in the preliminary final, a good core of players had begun to form. In 2010 we were optimistic. Our squad was a good mix of old and new. Club legend, Shaun Manning, came out of retirement for one last crack (ably assisted by about 10kg of black knee-brace). We had veterans such as Andrew Reed, Ben Chapman, Brook Dixon and The Reverend Phil Evans (who had the softest hands you have ever seen and was maybe the most mild-mannered bloke to ever play Fourth Division footy.) And we had a talented list of young blokes, the likes of Rhys Forsyth (Reserves Best and Fairest that year), Ray Quinn, Josh Davey, Dom Delaney, Andy Kulic and Justin Rheese to name but a few.

I had the honour of captaining this great group of players. After ten years, I reckon it's okay to admit the captaincy probably secured my grand final

ticket: at the end of a long, hard season I was pretty busted up, and Rich could easily have left me out. I'm bloody glad he didn't, and in fairness, I'd have walked through fire for the team. Gritty, never-say-die, body-on-the-line, tenacious footy was the brand we'd built through the season. I'm proud to say that's what we delivered in the 2010 grand final. And I'm beyond proud that I was able to lead such an awesome team.

While the Goulburn Swans were all-conquering and the team to beat that year, we seriously pushed them at Hughes late in the season. A missed chance from close-range late in the game proved a turning point and they beat us by a couple of goals. But that was the moment we started thinking our best footy might be good enough to beat the teams above us. Footy training in September, there is always a special feeling in the air. In grand final week, 2010, that feeling was electric!

Those final moments of extra time. We're seven points up after Chris Mitchell's goal, with no more than 45 seconds on the clock. Rusty, Goulburn's sublime champion, senses the moment. Seconds before the bounce, he moves to the centre, leaving his tag stuck outside the square.

Rusty kicked five goals that day, adding to his 100 odd for the season. He was a weapon. We knew he had to be tagged hard all day. So we did. He would have kicked ten otherwise, and I wouldn't be penning this story. Brook got the job on Rusty most of the day. Rusty's team-mates hated the tag and tried to bash it loose. But Brook, the stubborn, brilliant bugger that he is, stuck to it, working with the entire team to blunt Rusty's devastating game.

And yet, with a minute to go in the second period of extra-time, Rusty still did his best to win the game all by himself. Rusty reads the tap in the middle, sticks the ball under his arm, takes two bounces and kicks a running torpedo from the edge of the centre square. The ball bounces, miraculously evading the

desperate lunges of several ANU defenders, bounces again and then bounces through. The Swans are back within a point. Less than 30-seconds to go.

From the next centre-bounce Goulburn get it again, send it into their forward 50-arc, there is a scrap at ground level and a Goulburn player breaks free, Griffin hearts edge up into throats, the ball is sent goalward but falls just short.

The siren sounds. Relief. Exhilaration. Pandemonium. We won by one point. In extra-time.

ANU 12-13-85

Goulburn 13-6-84

2012

Inaugural Pink Footy Day Cup, ANU vs Gungahlin featuring the GWS Giants

It's not everyday that news cameras cover (Women's) community footy. Sunday, 13 May 2012 was an exception. At its heart an enduring community cause, supporting Breast Cancer Network Australia.

It just so happened that new kids on the block, Greater Western Sydney Giants, featuring fresh faced Phil Davis, Stephen Coniglio, Jeremy Cameron, and controversial cross-code recruit Israel Falou, were in town. Some say the occasion was their inaugural AFL fixture at Manuka Oval that evening. Others remember it as the inaugural ANU vs Gungahlin Pink Footy Day Cup at South Oval.

In spite of the name, South was awash in orange. There were kids everywhere in awe of Giants mascot, G-Man, blokes toppling over each other for a chance chat with Sheeds, and a lot of distracted buzzies.

Then Federal Minister for Sport, Kate Lundy and local Sport Minister, Andrew Barr, opened the event, tossing the coin and celebrating a momentous occasion for both clubs and community sport in general. Footy was the winner on that day (in other words we didn't win), and the tradition continues to this day (and we are still yet to win! Though with Gungahlin entering a Second Division women's team in 2021 it might finally be our chance to bring home the silverware).

The Ressies do it again!⁸⁰

Following a disappointing season in 2011, the power brokers deep within the footy club got to work. One of their first, and best decisions, was to appoint a powerhouse coaching combination of Phil 'Doc' Lewington (lover of headgear) and Pat Heazlewood (multiple Golden Boot award winner – official or not). With a playing group eager to once again raise the flag, the combined club preseason started in the usual way with a terrible turn out and Ryan Forsyth. As the season drew nearer, more and more students shook off the summer booze haze and began forming up for a strong start. Plenty of new faces mixed with the old and we soon began to hit a groove on the training track. An influx of Melbournian types had arrived, healthily representing the university colleges for the first time in some years. Captains were named, and Ash Kay took the helm to kick off the Magoos premiership tilt.

As the season kicked off, we quickly discovered our strengths – enjoying some quiet beverages on country road trips. There was definitely no improper use of Metsal involved. Nor a certain school teacher stopping the bus and demanding the playing group own up to smoking on the bus. And there was certainly no crowd surfing.



Top: Pink Footy Day Cup 2012.
Source: Doug Dobing

Left: GWS Giants visit South Oval for Pink Footy Day. Club President, Andrew Hermann, ACT Sport Minister, Andrew Barr and inaugural GWS Coach, Kevin Sheedy.
Source: Rene Link

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80 Adapted from input provided by Patrick Heazlewood

On the field, the team had some incredibly close games that arguably should not have been close. However, the team did put on a late season charge to finals, only to almost stumble in a make or break game against Ainslie. The regular season featured a few standout players – Nick Scotton quickly established himself as a go to in the ruck, Tony Helman was a powerhouse in the centre, Arran Douglas was outstanding, Simon Tuan spent more time wrapped in ice than on the field, and Tim Robb had a trademark season in the goal square. Hamish Lade won the Ressie's Best and Fairest and Simon Tuan took the honours for Best on Ground for the grand final. During the year there was a transition in leadership from Ash Kay through to Tim Robb, who would take the change into the finals.

The finals series was a display of dominance from the Twos, with the lads putting in very strong turnouts in each appearance leading up to the grand final. This actually presented a problem for the coaching staff, and some difficult decisions around selection needed to be made. We fielded a very strong team on the park on grand final day, and this was only due to the incredible playing group at our disposal. As history will show, we won against Belconnen by two points in a game that had more up and downs than Doc's mood driving the bus on a road trip. What history will not show is the efforts of all the people (players or not) involved in a remarkable season, and some of those like Shane Bolitho, Damian West, Gary Robb, and the senior coaches (Cliffy and Shitty) were all notable contributors in a successful flag run. Also a key contributor was whoever managed to sneak all the beers into the Manuka change rooms after the game.

Unfortunately, the men's premiership double alluded the Club for yet another year in 2012, with the Seniors going to down to ADFA ('nough said about that game...best to look it up in your own time). Nevertheless, the Magoos made sure of a memorable night at the Hellenic. The Twos' chalice was back at South.



2013

Three teams, three big dances

Ash Kay, Ben Hermann,
Josh Davey, Heath Moore,
Dene Nielsen.

The 2013 season was a tremendous success for the Griffins with all sides making grand finals for the first time. Whilst the Women and the Seniors were desperately unlucky in their pursuit of a flag, the Twos ended up accounting for Yass to claim back-to-back premierships.

The split of the Women's competition into top six and bottom four finals' series worked out favourably for the Griffinettes. We had to play our best to beat Murrumbidgee in the preliminary final, and we did. Bec 'Best' Jones nailed a sublime goal from the boundary and even Karen 'Shorty' Short got a piece of the goal scoring action, running the ball out from half back (perhaps assisted by the fact that Reid is the shortest Oval on the circuit).

The Women faced Queanbeyan Tigers in the grand final and were yet to beat them all season. An outsider might think we'd lose by ten goals but The Footy Record said Queanbeyan winners by

ten points. It was an omen. Queanbeyan came out hard and looked like they'd run away with it by half time. The second half was a different story. ANU came out of the blocks firing and inched away at the deficit. Four ANU goals were scored to Queanbeyan's one in the final quarter to bring us within a goal. Bec Jones split hairs again, scoring a goal from the sideline that had the crowd erupting. The clock beat us on the day. We had all the momentum but it wasn't to be. Queanbeyan went on to win their inaugural Women's premiership by a ten point margin.

In a far cry from the massive numbers we had seen in previous years, many weekends in the colder months saw the Ressies a bit light on throughout the season. However after finishing third in the home and away season, fancied friends emerged from the woodwork eager for a finals berth. A great finals series ensued with the Griffins defeating Yass in the first week, before coming from four goals down at half time in the preliminary final to book their spot in the Big Dance. The grand final against Yass was a fairly one way affair for the Ressies running out winners by about ten goals. Tim Vickers-Willis was best on for the day despite not playing the last quarter with a broken collarbone.

Seniors matched up against ADFA Rams for a 2012 grand final rematch in the last of the three fixtures, in what was set to be a fitting end to a season dominated by the two teams. We were seeking revenge after the shellacking of the 2012 grand final. Having shared the honours with the old foe during the home and away season we approached the rematch with plenty of optimism.

Playing a twilight fixture at Greenway presented its challenges (kicking into the setting sun in the third term for instance) but the Griffins showed from the early stages they were up for the fight.



2013 Reserves premiership side.

On the back of strong performances from the back six (Dean 'Rawlo' Rawlinson, Anthony 'Sorro' Sorensen, Alex 'AK' Kelly, Ryan 'Singles' Singleton, Arran 'Dougie' Douglas and Matt 'Crawsh' Crawshaw) we were able to create plenty of opportunities. The move of wingman Harry Sleigh to the forward line almost proved a master stroke as he pulled down three contested marks in a matter of minutes but errant kicking for goal (former League Best and Fairest and perennial leading goal kicker Andrew Hermann missing two from inside the goal square for instance...) meant what should have been a six goal lead was only 14 points late in the second term.

ADFA rallied hard in the third as ANU, blinded by the setting sun were unable to capitalise. ADFA took a narrow lead, momentum and belief into the final stanza and whilst ANU fought to the final bell, ultimately we'd come up seven points short in a heartbreaking loss.

2014

The grass is always greener

The grass is certainly greener when you're playing home and away fixtures on Manuka Oval. But that's about all to envy from season 2014. Ironically, after decades of rallying to stay in the CANFL/ACTAFL First and Second Grade divisions, when we were unexpectedly thrust back into the top two senior divisions of the AFL Canberra competition it was not warranted or wanted.

After consistently finishing in the top ranks of the community competitions, ANU and ADFA reluctantly joined the six senior clubs (Ainslie, Eastlake, Belconnen, Tuggeranong, Queanbeyan and Gungahlin) to round out the First and Second divisions.

Club President, Andrew Hermann called a Special General Meeting to rally the troops, and that we did. Senior coaches, Greg 'Schitty' Oberscheidt and Josh 'Cliffy' Cliff, who had been coaching the group since 2012 buckled down, using every inch of their experience, creativity and the Club's meagre resource base to manufacture an even footing with the flush senior clubs. We battled hard, giving most teams a nudge, but ultimately it was in vain. Seniors finished with two wins for the season, narrowly avoiding the wooden spoon.

Schitty and Cliffy recall the following of the 2014 Seniors season:

"We were advised October 2013 that we might be forced up into the First and Second divisions of the ACTAFL. We planned for the higher level throughout the preseason. With 100 per cent buy-in from the playing group we felt we were up for the challenge. We had a settled group that had largely played together for years along with some great inclusions."

We found out early (after some massive beltings) that our game plan needed an overhaul. We went away from a contested ball model to high ball retention and man on man defence.

