



# Tiger Talk

February

10

Major Sponsor



## The Sash is Back



Claremont Football Club(Inc)  
Claremont Oval, Davies Road Claremont WA 6010  
PO Box 59, Claremont, WA 6910  
Phone 08 9384 9200  
Fax 08 9384 5563

# President's Report

***On behalf of the Board of Directors I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a healthy, happy and successful 2010.***

It is that exciting time of the year again when the football season we have all been looking forward to is almost upon us and our senior coach, Simon McPhee, reappointed for the next two seasons, has been coordinating the most impressive pre season training sessions since full scale training resumed on January 4.

Simon has the utmost respect from the player group having coached the Colts since 2007, when he took them to a Grand Final and won the Colts Coach of the Year award, until he was called up after round six last year to replace Roger Kerr as senior coach. At that stage the Colts had won their first five games and he accepted the daunting task with style and finished their season with a 50% win loss ratio. Simon is a stern taskmaster, demands a strong work ethic and preparation from his players and has faith in youth.

Claremont Quarter, the \$450 million joint venture project being undertaken by Brookfield Multiplex and the Hawaiian Group in the heart of Claremont's retail precinct will again be our major sponsor for 2010. Todd Shimmon and I are currently holding discussion with St George Bank recording a new sponsorship partnership for this season.

It is with pleasure that we welcome John Holt to the Board this year. John is a former North Melbourne player and has been involved for a number of years coaching our Junior Development squads he is also a successful businessmen and we look forward to his contribution this year.

John's portfolio will incorporate talent and country development, the Kimberley and Great Southern accommodation houses, the Great Southern development squad and our newly proposed Football Academy, which is a separate entity to our existing development squads.

The Board has re-co-opted Keith Rowe who was co-opted last year for his business expertise and we have co-opted Ian Haggerty, a retired farmer from Kojonup who is a former President of our Southern Country Zone the Upper Great Southern Football League. Ian's portfolio will be director of facilities. He is a heavily involved in and a great contributor to the Tuesday maintenance group (Dads Army).

The board has also appointed one of our favourite sons, Tony Evans, a dual West Coast Eagles premiership player as Chairman of our Football Affairs Committee. Tony will report to the board on all football matters.

We are very excited this year about the club's future both on and off the field and we all should be able to look forward with confidence to the 2010 season.

Just a reminder that our initial fundraiser for 2010, the Annual Corporate Classic, will be held on Thursday March 11th. Should anyone be able to assist in directing new (and existing) participants to the draw, please contact Penny on 9384 9200 who will be delighted to follow up.

Best wishes,  
Ken Venables  
PRESIDENT



# BROWNE, BRA

Claremont's midfield for 2010 has received a significant boost by the signings of former AFL players Andrew Browne, Ryan Brabazon and Andrew Foster, who are excited at the prospect of entering a new phase in their football lives.

Club supporters are delighted by the return of Browne and Brabazon and they will offer a warm welcome to Foster, a former East Fremantle league player who has been on the senior list of the Fremantle Dockers for the past three years.

Their presence will help to offset the loss of stalwarts Jaxon Crabb and Tom Matson (retired) and Trinity Handley (working in Victoria). Also returning to Claremont this year are David Crawford, Jesse Laurie, Nic Chidgzy, Tom Lee, Gabe Orr and James Read.

The 25-year-old Browne is a dynamic, pacy rover who was taken by Fremantle in the 2001 national draft after being the WA under-16 vice-captain and an all-Australian player in 2000 and a member of the WA under-18 side in 2001.

He was a schoolboy, just turned 16, when he made his debut for the Claremont colts in 2000, against Peel at Rushton Park, starting on the bench and then, somewhat nervously entering the fray after two minutes while a teammate, knocked unconscious, was being taken from the field on a stretcher.

Browne made his league debut, against Peel at Claremont Oval in April 2002 and has made 64 senior appearances for the Tigers, as well as playing 29 AFL games for the Dockers in a career blighted by hamstring, foot, hand and shoulder injuries. As an AFL-listed player, Browne had not taken part in a pre-season preparation at Claremont until this summer.