The results were clear almost immediately when we knocked over Belconnen (who'd beaten us by 25 goals three weeks earlier). It was an amazing day, going in without ten regular First Graders. Sam 'Frenchy' LePage led the way in his only appearance as Skipper of the club. Daniel 'Chasto' Chaston wound back the clock kicking two important goals. Pretty much everyone had their best game of the year and we managed to win by a couple of kicks. We have it on good authority that their coach didn't speak to them for over a week afterwards.

We shared the points with ADFA (who were pushed up with us) winning one each. But for the bounce of the ball we would have knocked off Tuggers twice and Eastlake at Manuka (the latter performance spurring Schitty to channel Paul Kelly in a Dumb Things testimonial).

Kieran Harris won Best and Fairest from Dan Musil who only played a handful of games. Musil, a post grad student at ANU, is regarded by most of his team mates as among the best players ever to pull on a Griffins jumper. We recall his former coach almost crying when requested to process his transfer.

For their inspiring efforts, Schitty and Cliffy were awarded the coveted AFL Canberra Coach of the Year. As a club we learned that, in spite of our talent and will, it's not sustainable to compete with pathways, professionals or pokies, and that our home is in the community competition.

‘Dumb things’⁸¹

*Welcome, Griffins, to the show
This season our flag's been flying low
We turned out at Startrack*

*Heard the Eastlake train coming, stayed out on
the track
In the middle, in the middle, Nos and AK won it
clean*

*TVW stood tall, Susie won the ball
But we did lots of dumb things*

*Dropped the tablet, butchered the seed
Crashed packs but didn't recycle lead
Schitty started howling, made no sense
Eastlake's midfield rushed through our defence*

*In the middle, in the middle, Kiz and Buttsy tackled
mean
Vass was great, we saw Herm dominate
But we did lots of dumb things*

*Mr Cliff gave some good advice
Dropping chest-marks, don't you do that twice!
I love the effort, you have a crack
But we can't turn it over at Centre Half Back*

*In the middle, in the middle, a defensive sweeper
wasn't seen
We'd run through a wall to win the ball
But we did lots of dumb things*

*We ran like hell 'til the final bell
But we did lots of dumb things
Fark we'd love to get a win!
But we do lots of dumb things
Our song we didn't get to sing
Because we did lots of dumb things*

ANUAFC five-times Community Club Champions

The AFL Canberra Community Club of the Year award (also called the AFL Canberra Community Club Championship) was instituted by AFL Canberra in 2015. The ANUAFC has won this award every year since its inception – we're currently up to five in a row. No Club Championship was awarded in 2020, but, one imagines, we must have been in the conversation...

The AFL Canberra Community Club Championship is awarded to the club that at the end of the home and away season has the most Club Championship Points. Points are awarded for each game that is won with various amounts allocated to each men's and women's grade, and also for the strength of a club's governance, including measured by having a Quality Club Program rating of bronze or higher.

While the award gives us a healthy chance to prove each year to our competitors and to competition

Club President, Caitlin Roy,
with the 2017 Community
Club Championship Award.
Source: AFL Canberra



81 Written by Greg Oberscheidt and sung to the tune of 'Dumb Things' by Paul Kelly, Griffin Tale, 12 August 2014

administrators that the rowdiest table at the AFL Canberra presentation night is also the best at administration (and winning), it's really a testament to the ongoing hard work of the recent Boards, volunteers, coaches and players. Being Community Club of the Year since 2015 has generally dovetailed with ongoing efforts by the Board at ANUAFC to professionalise the Club, bring our administration and planning up to a new strategic level, and engage with community partners and alumni in a meaningful way, and we like to think that these things aren't a coincidence. At its essence, the award solidifies what we've all known for some time to be true – that having a special culture, getting by with making the most of the resources we have, having on-field success, and striving for excellence in our Club are all worthwhile endeavours that together contribute to making our Club great. We have won a few premierships here and there through 2015–19, but we have also been recognised consistently for how great our Club and its members really are, and that's a seriously good outcome.

2015

Lee Steel, first Women's '100 game player'

In round five of season 2015, the self-styled 'Lady Griffs' turned up ready for a big game on a cold Saturday morning to kick off a triple header against our ADFA rivals. Facing ADFA in what was a big milestone for one of the Women's veterans, and with the promise of a free keg to celebrate the taste of victory, Lee Steel led her team onto the ground through a custom made banner for her 100th game.

By all accounts, spirits were up and we demonstrated our integrity and values by offering spare players to the understrength ADFA. We won the match 6-7-43 to 1-1-7 in what eventually was a less than spectacular end to the season without playing finals in September. Nevertheless, the women belted out the team song, bolstered by a number of former players joining in at the South Oval sheds.

When asked of her milestone game, Lee gave a big thanks to everyone who made the game special for her in her 100th: her family in 'Team Steel' for travelling down with the banner and support from Far North Queensland, former 'Lady Griffs' for coming along to cheer them on, and the many people from around the Club who supported her throughout the years.⁸²



Lee Steel, first Women's 100 game player.

Source: Emily Steel

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82 Adapted from content in Griffin Tale No. 9, 2015

Woden give ANU the Blues

Woden had proven incredibly strong all season and the Seniors had their work cut out when the sides met at Gungahlin enclosed. The Blues flexed early and kicked out to a 20 point lead before the Griffins wrestled back some control. Matty Crawshaw playing a defensive forward role kicked the first goal for ANU and the arm wrestle was on.

Both sides traded goals for the rest of the match. ANU would draw within a kick then Woden would steady. We worked tirelessly but unfortunately couldn't get our noses in front.

Lachlan Vass was massive on the wing. One of the all-time Fit-Griffs, his tireless running created opportunities for our forwards. On occasion he did bite off more than he could chew which led to some fun on Salty Sunday...Every time he left his chair the whole crew would scream "Baaaallll...Yeaah!!!!"

After drawing within a kick late, one of ANU's less favourite Blues pulled a running check-side out of his clacker and sealed a 13 point win.

2016

Soggy South strikes again

After four years at the helm, Josh 'Cliffy' Cliff stepped down, leaving Greg 'Schitty' Oberscheidt to lead the Club through one of the wettest seasons on record. The Club welcomed new comer Michael 'Cav' Canavan as Ressies coach and Alan 'Reidy' Reid and his band of merry men, Mark 'Barney' Higgins, Greg 'Magic' Sadil and Gerry 'Gez' Patron to coach the Women.

For ten weeks straight the coaches were forced to come up with unique training sessions, from the old faithful 3km to lane work in underground car parks. Against the odds, Seniors and Reserves made it to the last game of the year. Seniors played Woden in

the second of two consecutive grand finals against them, going down by less than a goal in the final minutes. The Women's team finished honourably in last position in what would be their penultimate season in the Women's senior competition. Ressies did what Ressies do in the 2010s and brought home the bacon.

Deja Blues⁸³

Seething after the narrow loss from the previous year our boys were out for revenge. The rain was so heavy on Friday night before the Big Dance that there was a very real possibility the game would be postponed. Luckily we were playing at Manuka and the amazing drainage on offer ensured a quick deck despite the downpour.

Dual Best and Fairest winner, Ryan 'Singles' Singleton got through a fitness test early on Saturday morning (despite a broken ankle) buoying the side. We'd already lost Co-Captain Ryan 'Nossy' Forsyth to a hamstring earlier in the week (Nossy did nothing to allay the rumours that he was passed his used-by date, arriving to the ground in Sneans).

Seniors 2016.

Source: David Butler



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⁸³ Adapted from contribution by Greg Oberscheidt and Josh Cliff

Despite a rousing pre-game address, we missed the jump again. Woden kicked four unanswered goals in the first seven minutes. Physio, Katie Salway, was forced to duck for cover as Squirter's water bottles were torpedoed in the dugout. We won't name the culprit...

The lads checked in soon after and fought their way back into the game. David 'Buttsy' Butler, Daniel 'Disco' Discipio and Kieran 'Kiz' Harris gained ascendancy in the midfield whilst the back six found their feet and repelled numerous Blues attacks.

Arran 'Dougie' Douglas got us in front early in the fourth and it seemed the dream might actually come true after year on year of heartbreak. With the match balanced on a razors' edge, Woden forayed into the ANU defence and on consecutive entries, CHB of the decade Tom Short went for the grab instead of the spoil and Woden's talisman, Schicken Campbell marked and kicked truly. When the final siren sounded we'd gone down by 13 points for the second year in a row.

Magoos soar, Robba roars⁸⁴

The Twos are no strangers to playing on the first weekend in September, having played in six of the last seven grand finals, the one exception being the year the Club competed in higher grades. Yet after last year's performance at the Big Dance, the Magoos were very keen to ensure this one stood out in the memories.

Arriving at the ground after a soggy week in the Capital the boys were as surprised about the quality of the surface as Nick 'Scotto' Scotton and the wider AFL Canberra Community were to see his name in the goal kickers' column last week. After wandering around the enormous Manuka change rooms and settling camp for the day, an orderly queue for taping formed behind message runner Jordan 'Metsal' Hayes and preparations began.



The game got underway with the coaching masterstroke of sending the League's Goal Baron into the ruck. A perfect tap down to Jono Dean was fumbled at the sight of an opposing player, "Never have I seen someone look so frightened" said Rich Davis as the Yass boys whisked the ball away. Fortunately for the Griffins the backline were going to continue their form of the previous six months and not give much away. Some hard contested footy ended with an unmarked Robb waddling his way into the forward to take a chest mark 15m out, virtually in front. Showing why he is to be the recipient of the 'Tim Robb Memorial Award' for fourth Grade Leading Goal Kicker, an award Steve Kenny would love to be in attendance at League presentation night to see, he went back and kicked truly.

The rest of the quarter remained a tussle with Lachie Hatty getting on top in the ruck and Rich Davis, Haydn 'Dobbo' Dobson and Daniel 'Chasto' Chaston accumulating in the middle. Hugh Marks was a slippery snake popping up for a sensational crumbing goal before disappearing to his appointment at Redpath to have his serpent tongue

2016 Reserves premiership side.
Source: AFL Canberra

84 Griffin Tale No.23, written by Tim Robb

procedure finished. The backline lead by Daniel 'Rosco' O'Reilly and Tim 'Farmer' Lewis were doing everything right, repelling attack after attack, only allowing a goal deep into red time with the aid of an errant Jono Dean 'handball'.

As has been the case all year, the Magoos were far too busy congratulating themselves on previous efforts than focusing on the next and ultimately let Yass right back into the contest. Losing Matthew 'Mods' O'Dwyer to a leg injury certainly did not help as players were second to the ball and continually waited for someone else to do the hard stuff. In a quarter that provided few highlights the long bomb from Patrick 'The Specimen' Dunphy has to rate a mention, as does the outstanding turning circle on one Jack Buckley.

After a briefing in the meeting room, a rejuvenated Griffins side took the field. Determined not to let another opportunity slip, the attack on the ball was as fierce as it ever has been and was highlighted by new recruit and short priced favourite for Best in Finals Noah Johnstone knocking out our 'spearhead'. Both teams were determined to make this a contest, as much of the quarter was played between the 50s. Sammy Scotton did a fantastic job tagging Yass' primary ball mover and must have inspired his brother to do something of note also. Flared tempers eventually got the best of Scotto, head-butting his opponents fist. The umpire did not take too kindly to the Yass players' involvement here but before he got a chance to let him know, some choice words from Rosco inspired an actual head-butt and this player's day was done.

With an extra man the Twos lifted and started beating their opponents all over the ground. Johnny Mitchell and Owen Hutchison were sensational and you knew things might be going our way when Nathan Arch was holding chest marks. Jack Buckley ended up on the end of a dubious free kick and converted to give the Griffs the lead. A sensational contested mark from Wes Heincke saw the Griffs

enter the forward 50 yet again, and somehow the spearhead was left unmanned. Lining up from a difficult angle in the pocket and putting up with the annoying slow clap of the peanut gallery, the superstar kicked truly to the congratulatory roar of mostly himself, and slightly the crowd. The Griffs headed into the final change in front and with all the momentum.

Taking in coach Michael 'Cav' Canavan's final address for the year, the boys returned to their positions ready for another bruising quarter of footy. Dommy Weppener refused to take a backwards step and set the tone early. In the early moments with the game in the balance a new Griffin stamped his name into Griffin folklore. Playing in front to win a free on the edge of the goal square, Andrew 'Sack' Sydzik booted the ball over the net to put the result beyond doubt. Unfortunately, AFL Canberra Officials didn't seem to notice Sack's presence when handing out the medals.

After all was said and done the Twos were victorious in an extremely tough and gritty win. A big thank you to Cav for leading us all year and an even bigger thank you must go out to our Griffin brothers unable to take the field with us on the day. As clichéd as it sounds, there is actually no way we can make this journey without you.

Safe in the huddle.
Source: Brianna Williams



Running on the smell of an oily rag: volunteering at the ANU

According to the research, sporting clubs have one volunteer for every nine members on average.⁸⁵ ANUAFC is batting well above average in this department. Internal surveys indicate around 20 per cent of club members have volunteered in some formal capacity, but we know informal contributions are much higher than that.

For those who might have pulled on the umpire's jumper two minutes before a match, run the boundary for the promise of a pie and a coke, belatedly blown the siren while running the canteen, or spent the early evening sweeping grass out of the sheds, they would know that amateur sporting clubs rely on volunteers.

The quality of volunteering has often been the same as the quality of football being displayed on the field. Alan Honey (1990s-2000s) remembers "At one stage when volunteering for goal umpiring duties I missed a goal at the other end kissing my then girlfriend".⁸⁶ Let's hope the score wasn't critical in that particular game's outcome.

All volunteers are the heart of any sporting club. But then there are those special helpers that have made their way down to the ANUAFC every decade or so. They are 'special' because they have had no playing connection to the Club. Men and women who just appreciate local sport and want to be involved.

While we are sure to have missed many of those valuable contributors, here are a few stand outs from over the years.

Darryl Symons came to the Club in the late 1990s. From early in the piece, Darryl was recognised for his contribution as the club newsletter of 25 September 1998 shows: "A good side to the season was the new arrivals to the Club this year. A welcome arrival was that of Darryl Symons who, as Paul's team manager, took the match day administrative burden off Paul. We need more blokes like Darryl around to make the place run smoother. Well done Darryl, we hope to see you back next year." During his time at the Club, Darryl performed many roles including (and not limited to) club manager, strapper, first aid officer and Club mailbox. Alongside preparing the ground and sheds for match day and generally keeping the whole thing running. All of these were done at the same time, earning him nickname '62' for the equivalent number of people's work he did around the place. He also earned himself four Best Clubman awards. Darryl received the ultimate recognition when he was made life member in 2007. Darryl may have played early on in his career, but his best work was done off the field (until the annual Masters game rolls around that is).

85 Sports England *Sports Club Volunteering 2018 Summary Report*, February 2019

86 Alan Honey, Questionnaire response, 2020

Another such contributor is Stephen ‘Squirter’ Darlington. Squirter’s origin story is mysterious as is his formulation of H₂O concoctions on and off the field. Believed to have arrived at the Club in 2013, and often seen participating in warm ups at training, Squirter often slinks off to ensure there is plenty of aqua ale to rehydrate one and all. Stephen’s nickname dates back to his first year at the Club when his presence wasn’t quite so recognised. All Club officials and players were required to have their name on the team sheet for the 2013 grand final in order to gain access to the playing facilities. Coach Greg Oberscheidt, not knowing his trusty water runner’s full name, decided to list the infamous ‘Squirtman’ on the team sheet. Since then, Squirter has become part of the fabric of the Club and in 2019 was nominated for the AFL Canberra Volunteer of the Year award.

Of course, we shouldn’t discount the volunteer efforts of the coaches and their support staff. In the early days of the Club, these positions were most definitely on a volunteer-basis, with some coaches putting their own money where their mouth is, often covering the costs of playing equipment from their own pockets. In more recent times, while many coaches have received a small payment, their hourly rate would not meet the minimum wage. Coaches payments often find their way to the purchasing of additional footies, kit or tape (or slabs and darts depending on the coach at the time).



Over the journey, ANUAFC has introduced the somewhat unique role of Volunteer Coordinator at the Club, more akin to herding cats than other more conventional roles. Apparently only a third of all clubs consider volunteer coordinator as a necessary and discrete role in the Club Committee structure.⁸⁷ While their names might not appear on the Honour Board, their contributions in chasing weekly volunteers doesn’t go unnoticed.

The Club’s endeavour to engage all members in a volunteer capacity for only a few small hours a year is part of what makes the Club a thriving and equanimous community. We are a Club built and sustained on the varied and generous contributions of many.

Mac ruling the BBQ
Source: Amy Rugendyk

87 Sports England *Sports Club Volunteering 2018 Summary Report*, February 2019

2017

First Women’s Aussie Rules scholarship in Australia

In 2017 the Club launched Australia’s first ever Women’s Aussie Rules Leadership Scholarship. The inaugural scholarship winner was Phoebe Worth who had previously played soccer at the highest levels. She was selected for her athletic and academic skills, leadership potential, and commitment to personal and community development. In return for studying and playing football at ANU, Phoebe received a \$5,000 per annum scholarship from ANUAFC, leadership training within and outside the Club, career introductions and mentoring, and opportunities to represent ANUAFC as a speaker, leader and women’s advocate.⁸⁸

Runners up in the selection for the inaugural scholarship included Annabel Roden and Adela Michelson who were offered positions in NSW/ ACT AFL Women’s Academy. The Canberra Times commented on the awarding of the scholarship when it reported:

“A Canberra connection inspired the Adelaide Crows to the maiden AFL Women’s premiership, and Phoebe Worth could be the next capital product to take the competition by storm. Worth was awarded the first ever ANU Women’s AFL scholarship, the latest feather in a cap already boasting ACT and Australian honours in other sports. She has earned representative honours in soccer, futsal, and cricket, and now Worth wants to inspire other young women to make the transition to Australian rules.”⁸⁹

The scholarship has been run in subsequent years with the following recipients being awarded the hotly contested scholarship.

| | Sponsor | Recipient |
|------|---|-----------------|
| 2017 | ANUAFC, ANU Sport and AFL Canberra in partnership | Phoebe Worth |
| 2018 | SMEC | Alex Williams |
| 2019 | Geocon | Eloise McLean |
| 2020 | Postponed (COVID-19) | - |
| 2021 | KJR | Iman Koutsoukou |



Women’s huddle.
Source: Rowena Yates

88 ANU Sports Annual Report 2017
89 <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6034313/phoebe-worth-awarded-first-ever-anu-womens-afl-scholarship/>

2019

Women's long awaited inaugural premierships; a recurring theme

In 2019, the women finally broke their 18 year premierships drought in their fourth appearance in a grand final. After many long years in the bottom-half-of-the-ladder wilderness, momentum really started building for the women in the mid 2010s. After being ably coached largely by men's players, 2016–17 coach, Alan 'Reidy' Reid brought a greater sense of professionalism and focus to the team.

The advent of the AFLW competition in 2017 can't be underestimated as a massive driving force to get women interested in the game of Aussie Rules. This, coupled with the introduction of the ANUAFC Women's Leadership Scholarship, meant that the number of players coming down to the Club skyrocketed. Even better, they brought a tonne of drive and natural ability with them. Gone were the days of begging and bribing our sports-hating friends to come and make up a team for us on frosty Saturday mornings! The newfound competition for spots in the team served to reinvigorate long-serving players, solidified fitness levels, leadership talents, and the belief that our efforts might actually pay off.

Finally, the move by AFL Canberra to support further professionalisation of the women's competition by introducing a proper two division women's structure, balanced out the competition, giving community clubs like the Griffins a fighting chance of success.

The ultimate achievement was almost reached in the 2018 season grand final. The Buzz came up against Riverina and went down in the tightest of games (3-4-22 to 3-9-27). The result was both disappointing and heartening – we lost but we held our own against a club that used to beat us resoundingly only a few years before.



Top: Griffins grand final cheer squad.

Source: Rowena Yates



Left: Karen 'Shorty' Short (19) celebrates a goal with Jess Hargreaves (35).

Source: Rowena Yates

Where were you when the ANUAFC Women won their first premiership?⁹⁰

On the last Saturday in August 2019, a bunch of badass women, led by a group of badass captains, made their way to Footy Park, full of excitement and nervous energy.

As they arrived and rounded the corner of the changerooms to get their first glimpse of the hallowed turf of Footy Park, they were greeted by the shimmering beauty of the premiership cup glistening in the sunshine. Little did we know a few short hours later that very cup would be glistening in the dance floor lights of Hellenic, funnily enough wielded by a badass backline crew.

The game still seems a blur but I do remember seeing a talented team, playing for each other and putting their bodies on the line in every contest for their teammates, ably led by an impressive midfield group giving the team first use of the footy. With winners all over the ground and the forward line making the most of their opportunities to kick goals, you could sense the excitement of the team rising through the final few minutes of the game, despite me yelling relentlessly from the sidelines for them to be accountable with a minute left to go and 40 points up.

As the final siren sounded and the cheers, hugs and tears started coming from everywhere, a huge wave of pride, relief and excitement could be felt as the team celebrated their premiership win, a win 18 years and two hours of tough footy in the making and a true team effort.



This is also celebrated by those that didn't play on Saturday, but have also given their all, week in and week out, cold nights on the track and shifts in the canteen, the women that played for other clubs to fill in the numbers and those that were injured. This win is for you.

Reidy and Magic have also played a huge part in this win, I would like to thank them for their time and effort and support they have given me and for the team to make this possible. And to the women that played on that last Saturday in August, club history has been written. And it was lit.

Inaugural Women's
premiership side 2019.
Source: AFL Canberra

⁹⁰ Written by Gerard Patron, Inaugural Women's premiership Coach, Griffin Tale No. 19 September 2019

2020

Kiss my asterisk

2020 deserves a book of its own. It really was a year like no other, 'unprecedented' some might say...here are some notable facts about the season, which was lucky to eventuate at all after several false starts:

- Preseason training involved constant oval changes and the worst smoke haze in the world, ridiculous car shattering hail, and 40 degree days
- Then came along COVID-19
- We trained via video in our homes and garages, ruining Princey and Buzz's spew-inducing workouts
- Then we trained in groups of ten, then groups of 20, splitting the men and women, contact tracing, hand sanitising
- No canteen, no crowd, no high fives
- It is estimated that we trained for about 40 weeks, to play seven (yes, that's right, seven) home and away games
- During which we cancelled a game at the last minute to avoid being 'the club that brought COVID-19 into Canberra', and on top of all that, had a wash out round, and
- Not to mention our greatest feat, saving the community finals campaign from #plovergate.

In spite of all this, we were fortunate to train in some form, fortunate to play at all, fortunate to compete in finals. We weren't fortunate to win two premierships though – there was no luck in that. It was bloody hard work.

In its 59th year, 58 years since the Club first fielded (at least) two teams and after having countless opportunities to bring home the men's premiership double, we finally did it! In a year like no other, it feels right that a club like no other gets to walk out together as winners.

Now to try for the Club triple...

One is good but two is better!⁹¹

Magoos get baking

What a year it's been for the Magoos – flying undefeated into a grand final off the back of a season with only seven rounds and 50-odd blokes pulling on the guernsey. On the day of the Big Dance it was hot (it was October), the boys were excited, and the loyal Griffio crowd, buoyed by the presence of the Women's team, was a mix of anticipation and excitement.

The game started well, with Jude 'hates two-up' Middlemiss losing a seventh consecutive coin toss for the season, forcing the Ressies to kick into the wind in the first quarter. Much like the rest of the 2020 season, no obstacle (not even WIND) could stop the onslaught.

Leading from the middle, the Griffos controlled the ball for most of the quarter, with the back six, led by brilliant efforts from Tory Smith, and Nick 'Scotto' Scotton rebounding the footy with skill and endeavour to set up a three goal lead heading into the second quarter.

Coach Jake 'Princey' Prince was not happy for us to rest on our laurels, and demanded that we work harder, run faster, hit bigger and win better. However, having not offered any solutions as to how we could instantaneously transform into AFL-level footballers, it was all but certain that his expectations wouldn't be met. The boys battled hard to keep the lead, with Shaun 'Mello' Mellick surviving irrational and senseless banter from the Woden Blues Third Grade team on the sidelines.

The drought-breaking goal came only when William 'crisp-tips' Downing successfully covered up his lack of intensity at the pill by accidentally providing a goal-assist-block for Tom 'how easy are premierships' Westbrook, allowing him to kick truly and keep ANU in the lead at the last change.

91 Written by premiership Captains, Jude Middlemiss and James Mount respectively, Griffin Tale No. 9, October 2020



Ryan Forsyth celebrating.
Source: AFL Canberra

Yass got a sniff just minutes into the last quarter, and it was at that moment Tim ‘more medals than goals’ Robb, realising that he himself could no longer provide match winning goals, took it upon himself to dismantle the Yass team one player at a time. Thankfully Fionn ‘Lamb Shanks’ Parker marked 15 metres out shortly afterwards, and by not kicking the ball out on the full, managed to give the Griffs a small lead with minutes left.

With ten seconds left, Jono ‘White Line Fever’ Dean took a sensational mark backing into a pack of desperate Yass players, cutting off their forward surge to close out round one.

One down, one to go

With the sounds of the song of the ANU ringing around AllInsure Park, the time had come. 11 years of what ifs, nearly moments and heartbreak refused to stay quiet in the back of the mind. That it was Woden we had to beat just felt right.

It didn’t start perfectly and ANU started the first quarter into the wind. The first five minutes were frantic, physical, and scrappy, neither team would give an inch. It needed some old school magic, something to light the fire. Ryan ‘Nossy’ Forsyth answered the call to kick the opener. Despite the early goals and bundles of pressure we just couldn’t convert and Woden went into half time with the lead.

If you were to briefly sit down with Brent ‘Risky’ Ritchie you might learn somewhat surprisingly that he holds a fairly strong and unbending western bias when it comes to all things Australian Rules Football...and Australia generally. Rooted deep in that bias is his love of the mighty Perth Demons. Well there were certainly Demons reappearing in the mind of young Risky as Woden did what Woden is apt to do and kicked two quick goals to start the third quarter. Suddenly, in a low scoring game the Griffs were down by 13. Surely it couldn’t happen again could it...?

As you lie in bed on grand final week, dreaming of your 35 touches, two goals and a hanger it’s hard to imagine anything going wrong. When it doesn’t quite come together it’s easy to put your head down and shrink into invisibility. Thankfully the youngest member of the team wasn’t about that life. Kept frustratingly quiet all day by a determined Woden fullback, Jack ‘Hads’ Hadley was given his moment with ten minutes left. 40 metres out on a tight angle, with the wind blowing diagonally he would have been forgiven for missing, but he stepped up to the plate and put the Griffos up by nine!

Ten minutes of pure terror followed, to say Brent ‘Risky’ Ritchie tightened the leash on the backline is an understatement. The score would only change by one measly point in that time and true to ANU form we refused to believe we had it until Harry Campbell marked with 30 seconds to go. Uni, you beauty rang around AllInsure Park and finally OI’ Mahoney was returned!



2020 Fourth (Top) and Third
(Bottom) Grade premiers,
Allinsure Park.
Source: AFL Canberra

Wet Ass Footy (WAF)⁹²

| ANU Griffins 3-3-21 vs Queanbeyan Tigers 2-2-14

*There's some goals in this house,
There's some goals in this house,
I said certified freak, seven days a week,
Wet-ass footy, make them tigers' game weak, (Ah)*

Chorus: Robi B

*Yeah, we've been playin some wet-ass footy,
Bring a bucket and a mop for this wet-ass footy,
We gave everything we've got for that wet-ass footy,*

Verse 1: Robi B & Gez Thee Stallion

*First half, it was tough,
Tigers came out raw(r), hard n rough,
Our mids ran full steam in the chase,
Back six always on their guard,
Caz holding the fort, goals denied,
Scandol ran water, went for a slide (ouch),
Power's talk solid, her marks mesmerise,
This footy is wet, come take a dive,
Pressure so good, their forwards looked shy,
Intensity high, bodies on the line,
Specs played so damn well – BOG for the Geocon round,
Ine's tackles creamed, made us scream,
Babs dominating the scene,
Despite the whiplash, shorty's a queen,
Skye sweeping the backline, her play was clean, (Ayy, ayy)*

Verse 2: Gez Thee Stallion

*Chow, wowie, gave her everything, (Yuh)
Liv's sticky hands and speed incredible, (Yuh)
Roy's voice powerful, leadership dependable, (Huh)
Hatty on them 'fore they knew what was goin' on, (Pow, pow, pow)
Took big hits, Jess' smothers were sick (Yuh)
Jana in the forwards, Tigers scared of her kick, (so scared of that kick)
Elly in deep, game always insane, (Yuh)
Scholarship player, remember the name, (Ayy, ah)*

.....

92 Written by Kate Brien, Griffin Tale No. 20, August 2020

*Now get your boots and your mouthguard for this wet-ass footy (Ah, ah, ah)
Breeza bought a camera all for pictures of this wet-ass footy (Click, click, click)
Pay my club fees just to get me on this wet-ass footy (cha ching)
Now make it rain if you wanna see more wet-ass footy (Yuh, yuh)*

Verse 3: Robi B & Gez Thee Stallion

*Look, Lizzie was a hard hitter, never mediocre,
Girls on Adela but she's a steamroller,
Iman's quick n slippery, like a queen cobra,
With Undies' kicks, no turnovers,
At half-time chats, we knew we were in it,
Ball locked in their 50, our wall was terrific,
Relentless pressure, they couldn't best it,
Daryl electric, this house's protected,
Never handed to us, always a fight,
Scoring was low, goal difference tight,
Then Specs'y kicked a screamer – it spun through the two middle posts,
Gigi's game fire, girl never tires,
Cathy kept her head up and over the footy,
Rounding up sheep, we're laying shepherds, (Yuh)
It's wet-ass footy in wet-ass weather.*

Verse 4: Gez Thee Stallion

*Your honor, it was a good watch, spoils, chases,
Never giving up and never complacent,
Put the tigers on their knees, gave the Resseys somethin' to believe in,
Lizzie's mum cried and spectators cheerin',
In this food chain, the tiges got eaten (ah).
It's wet-ass footy baby, you know the feelin'.*



Top Left: Women defeat ADFA, 2014.

Source: Andrew Hermann

Top Right: Greg Oberscheidt with the Pepper Cup.

Source: David Butler

Left: Wet footy – Daniel 'Chasto' Chaston.

Source: Rowena Yates

Bottom: 2020.

Source: Brianna Williams



THE LEGACY, 2021 AND BEYOND

The ANUAFC was borne out of a largely self-funded Intervarsity trip and evolved into a successful amateur club competing in an exclusively professional league. While we have since found our place in the Community grades, we are proud to have outlasted a sizeable number of professional and amateur clubs alike. We have stood defiant, often against a larger opponent – on field, on campus and in the competition. We have demonstrated that we need little to achieve much.

The legacy of the ANUAFC lies in the experiences and the relationships forged on the footy field and carried on throughout our lives. The greatest legacy this Club has to bestow is the sense of community, camaraderie, and mateship, as voiced by our members past and present:

- Rocking up to every training and game and feeling happy to see everyone, and genuinely enjoying each other's company. From the drunken conversations at Hellenic, to kicking a footy, to mucking around on the oval in pitch black during 4P's, to the team huddles before, during and after every game. The people involved with the ANUAFC are this club's biggest asset and is what makes it an environment that you can't get enough of.⁹³
- Just being a part of such a great community. Nobody judged, everyone was welcome, no money just good blokes playing good footy and taking the piss constantly, no one and nothing was off limits.⁹⁴
- I loved the first tackle of every game. Big collisions were when I felt most alive. I loved how a dozen blokes would get around you at the smallest achievement. I loved the noise from the sidelines. I loved the song after a victory – particularly the second verse. I sang it full volume every time. I also loved how much better our performances were in the retelling at the pub afterwards.⁹⁵
- ANU was by far the least regimented club I was ever involved with, which I appreciate. With a lot of smart people floating about the place, it wouldn't make sense to have a culture of conformity. I hope the Club is still non-PC, though tougher to pull off these days. Giving everyone the ability to express themselves, in whatever way they choose, is mind-expanding and just what a university club should be about.⁹⁶
- Playing with ANU teaches you about teamwork. You become prepared to manage and lead people. It's like a sandpit for future managers, with all the little life experiments that happen at training, on game days and after matches. Playing with ANU I believe helped give me the confidence to start a company and do things my way.⁹⁷
- The mateship. I've met so many good people through my time at ANUAFC that I've created

93 Alex Williams, Questionnaire response, 2020

94 Chris Pepper, Questionnaire response, 2020

95 Tom Gibson, Questionnaire response, 2020

96 Andrew Lancaster, Questionnaire response, 2020

97 Andrew Lancaster, Questionnaire response, 2020



lifelong friendships forged over joint passions of playing footy, hanging shit on each other and enjoying a few beers. The other stuff such as winning games and flags and the like is simply a bonus.⁹⁸

While it is important to remember the past and how far we have come, it is equally exciting to look to the future. This is just the beginning of the story.

There is more history to collect and anecdotes to share (let's not write them all down...). We will one day get new sheds. There is an amazing groundswell around women's and men's community sport, and there are generations of new ANUAFC Griffins to come and share in what it is to pull on the ANUAFC blue. Some will come for a short time, some will come for a lifetime, but they will all enjoy what has been built off the back of the many whose stories have been shared in this book.

We offer them this: *ad astra per aspera* (through adversity to the stars).



Top: The huddle on South Oval, 2014.

Source: Bec Jones

Bottom: Women's huddle in the South Oval Pavillion.

Source: Rowena Yates

98. Daniel O'Reilly, Questionnaire response, 2020

HONOUR BOARD

Club achievements

Premierships

| Seniors | Reserves | Women's |
|---------|----------|---------|
| 1962 | 2007 | 2019 |
| 1980 | 2010 | |
| 1981 | 2012 | |
| 1982 | 2013 | |
| 1993 | 2016 | |
| 1994 | 2020 | |
| 1995 | | |
| 1996 | | |
| 2004 | | |
| 2005 | | |
| 2009 | | |
| 2020 | | |

Community Club of the Year

| |
|------|
| 2015 |
| 2016 |
| 2017 |
| 2018 |
| 2019 |

Reserves in Cooma.
Source: David Butler



Life Members

| | |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| 1964 | Ernie Lyall |
| 1966 | Ian Grigg |
| 1967 | Dick Thompson |
| 1968 | Prof Arthur Hambly |
| 1969 | Jim Lally and Bert Prowse |
| 1970 | Ken Johnston |
| 1971 | Vic Price |
| 1972 | Prof Deane Terrell |
| 1974 | John Buxton |
| 1975 | Damien McNamara |
| 1977 | Rod Cheatley and Don Cowie |
| 1978 | Kerry Hempenstall and Allan Hird |
| 1980 | Noel Baum and Peter Urmoneit |
| 1981 | Winton Brocklebank |
| 1984 | Andrew Arnott and Peter Rimington |
| 1985 | Doug Anderson |
| 1986 | John Robertson |
| 1989 | Colin Mues |
| 1991 | Joe d'Angelo |
| 1994 | Brian Chugg and Doug Williams |
| 1995 | Mike Bird |
| 1996 | Alan Maskell |
| 1997 | Fintán O'Laighin |
| 1998 | Chris Pepper |
| 2001 | Shaun Manning and Matthew Barber |
| 2002 | Simon Tuan |
| 2007 | Darryl Symons |
| 2008 | Rohan Langford |
| 2011 | Ryan Forsyth |
| 2012 | Troy Sloan |
| 2014 | Damian West |
| 2016 | Matthew Crawshaw and Mary Quinn |
| 2017 | Dean Rawlinson and Daniel Chaston |
| 2019 | Greg Oberscheidt and Daniel O'Reilly |

Best Clubman

| | |
|------|------------------------------|
| 1961 | - |
| 1962 | - |
| 1963 | - |
| 1964 | - |
| 1965 | Jack Smith |
| 1966 | - |
| 1967 | Terry Read |
| 1968 | Terry Read |
| 1969 | Terry Read |
| 1970 | Vic Price |
| 1971 | Rod Cheatley |
| 1972 | John Claringbold |
| 1973 | Don Cowie |
| 1974 | John Cameron |
| 1975 | Eric Martin |
| 1976 | Winton Brocklebank |
| 1977 | Tony Luyendyk |
| 1978 | Jack Lake and Miranda Scales |
| 1979 | Bob Schaedel |
| 1980 | Noel Baum |
| 1981 | Michael Bird |
| 1982 | Andrew Arnott |
| 1983 | Winton Brocklebank |
| 1984 | Andrew Arnott |
| 1985 | Colin Mues |
| 1986 | Joe D'Angelo |
| 1987 | Kerry Hempenstall |
| 1988 | Colin Mues |
| 1989 | Doug Williams |
| 1990 | Ian Jarman |

| | |
|------|---------------------------------|
| 1991 | Brian Chugg |
| 1992 | Ian Jarman |
| 1993 | Chris Pepper |
| 1994 | Fintán O'Laighin |
| 1995 | Fintán O'Laighin |
| 1996 | Ed Scully |
| 1997 | Ed Scully |
| 1998 | Ivan Parrett |
| 1999 | Brett Quester |
| 2000 | Shaun Manning |
| 2001 | Darryl Symons |
| 2002 | David Ellis |
| 2003 | Alana Lowes |
| 2004 | Darryl Symons |
| 2005 | Darryl Symons |
| 2006 | Darryl Symons |
| 2007 | Daniel Chaston |
| 2008 | Joel O'Brien |
| 2009 | Jana van der Woude |
| 2010 | Greg Oberscheidt |
| 2011 | Shane Bolitho |
| 2012 | Caitlin Roy |
| 2013 | Kosta Didimiotis |
| 2014 | Josh Cliff and Greg Oberscheidt |
| 2015 | Matthew Crawshaw |
| 2016 | Jenny Church |
| 2017 | Tom Crowe |
| 2018 | Alex Bell-Rowe |
| 2019 | Stephen Darlington |
| 2020 | James Mount |

Best and Fairest

| | Seniors | Reserves | Women's | Third XVIII | Under 19 |
|------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------|----------------|----------------|
| 1961 | | | | | |
| 1962 | Mick Meagher | | | | |
| 1963 | Brian Wawn | Hugh Brophy | | | |
| 1964 | Bruce McPherson | Peter Collings | | | |
| 1965 | Kerry Jelbart | Hugh Brophy | | | |
| 1966 | Kit Stephens | Wal Jurkiewicz | | | |
| 1967 | John Buxton | Bill Reynoldson | | | |
| 1968 | Michael Healy | Dick Miller | | | |
| 1969 | Michael Healy | Tim McNamara | | | |
| 1970 | Bill Whittakers | Mac Howell | | Bob Schaedel | |
| 1971 | David Morgan | Mick Bolton | | Bob Seamer | |
| 1972 | Rob Wilson | Ivan Roberts | | Ken Reed | |
| 1973 | Chris Bowman | Tony Stenhouse | | Ken Reed | |
| 1974 | Chris Bowman | Gerry Tatareta | | Kevin Lay | |
| 1975 | Gary Robb | Ivan Roberts | | Tim Kennedy | - |
| 1976 | Ian MacDonald | Tony Luyendyk | | Gary James | John Robertson |
| 1977 | Ben Hunt | Bruce Porter Eric Martin | | Rolf Gerritson | Bill Thompson |
| 1978 | Doug Anderson | Frank Doherty | | Ed Ditmer | |
| 1979 | Doug Anderson | Volke Janke | | | |
| 1980 | Doug Anderson | John Warhurst | | | |
| 1981 | Doug Anderson | - | | | |
| 1982 | Chris Althaus | - | | | |
| 1983 | Alistair Sarre | - | | | |
| 1984 | Richard Smith | - | | | |
| 1985 | Richard Smith | - | | | |
| 1986 | Stephen Goode | - | | | |
| 1987 | Paul McGinness | - | | | |
| 1988 | Alan Maskell | - | | | |
| 1989 | David Garner | - | | | |
| 1990 | Nigel Gageldonk | Peter McCarthy | | | |

- No data ■ Non-playing years

| | Seniors | Reserves | Women's | Third XVIII | Under 19 |
|------|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 1991 | Colin Mues | Simon Tuan | | | |
| 1992 | Simon Tuan | - | | | |
| 1993 | Alistair Sarre | Jens Light | | | |
| 1994 | Geoff Shalders | Dan Ryan | | Brett Quester | |
| 1995 | Simon Stanfield | Robert Tkalecivic | | Chris Talay | |
| 1996 | Simon Stanfield | Anthony King | | Martin Drum | |
| 1997 | Matt Stephens | Jim Poole | | Stuart Cosgriff | |
| 1998 | Andrew Reed | Mick Kirk | | - | |
| 1999 | Shaun Manning | Martin Butchers | | Nick Crean | |
| 2000 | Matthew Kelly | Brook Dixon | | | |
| 2001 | Andrew Reed | Dean Gordon | Danica Ralston | | |
| 2002 | Andrew Hermann | Joel Armstrong | Alana Lowes | | |
| 2003 | Damian West | Al McClusky | Alana Lowes | | |
| 2004 | Simon Tuan | Dean Rawlinson | Alana Lowes | | |
| 2005 | Ed Knight | Daniel Chaston | Alana Lowes | | |
| 2006 | David Wagland | Shaun Manning | Bek Hall | | |
| 2007 | Daniel Chaston | Ben Weise | Bek Hall | | |
| 2008 | Matthew Crawshaw | Ashley Kay | Bec Jones | | |
| 2009 | Robbie Sirr | Gordon Jones | Simone Huntingford Kerrily Boyd | | |
| 2010 | Andrew Hermann | Rhys Forsyth | Kerrily Boyd | | |
| 2011 | Robbie Sirr | Warwick Jay | Amy Burgess | | |
| 2012 | Ryan Singleton | Hamish Lade | Luisa Rosin | | |
| 2013 | Lee Sloan | Peter Stevens | Claire Reynolds | | |
| 2014 | Kieran Harris | Jonathon O'Bannon | Caitlin Roy | | |
| 2015 | Brent Ritchie Ryan Singleton | Tim Robb | Caitlin Roy | | |
| 2016 | Stephen Kenny | Tim Robb | Caitlin Roy | | |
| 2017 | Ben Andreatta | Haydn Dobson | Claire Reynolds | | |
| 2018 | James Mount | Richard Davis | Eloise McLean | | |
| 2019 | Noah Dunlop | Matthew Crawshaw | Lauren Rasche | | |
| 2020 | Josh Elston | Jonathon Dean | Elizabeth Hill | | |

- No data ■ Non-playing years

Runner Up Best and Fairest

| | Seniors | Reserves | Women's | Third XVIII | Under 19 |
|------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1961 | | | | | |
| 1962 | Peter Engel | | | | |
| 1963 | Bruce McPherson | Jim Fingleton | | | |
| 1964 | Andrew Green | Damien McNamara | | | |
| 1965 | Andrew Green | Geoff Pryor | | | |
| 1966 | John Buxton Don Cowie | John Hicks | | | |
| 1967 | Mick Rogers | Bernard Dowiyogo | | | |
| 1968 | Bob Schaedel | Mac Howell | | | |
| 1969 | Vic Price | Creswick Agogiang | | | |
| 1970 | Michael Healy | Bob Seamer | | - | |
| 1971 | Rob Wilson | Kevin Saunders | | - | |
| 1972 | Tony Pryor | Dan Prigg | | Tim Kennedy | |
| 1973 | Rod Brown | Mick Bolton | | Tim Kennedy | |
| 1974 | Ted Lees | Don Russell | | Don Cowie | |
| 1975 | Ian MacDonald | Don Cowie | | Gary James | - |
| 1976 | Chris Bowman | John Kaye | | Neil Aplin | Bill Thompson |
| 1977 | Tony Luyendyk | Rod Brown | | Max Keirmaier | Danny Mandaru Peter Baldwin |
| 1978 | Peter Searle | Kim Parkinson | | Rolf Gerritson | |
| 1979 | Mark Grant | Graham Hewett | | - | |
| 1980 | Chris Dahlenberg John Langford | G Roscarel | | | |
| 1981 | Chris Dahlenberg | - | | | |
| 1982 | Doug Anderson | - | | | |
| 1983 | Chris Dahlenberg | - | | | |
| 1984 | - | - | | | |
| 1985 | - | - | | | |
| 1986 | - | - | | | |
| 1987 | - | - | | | |
| 1988 | - | - | | | |
| 1989 | - | - | | | |
| 1990 | Dave McCallum | Steve Wood | | | |

- No data ■ Non-playing years

| | Seniors | Reserves | Women's | Third XVIII | Under 19 |
|------|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| 1991 | - | Shaun Manning | | | |
| 1992 | Shaun Manning | - | | | |
| 1993 | Damien Battison | Mark Jeffcott | | | |
| 1994 | Brian Jackson | Anthony King | | Digby Hancock | |
| 1995 | Geoff Shalders | Jamie Watson | | Ashley Fong | |
| 1996 | Paul Griffith Marty Jaugietis | Ash Fong | | Matthew Luck | |
| 1997 | - | Steve Wood | | Dan Landon | |
| 1998 | Brett Quester | Tom Molony | | - | |
| 1999 | Matthew Kelly | Juan Crosby | | - | |
| 2000 | Nick Innes | Paul Adolphson | | | |
| 2001 | Nathan Vink | Joe Glover | Jenny Basham | | |
| 2002 | Matthew Kelly | Grant Lay | Alaina Geysen | | |
| 2003 | Simon Tuan | Pat Donaldson | Bek Hall | | |
| 2004 | Andrew Lancaster | Dylan Bushnell | - | | |
| 2005 | Tom Gibson | Ben Chapman | - | | |
| 2006 | Grayson Stopp | Brook Dixon | Simone Huntingford | | |
| 2007 | Matthew Crawshaw | Simon Tuan | - | | |
| 2008 | Anthony Quinn | Ben Hermann | Lee Steel | | |
| 2009 | Brent Holgate | Dom Delany | Joanne Kolodziej | | |
| 2010 | Brent Holgate | Phil Evans | Cassidy Boyd Laura Hogan | | |
| 2011 | Brent Holgate | Hamish Lade | Odile Moutounet | | |
| 2012 | James McMillan | Tim Robb | Caitlin Roy | | |
| 2013 | Ryan Singleton | Jonathon Dean | Caitlin Roy | | |
| 2014 | Dan Musil | Lachlan Vass | Katherine Dellar | | |
| 2015 | Daniel Discipio | John Mitchell | Nadia Thorman Katherine Dellar | | |
| 2016 | James Mount | Jonathon Dean | Annika Hutchins | | |
| 2017 | Tom Short | Tom O'Connor | Annabel Roden | | |
| 2018 | Liam Dooley | Nathan Arch | Jackie Parry | | |
| 2019 | Josh Elston | Tim Robb | Helen Breen | | |
| 2020 | Nick Burridge | Richard Davis | Alex Williams | | |

- No data ■ Non-playing years

Players Player

| | Seniors | Reserves | Women's | Third XVIII | Under 19 |
|------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|
| 1986 | John Kennedy | - | | | |
| 1987 | Paul McGinnes Richard Smith | - | | | |
| 1988 | Hugh Jorgensen John Kennedy | - | | | |
| 1989 | John Kennedy | - | | | |
| 1990 | Nigel Gageldonk | Chris Pepper | | | |
| 1991 | Colin Mues | Chris Pepper | | | |
| 1992 | Shaun Manning Colin Mues | - | | | |
| 1993 | Alistair Sarre | Jens Light | | | |
| 1994 | Geoff Shalders | Jens Light | | Brett Quester | |
| 1995 | Alan Maskell | Jens Light | | Fintán O'Laighin | |
| 1996 | Paul Griffiths | Jens Light | | Martin Drum | |
| 1997 | Shaun Manning | Jim Poole | | Scott Stewart | |
| 1998 | Jed Corbett | Ross McAllister | | - | |
| 1999 | Shaun Manning | Matt Luck | | Brook Dixon | |
| 2000 | Matthew Kelly | Scott Stewart | | | |
| 2001 | Andrew Reed | Troy Sloan | Danica Ralston | | |
| 2002 | Matthew Kelly | Michael Williams | Alana Lowes | | |
| 2003 | Damian West | Will Kimber | Alana Lowes | | |
| 2004 | Simon Tuan | Michael Williams | - | | |
| 2005 | Ed Knight | Dan Wayland | Bek Hall | | |
| 2006 | Wes Heincke | Michael Williams | Bek Hall | | |
| 2007 | Daniel Chaston | Brook Dixon | Bek Hall | | |
| 2008 | Anthony Quinn | Shane Bolitho | Kirrily Boyd | | |
| 2009 | Robbie Sirr | Gordon Jones | Joanne Kolodziej | | |
| 2010 | Dean Rawlinson | Shaun Manning | Laura Hogan | | |
| 2011 | Robbie Sirr | Arran Douglas Brook Dixon | Luisa Rosin | | |
| 2012 | John Mitchell | Alex Spokes | Bec Jones | | |
| 2013 | Arran Douglas | Jonathan Dean | Caitlin Roy | | |
| 2014 | Joshua Boyle | John Mitchell | Caitlin Roy | | |
| 2015 | Brent Ritchie | John Mitchell | Caitlin Roy | | |

- No data ■ Non-playing years

| | Seniors | Reserves | Women's | Third XVIII | Under 19 |
|------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|----------|
| 2016 | Arran Douglas | Tim Robb | Caitlin Roy | | |
| 2017 | James Mount | Hayden Dobson | Annabel Roden | | |
| 2018 | James Mount | Richard Davis | Caitlin Roy | | |
| 2019 | Noah Dunlop | Tim Robb | Dani Distefano | | |
| 2020 | Josh Elston | Thomas O'Connor | Ine Beerens | | |

Blues Awards

| | |
|------|---|
| 1962 | Peter Engel |
| 1963 | Andrew Green |
| 1964 | Bruce McPherson |
| 1965 | Kerry Jelbart |
| 1966 | Kit Stephens Rod Gilholme |
| 1967 | John Buxton Peter Collings (half) |
| 1968 | Michael Healy Don Cowie (half) Mick Rogers (half) |
| 1969 | Alan Walker Rick Underdown (half) |
| 1970 | Bill Whittakers |
| 1971 | Rob Wilson (half) |
| 1972 | Rob Wilson (full) Geoff Craighead (half) |
| 1975 | Ian McDonald Gary Robb |

Mulrooney Medallist

| | |
|------|-----------------|
| 1970 | Bill Whittakers |
| 1972 | Rob Wilson |

Bainrot Medallist

| | |
|------|-------------|
| 2003 | Alana Lowes |
| 2005 | Tal Karp |

– No data ■ Non-playing years

Games record

Milestone 350

Simon Tuan

Milestone 250

Noel Baum

Milestone 200

John Buxton
Daniel Chaston
Don Cowie
Matthew Crawshaw
Ryan Forsyth
Shaun Manning
Dean Rawlinson
Damian West

Milestone 150

Doug Anderson
Stephen Barwick
Matthew Brown
David Butler
Benedict Chapman
Don Cowie
Brook Dixon
Wes Heincke
Andrew Hermann
Andrew Lancaster
Alan Maskell
Colin Mues
Matthew Murphy
Christopher Pepper
Brent Ritchie
John Robertson
Caitlin Roy
Chris Smith
Doug Williams

Milestone 100

Matthew Barber
Shane Bolitho
Mick Bolton
Winton Brocklebank
Rod Brown
Geoff Buchanan
Jack Buckley
Brian Chugg
Joshua Cliff
Nick Crean
Jonathon Dean
Arran Douglas
Ben Harris
Justin Harsdorf
Justin Heighway
John Hicks
Allan Hird
Warrick Jay
Mark Jeffcott
Bec Jones
James Leitch
Chris Mitchell
John Mitchell
Gavin Nolan

Fintán O'Laighin
Daniel O'Reilly
Felicity Pagan
Benjamin Polkinghorne
James Poole
Vic Price
Brett Quester
William Quinn
Andrew Reed
Tim Robb
Ivan Roberts
Nick Scotton
Sam Scotton
Karen Short
Troy Sloan
Simon Stanfield
Richard Starke
Lee Steel
Phillip Townsend
Jana van der Woude
Ben Weise
Dominic Weppner
Michael Williams

Milestone 50

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| James Abbey | Andrew Cumpston | Brent Holgate | James McMillan | Luisa Rosin |
| Greg Adcock | Nicholas Cumpston | Alan Honey | Damien McNamara | Scott Rudder |
| Nathan Arch | Joe d'Angelo | Mac Howell | Mark McNamara | Dan Ryan |
| Andrew Arnott | Chris Dahlenburg | Simone Huntingford | Tim McNamara | Gary Samuels |
| Madeleine Bacon | Rick Davidson | Peter Hussin | Leigh McPhan | Alistair Sarre |
| Thomas Ballantyne | Anthony Davies | Annika Hutchins | Bruce McPherson | Bob Schaedel |
| Tom Banson | Richard Davis | Owen Hutchison | Mick Meagher | Andrew Schmid |
| Peter Barrett | Tom Denman | Ian Jarman | Matthew Meredith | Ed Scully |
| Damian Battisson | Hayden Dobson | Marty Jaugietis | John Midwinter | Peter Searle |
| Peter Bishop | Brad Douglas | Kerry Jelbart | Dick Miller | Ryan Singleton |
| Sam Bishop | Will Downing | Murray Johnson | Damien Molony | Robert Sirr |
| Chris Bolden | Richard Doyle | Daniel Jones | Heath Moore | Lee Sloan |
| Craig Bowditch | Martin Drum | Gordon Jones | Brigitte Morten | Anthony Sorrensen |
| Chris Bowman | David Dwyer | Richard Jowett | James Mount | Tony Stenhouse |
| Cassidy Boyd | Alan Fewster | Ashley Kay | Chris Newbegin | Jason Stephens |
| Kirrily Boyd | Andy Finlay | George Kazias | Keith Newton | Matt Stephens |
| Jim Bradshaw | Jamie Fox | Alex Kelly | Joel O'Brien | John Tamblyn |
| Andrew Brettargh | Ian Fraser | Matthew Kelly | Tom O'Connor | Geoff Taylor |
| Hugh Brophy | Lauren Gallagher | Sharon Kenna | Matthew O'Dwyer | Nadia Thorman |
| Geoff Brown | Ross Garnaut | Tim Kennedy | Mocka O'Shannassy | Jim Thynne |
| Adrian Browne | David Garner | Max Kiermier | Phil Otto | Shaun Tipson |
| Amy Burgess | Rod Gilholme | Mick Kirk | Tim Overland | Rob Tkalkevic |
| Dylan Bushnell | Joseph Glover | Mark Laduzko | Kim Parkinson | Kieran Toscan |
| Matthew Cahill | Ed Glowrey | Jack Lake | Rob Parnell | Peter Urmoneit |
| Alison Campbell | Darryl Gobbett | Daniel Landon | Greg Peters | Nathan Vink |
| Dave Carland | Iain Gosney | Grant Lay | Roger Pescott | Jamie Watson |
| Barrie Cassidy | Bill Gould | K Lay | Mark Peterson | Patrick Whish-Wilson |
| Andy Chalmers | Alan Grant | Barry Leahy | Mark Phelps | David Williams |
| Rod Cheatley | Robert Graziani | Katrina Leslie | Greg Piko | Charles Willoughby |
| Lai-yee Chow | Andrew Green | Phillip Lewington | Bruce Porter | Anna Wilson |
| Jennifer Church | Bob Hadler | Jens Light | Daniel Pottenger | Jane Wilson |
| John Claringbold | Bek Hall | Matthew Luck | Danny Prigg | Steve Wood |
| John Clark | Michael Hamill | Tony Luyendyk | Geoff Pryor | Ben Yates |
| Peter Collings | James Hancock | Andrew Lyell | Anthony Quinn | |
| Gerard Corbett | Kieran Harris | Ian MacDonald | Matthew Quinn | |
| Stuart Cosgriff | Andrew Haynes | Eric Martin | Raymond Quinn | |
| Mike Court | Anthony Helman | T Martin | Peter Reece | |
| Garry Cox | Peter Hennessy | Alistair McClusky | Greg Robertson | |
| Charles Craig | Ben Hermann | Peter McLoughlin | Paul Rogers | |

Coaches

| | Seniors | Reserves | Women's | Third XVIII | Under 19 |
|------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1961 | | | | | |
| 1962 | Ian Grigg | | | | |
| 1963 | Ian Grigg | Ernie Lyall | | | |
| 1964 | Ian Grigg | Ernie Lyall | | | |
| 1965 | Ian Grigg | - | | | |
| 1966 | Ron McLeod | Hugh Brophy | | | |
| 1967 | Ron McLeod | - | | | |
| 1968 | Frank Dunin | Terry Read | | | |
| 1969 | Frank Dunin | Terry Read | | | |
| 1970 | Pat McNamara | Damien McNamara | | | |
| 1971 | John Buxton | Damien McNamara | | Bob Seamer | |
| 1972 | John Buxton | Allan Hird | | Ken Reed | |
| 1973 | John Buxton | Allan Hird | | Ken Reed | |
| 1974 | Barry Johnston | - | | Don Cowie | |
| 1975 | Barry Johnston | - | | Tim Kennedy | - |
| 1976 | Ted Lees | Allan Hird | | Barry Critchley | Ivan Roberts |
| 1977 | Allan Hird | Jim Burnell Charles Kilduff | | Geoff Walsh | Ivan Roberts |
| 1978 | Les Durkin | Charles Kilduff | | Rolf Gerritson | |
| 1979 | David Kidd Bob Schaedel | Jim Johnson | | Max Kiermaier | |
| 1980 | Winton Brocklebank | Geoff Walsh | | | |
| 1981 | Winton Brocklebank | Geoff Walsh | | | |
| 1982 | Winton Brocklebank | Mike Bird | | | |
| 1983 | Jim Burnell | Mike Bird | | | |
| 1984 | Ian Geary | Andrew Finlay | | | |
| 1985 | Ian Geary | Andrew Finlay | | | |
| 1986 | Winton Brocklebank | Tony Cibiras | | | |
| 1987 | Gary Cox | Doug Anderson | | | |
| 1988 | Colin Mues | Con Moraitis | | | |
| 1989 | Colin Mues | Con Moraitis | | | |
| 1990 | Phil Townsend | Mark MacNamara | | | |
| 1991 | Mike Bird | Greg Johnson Brian Chugg | | | |
| 1992 | Mike Bird | Brad Douglas | | | |
| 1993 | Peter Foley | Brad Douglas | | | |

- No data ■ Non-playing years

| | Seniors | Reserves | Women's | Third XVIII | Under 19 |
|------|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| 1994 | Leigh McPhan | Shaun Manning | | Joe d'Angelo | |
| 1995 | Leigh McPhan | Brian Chugg | | Rohan Langford | |
| 1996 | Leigh McPhan | Shaun Manning | | Fintán O'Laighin | |
| 1997 | Paul Priestly | Brian Chugg | | Fintán O'Laighin | |
| 1998 | Paul Priestly | Brian Chugg | | Andrew Pearse | |
| 1999 | Paul Priestly | Rohan Langford | | Andrew Pearse James Poole | |
| 2000 | Colin Mues | Rohan Langford | | | |
| 2001 | Colin Mues | Rohan Langford | Jens Light Nicholas Crean | | |
| 2002 | Colin Mues Rohan Langford | Steve Munro | Jens Light | | |
| 2003 | Colin Mues Rohan Langford | Steve Munro | Michael Sinkowitsch | | |
| 2004 | Rohan Langford | Mick Kirk | Michael Sinkowitsch | | |
| 2005 | Rohan Langford | Mick Kirk | Michael Sinkowitsch | | |
| 2006 | Damian Molony | Shaun Manning | Kym Rose | | |
| 2007 | Damian Molony | Shaun Manning | Michael Sinkowitsch | | |
| 2008 | Rohan Langford | Mick Kirk | Emily McGuinness Daniel Jones | | |
| 2009 | William Quinn Mick Kirk | Phillip Lewington | Daniel Jones Chris Mitchell | | |
| 2010 | William Quinn Mick Kirk | Richard Bartlett | Pat Heazlewood Gordon Jones | | |
| 2011 | Josh Cliff | Richard Bartlett | Glenn Hayes | | |
| 2012 | Josh Cliff Greg Oberscheidt | Phillip Lewington Patrick Heazlewood | Glenn Hayes | | |
| 2013 | Josh Cliff Greg Oberscheidt | Kosta Didimiotis Tim Robb | James McMillan Nicholas Crean | | |
| 2014 | Josh Cliff Greg Oberscheidt | Kosta Didimiotis | James McMillan Nicholas Crean | | |
| 2015 | Greg Oberscheidt | Tim Robb | Nicholas Crean | | |
| 2016 | Greg Oberscheidt | Michael Canavan | Alan Reid | | |
| 2017 | Josh Cliff | Tom Crowe | Alan Reid | | |
| 2018 | Russell Stewart | Tom Crowe | Gerry Patron | | |
| 2019 | Russell Stewart | Haydn Dobson Jake Prince | Gerry Patron | | |
| 2020 | Tim Robb | Jake Prince | Gerry Patron | | |

– No data ■ Non-playing years

Teams of the decade

1991–2000

| Seniors | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Back | Justin Heighway | Daniel Pottenger | Jim Leitch |
| Half back | Shaun Manning | Geoff Shalders | Matt Stephens |
| Centre | Alan Maskell | Nigel Gageldonk | Marty Jaugietis |
| Half forward | Damien Battison | Andrew Lancaster | Brad Douglas |
| Forward | Colin Mues | Simon Stanfield | Alistair Sarre |
| Followers | Brian Jackson | Simon Tuan (C) | Andrew Reed |
| Interchange | David Garner | Dan Ryan | Mike Court |
| | | Paul Griffiths | |
| Coach | Leigh McPhan | | |
| Assistant Coach | Peter Foley | | |

2001–2010

| Seniors | | | |
|--------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Back | Jim Leitch | Ben van den Tol | Daniel O'Reilly |
| Half back | William Quinn | Matthew Crawshaw | Jason Stephens |
| Centre | Chris Smith | Simon Tuan | Daniel Chaston |
| Half forward | Andrew Hermann | Andrew Lancaster | James Abbey |
| Forward | Tom Gibson | Wes Heincke | Ryan Forsyth |
| Followers | Andrew Connor | Damian West (C) | Andrew Reed |
| Interchange | Dean Rawlinson | Anthony Quinn | David Butler |
| | | Tom Ballantyne | |
| Coach | Rohan Langford | | |

| Women's | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Back | Trish Young | Cassidy Boyd | Jemma Still |
| Half back | Samantha Engel | Kendelle Treloar | Nic Somi |
| Centre | Bec Jones | Kym Rose | Toni Alexandrow |
| Half forward | Kirrily Boyd | Alaina Geyson | Luisa Rosin |
| Forward | Summer Caston | Lauren Gallagher | Katrina Leslie |
| Followers | Alana Lowes | Simone Huntingford | Bek Hall |
| Interchange | Lee Steel | Laura Hogan | Annaleis Martin |
| | | Mungrove | |
| Coach | Michael Sinkowisch | | |

2011–2020

| Seniors | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Back | Anthony Sorensen | Dean Rawlinson | Alex Kelly |
| Half back | Ryan Singleton | Tom Short | James Mount (VC) |
| Centre | Brent Ritchie | Daniel Discipio | Robbie Sirr |
| Half forward | Andrew Hermann | Lee Sloan | Ben Andreatta |
| Forward | Ryan Forsyth (C) | Tim Robb | David Butler |
| Followers | Liam Dooley | Josh Elston | Kieran Harris |
| Interchange | Arran Douglas | John Mitchell | Jonathan Dean |
| | | James Hancock | |
| Coaches | Josh Cliff | Greg Oberscheidt | |
| Runner | Stephen Darlington | | |

| Women's | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Back | Felicity Pagan | Nadia Thorman | Annika Hutchins |
| Half back | Luisa Rosin | Adela Michelson | Alex Williams |
| Centre | Lee Steel | Annabel Roden | Claire Reynolds |
| Half forward | Karen Short | Helen Breen | Nina Westernraad |
| Forward | Tarlina Tipungwuti | Bec Jones | Amy Burgess (C) |
| Followers | Caitlin Roy (VC) | Danielle Distefano | Eloise Mclean |
| Interchange | Lai-Yee Chow | Jana van der Woude | Jenny Church |
| | Anna Wilson | Lauren Rasche | Ine Beerens |
| Coach | Gerard Patron | | |
| Runner | Gavin De Coursey | | |

Executive

| | President | Secretary | Treasurer |
|------|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1961 | Barry O'Grady | Peter Engel | Peter Lush |
| 1962 | Barry O'Grady | Mick Emmery | Peter Lush |
| 1963 | Ernie Lyall | Mick Emmery | Peter Lush |
| 1964 | Ernie Lyall | Andre Cirulis | Terry Chamberlain |
| 1965 | Vic Price | Bill Lyons | Geoff Brown |
| 1966 | Vic Price | Bill Lyons | Geoff Brown |
| 1967 | Bert Prowse | Vic Price | Geoff Brown |
| 1968 | Bert Prowse | Vic Price | John Buxton |
| 1969 | Ken Johnston | Doug McIver | John Buxton |
| 1970 | Terry Read | Mick Fogarty | John Buxton |
| 1971 | Terry Read | Charles Willoughby | Tim McNamara |
| 1972 | Charles Willoughby | John Claringbold | Ivan Roberts |
| 1973 | Charles Willoughby | Graham Richards | Don Cowie |
| 1974 | Rod Cheatley | John Cameron | Greg Maugham John Clarke |
| 1975 | Rod Cheatley | John Cameron | John Clarke |
| 1976 | Ed Glowrey Rod Cheatley | Rob DeFegeley | David Carland |
| 1977 | Rod Cheatley | John Buxton | David Carland |
| 1978 | John Molony | Dr Andrew Markus | Mark Upcher |
| 1979 | Doug Anderson | Don Cowie | Sally-Ann Watts |
| 1980 | Don Cowie | Max Kiermaier | Andrew Hogan |
| 1981 | Peter Urmoncit | Max Kiermaier | Andrew Hogan |
| 1982 | John Robertson | Peter McLoughlin | Peter Graham |
| 1983 | John Robertson | - | Peter Graham |
| 1984 | Sheila Ross | - | John Robertson |
| 1985 | Sheila Ross | Paul McGinness | John Robertson |
| 1986 | Allan Hird | Michael Paterson | Joe d'Angelo |
| 1987 | Allan Hird Joe d'Angelo | - | Michael Wawn |
| 1988 | Kerry Hempenstall | Joe d'Angelo | Michael Wawn |
| 1989 | Greg Johnson | Laurie Byron | Doug Williams |
| 1990 | Murray Lembit | Doug Williams | Ian Jarman |
| 1991 | Murray Lembit | Matthew Barber | Judy Liddle |
| 1992 | Colin Mues | Paul Scanlon | Ian Jarman |
| 1993 | Doug Williams | Jens Light | Ian Jarman |

| | President | Secretary | Treasurer |
|------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1994 | Doug Williams | Jens Light | Mark Phelps |
| 1995 | David Garner | Jens Light | Digby Hancock |
| 1996 | Ben Harris | Alan Maskell | Doug Williams |
| 1997 | Troy Sloan | Alan Honey | Doug Williams |
| 1998 | Troy Sloan | Matthew Flavell | Ivan Parrett |
| 1999 | Troy Sloan | James Poole | Adrian Browne |
| 2000 | Brian Chugg | Nick Cumpston | Troy Sloan |
| 2001 | Brian Chugg | Dave Ellis | Justin Harsdorf |
| 2002 | Andrew Brettargh | Dave Ellis | Troy Sloan |
| 2003 | David Ellis | Madeleine Bacon | Justin Harsdorf |
| 2004 | David Ellis | Madeleine Bacon | Justin Harsdorf |
| 2005 | Anthony Murphy Samantha Engel | Katrina Leslie | Troy Sloan |
| 2006 | Anthony Murphy | - | Troy Sloan |
| 2007 | Anthony Murphy | Ryan Forsyth | Stephen Barwick |
| 2008 | Damian Molony | Ryan Forsyth | Stephen Barwick |
| 2009 | Ryan Forsyth | Jana van der Woude | Phillip Lewington |
| 2010 | Ryan Forsyth | Brigitte Morten | Lachlan Quinn |
| 2011 | Ryan Forsyth | Brigitte Morten | Lachlan Quinn |
| 2012 | Andrew Hermann | Dean Rawlinson | Lachlan Quinn |
| 2013 | Andrew Hermann | Matthew Crawshaw | Daniel O'Reilly Luisa Rosin |
| 2014 | Andrew Hermann | Matthew Crawshaw | Daniel O'Reilly Luisa Rosin |
| 2015 | Caitlin Roy | Jenny Church | Sam Bishop |
| 2016 | Caitlin Roy | Jenny Church | Sam Bishop James Hancock Heath Moore |
| 2017 | Caitlin Roy | James Mount | James Hancock Heath Moore |
| 2018 | Caitlin Roy | Phoebe Worth | James Hancock |
| 2019 | Caitlin Roy | Alex Williams | Ryan Forsyth Jack Murphy |
| 2020 | Jenny Church | James Hancock Alison Mount | Ryan Forsyth |
| 2021 | Samuel Bargwanna | Adela Michelson | Calum Martin |

GRIFFTIONARY

The Oxford English Dictionary is the principal historical dictionary of the English language, published by Oxford University Press.

The Macquarie Dictionary is a dictionary of Australian English. It is generally considered by universities and the legal profession to be the authoritative source on Australian English.

Neither have captured accurately the meaning (or, implied/actual meaning) of many words which are common parlance to a seasoned Griff. Hence; the Australian Capital Territory Griffitionary.

Best on Ground/the Mug

This is a separate matter entirely to being the best person on the ground. Being 'best-on' of a day falls somewhere in the Venn diagram between talent, deservedness, expectations, prior spudliness, and being literally present at the pub when the awards are given (wanna be best on? Go to the pub on a Sunday post-game). If you get the Mug for being best-on, you don't pay for a drink all night. If you're a Uni Student and it's a Saturday night, that's awesome, and you're gonna bounce back the next morning. If you're a 30-something young/not-so-young professional and it's a Sunday, you think it's awesome, and then you are still eating bacon and egg rolls on Wednesday of the subsequent week and you're still feeling it the morning of the next week's game. The Best and Fairest winner of the year is rarely the person who won the most Mugs. Just a comment.

Big Dance

The Big Dance. The moment we have been building to since November pre-preseason. Will the game be played at Manuka at prime time on a Saturday? Will it be at Gungahlin North at 9am on a Sunday? No one knows. All that is certain is that blokes and girls who have not been seen since round 2 will pop up for selection. The stage will be set, the result unknown – and the beers ready to be drunk in the pursuit of the Glory, the Honour, and the Bliss. Some less dramatic folks would simply call this the 'grand final.'

Boffins

'Boffins' is a formal eatery and drinkery at University House, on the ANU Campus, which served as the original unofficial clubhouse of the then University Blues/ANUAFC in the 1960s-70s. The Boffins, like its more recent contemporaries including the RSL, Olims, and Hellenic Club in the City, likely noticed a significant seasonal swing in both revenue and cleaning fees that can only truly be traced to the 20 winter weeks per year that Uni and their disposable income were frequenting the venue.

Buzz

An archaic/obsolete usage of this word represents a derogatory term which will not be aired in this modern publication, but in a more recent definition which has soundly superseded the original, a member of the 'Buzz' is a female player, 'Lady Griff', or similarly associated woman of the ANUAFC. Also somewhat supersedes the beloved "Griffinette" nickname of the early-2000s. Some say that the early-mid-2010s' fourth wave of feminism was kickstarted internationally with the reclaiming of the 'Buzz' term by the women of the ANUAFC.

Cordies

This is a term for an army cadet from the Royal Military College Duntroon in Canberra. We get the impression it's one of those things that if we call them that, it's mean, but they can call themselves that and it's fine. Seems about right, we say bring it back. This was the reference term for the Duntroon team while they were in the comp, during which time the now-ADFA and ANU enjoyed a 'healthy' rivalry involving on-field play and off-field shenanigans.

Gift

The Griffin Gift is Australia's oldest and most mediocre short distance running race. It is run annually every 4P's weekend by the ANUAFC, with the main race on Saturday night/Sunday morning at South Oval, Acton, in the ACT. The race is run by first-year male and female players, on grass, over whatever distance an inebriated person steps out on the night. Completely unsubstantiated rumour has it that pioneering female athlete Gertrude Di Roychurch was the first woman to run the Gift.

Griffcest

There is nothing more confusing in the Griffos than the fact that so many supposedly educated people can so fundamentally misunderstand/ignore the phrase 'don't sh*t where you eat'. Many a Griffo has locked eyes with a fellow teammate/coach/water runner/volunteer at an after-game venue or 4P's dancefloor, and decided to really give the phrase 'team bonding' a run. Some of this Griffcest has resulted in lovely relationships and

marriages, beautiful children, and a happy future. Much, much more of it has resulted in avoided eye contact on a Tuesday training night, fierce denials of any wrongdoing, and a refusal to learn from it.

Griffo Club Legend/Stalwart

Noting that this is supposed to be a Dictionary of terms, we'll acknowledge it's odd to have an undefined term. This definition is solely about the Vibe of the Thing. Generally self-appointed, the title of 'club stalwart' can be applied equally at the Griffos to a Seniors player with 150 caps and two league best and fairests, as it can be to someone who played five games off the bench for the women when we only had 16 players so it was weird to be on the bench, but who produced an unrivalled offering at a Griff Revue night. Nothing is more valued or argued upon at 3am than a contested or controversial self-appointed club stalwart title at the Griffos. Noting the transient nature of Canberra and the Club, one can be a club stalwart at the Griffos where they may be merely a blow-in at a less culturally refined club. There's nothing more motivating to a long-suffering Board member or volunteer who has given 12 years collecting subs, than the title of Club Legend being bestowed upon someone who has never paid their subs but agreed to drive the bus to footy trip once. Here's to the Legends.

Grifftatorship

The preferred and necessary way to run a football club which operates on the smell of an oily rag and has a general reputation for rascallionism is the 'Grifftatorship' model. Popularised in the late-2010s, the term generally refers to a certain era of club management which involved highly centralised and locked down contact with the league and umpire cohort, a somewhat less flexible approach to the threshold for inclusion of MA15+ materials in the club newsletter, and a stacking of the Board that would be considered Machiavellian if it wasn't for the fact that no one ever volunteers to go on the Board anyway. In the words of Charles Pickering, "A healthy democracy requires a decent society; it requires that we are honorable, generous, tolerant and respectful." It is obvious then, why democracy doesn't work at the Griffos.

Guineas

Despite the fact that the ANUAFC purports to be a football club, arguably the proudest and most esteemed sporting event of the ANUAFC social calendar is the Griffin Guineas, also formerly known as the "Calver's Fart Memorial Race Carnival". The Guineas is an imagined horse-race written and called often by a member of the Quinnasty (see below). The Guineas is an excellent way to not only encourage the gambling interests of the Club, but to air current affairs and ensure that club members are across the important and defamatory stories of the year. Public Interest Immunity is unable to be claimed for any slanderous/libellous claims made over the course of the Guineas.

Intervarsity/IV/Unigames/Rep footy

Ah, the prize of being a Uni club. While we cannot and must not forget that our humble beginnings were borne out of a (now notorious) Intervarsity Games, these ‘development opportunities’ tend to find themselves scantily being taken up these days. Generations of ANUAFC players have been forced to choose between missing the Easter long weekend (Intervarsity of yore), missing the single guaranteed bye long weekend in June (‘volunteer’ AFL Canberra Rep footy), doing an injury on the eve of finals (Uni Games), and just playing footy for the mighty Griffos and leaving that Uni nonsense to the colleges. Dare we say that the Uni could be a touch more strategic on timings (and locations of trips) and they may find themselves inundated with volunteers.

Kismet/Kismetician

A ‘Kismet’, the singular noun for a member of the ‘Kismeticians’, is a member of a meeting of the minds, probable competitors to a Mensa or Golden Key society. One may gather with their fellow Kismeticians to relive the glorious 1960s and 1970s at the ANUARFC. The Kismets are the only group who truly know the recipe for mulled wine served on the sidelines of ANUAFC games throughout time. Named for the restaurant in which early meetings occurred, the Kismet Café, Canberra.

Magoos

Rhyming slang; the Magoos are the Reserves team, the ‘Twos/Magoos’.

Mudslide Boi

Some say this is a noun, some say this is a state of mind. A Mudslide Boi is a (usually young, but not exclusively) boy or girl who prefers to spend their post-game Saturday nights consuming beers until dinner and/or the Saturday night AFL telecast is complete, and then switching to the Hellenic \$8 milk-based alcoholic chocolate milkshake known as the ‘mudslide’. Common after-effects include being found shirtless on the dancefloor, requesting that the DJ plays ‘Piano Man,’ and paying a hefty Uber cleaning fee after the milk curdling has really taken effect.

Pavilion

‘Pavilion,’ as a word, really conjures up an image of grandeur, of architectural integrity; perhaps even, of windows. Sadly, while our beloved and admittedly sh*t sheds have been referred to throughout time as our Pavilion, the word is more optimistic than it is factual. Synonyms for the ANU Sheds include ‘cinderblock paradise,’ ‘those things that have been on the ANU upgrade plan every year since about 1980,’ ‘the home of 4P’s’ and ‘the place that it’s hard to convince players to sweep out because the difference will not be noticeable.’ If walls could talk, though... let’s all be glad the sheds can’t.

Pryde

The collective noun for a group of Gryphons/Griffins is a ‘pryde’. Fittingly then, the Pryde was created in 2016 as a Social/Sponsor membership to offer a platform for all Griffins, past and present, to connect with our great club. The Pryde has re-established alumni relationships,

captured the special feeling of pride that comes with being part of this club, and importantly has established a new way to drink beverages on the sideline of ANU Griffins games. The Pryde is subsequent to and inspired by previous institutions like the Griffins ‘Supporter’s Club’.

Pud

Do we really need to explain this to you all? It’s anatomical, it’s part of the first verse of the men’s song, and we suggest you don’t google it at work. Alternative: ‘tossle’.

Quinnasty

The 2000s and 2010s saw the rise of the Quinnasty, a five-brother playing group which saw Lachlan (Toppy), William (Hound), Anthony (Pooch), Raymond (Thunder) and Matthew (Tiggs) play at the Club. Insofar as our records indicate, there has been no other quintet (pardon the pun) of brothers to have pulled on the blue and white ‘V’. Due to this unique contribution to the club, Mother Mary has been initiated as a life member to celebrate the family’s efforts both on and off the field. While there is no longer an on field family presence nowadays, you can rest assured there will always be an off field presence: either Mary reviewing the next batch of young players coming through, or Billy harassing poor opposition players every time they approach the western wing of South Oval.

Spud

If you don't know what this is, you probably are one. Internet definitions suggest this means "Someone who displays or uses little intelligence," but if it's that, we might as well rename and become the ANU Spuds. It's another one of those vibe-based things. Left your boots at home? Spud. Turned up in Cooma when the game is in Coota? Spud. Missed a sitter of a mark? Spud. Missed an unbelievably hard goal that Eddie Betts himself couldn't kick, but you happened to do it in front of an inebriated ANUAFC cheer squad? SPUUUUDDDDDD.

Twos Coach

Some say that Prime Minister is the hardest job in Canberra. Some say that CEO of the Raiders is the most thankless. But really, the title for hardest and most thankless job in Canberra is that of the Twos Coach at ANUAFC. Many who made the mistake of making eye contact with the President too late in the preseason, or who did an ACL just too late in life to come back, or stood still at the pub long enough to get ambushed, has had the pleasure of the role bestowed upon them. In all seriousness though, it is a role that is somehow coach, therapist, father/brother and project manager all wrapped into one. Some Twos coaches manage over 70 players, some of whom

have never played Aussie Rules. Through a season in the Ressies they shape and nurture players, leaders, volunteers and future senior captains while managing the happiness and disappointment of many. They also have to upwards-manage the Senior Coach, and we have all met senior coaches. Pour one out for the heroes of the Twos Coach role.

4Ps

Nice try, you have to come to find out what it is. Arguably, the cancellation of the 2020 4Ps (the first cancellation on record) was the most significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Australia's social calendar.

South Oval under lights.

Source: Bec Jones



MEMORIES

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