"I've really enjoyed the pre-season at Claremont and getting to know all the players much better," he said. "I certainly will relish the opportunity of being more of a leader and being able to help some of the younger guys and pass on a bit of knowledge.

"The change from being a full-time footballer to a part-time footballer where I've got a lot more going on in my life seems a lot better

# BAZON AND FOSTER TO BOOST MIDFIELD



Andrew Foster, Andrew Browne and Ryan Brabazon

balance to me. There is pressure from fewer avenues in WAFL football and I'm enjoying that bit of freedom."

Browne said he felt honoured to take over the No. 8 jumper from Crabb. "I've got the utmost respect for him and he's been the ultimate team player for Claremont," he said.

Of his eight years with the Dockers, Browne said: "It's been a terrific experience and even though things didn't turn out the way I once hoped, I don't have any regrets whatsoever and I'd be naïve to think I haven't learnt a lot of life lessons and become a stronger person from my hardships."

Brabazon (23), from North Albany in Claremont's Great Southern zone, is back at Tigerland after winning the Jack Clarke Medal as the fairest-and-best player in the WAFL colts competition in 2005. He then was taken in the 2005 draft by the Sydney Swans and has spent the past four years in Sydney.

"It was a great experience and being drafted by a premiership-winning club was a really good opportunity for me to learn a lot," he declared. "Limited opportunities and being on the fringe for so long made life frustrating and a bit tough at times.

He has been delisted after making three AFL appearances, the first against the Western Bulldogs in Canberra in round 18, 2008. He remembers fondly the first of his 14 disposals that day, an unerring pass to the chest of Barry Hall. Brabazon's two matches last year were against Adelaide at Football Park and North Melbourne at the SCG.

For the rest of his time with the Swans Brabazon played with the club's reserves side in the Canberra AFL competition under coach Brett Allison. He learnt a lot, particularly about the defensive part of his game, from Allison and from the club's midfield coach John Longmire.

"It is obviously disappointing to be delisted," he said. "But I'm looking at it as more of a new opportunity and being able to show off my wares over here. It's exciting to be a part of football at Claremont again."

Foster (24) is a hard-running, creative midfielder who somewhat surprisingly was delisted by Fremantle after three years with the club and nine AFL matches. A friend of Browne's, Foster sees his move to Claremont as an exciting opportunity to join a young group with the prospect of playing finals football.

"It's disappointing to be delisted, but life goes on and now it's back to the real world, and I'm enjoying it, working (with Emco Building) and being here at Claremont with a good bunch of blokes," he said. "It's a new life, really."

A back injury, with a prolapsed disc, was a major setback at the Dockers for Foster, who managed only one AFL game in 2008. This came after an operation at the end of 2007 to cure some problems in his right shoulder.

Foster's highlights were his AFL debut against Essendon in front of about 46,000 fans at Subiaco Oval and a game against Collingwood at the MCG. He also enjoyed the experience of being matched against the powerful Geelong midfield trio of Joel Corey, Jimmy Bartel and Paul Chapman as well as the challenge of opposing Port Adelaide's dashing duo of the Burgoyne brothers.

By Ken Casellas





# Proud sponsors of the Claremont Football Club

St. George Bank is proud to sponsor the Claremont Football Club. We wish all players the best for the 2010 season.

To experience the St. George difference for your personal or business banking, contact Pat Coffey on 0411 439 638 or visit one of our eight WA locations.



Good with people. Good with money.

St. George Bank Limited ABN 92 055 513 070 AFS Licence No. 240997, 9624/10940 K03/09



style is evolving

Opened March 2009

coles | REBEL | JB HI-FI

Plus fashion, food, homewares & services


WEST END

Opening early 2011

DAVID JONES

Plus over 50 iconic retail experiences

EAST END

claremont  
QUARTER 

visit: [claremontquarter.com.au](http://claremontquarter.com.au)

Proudly

hawaiian 

Brookfield  
MULTIPLEX 

# McPHEE WELCOMES NEW COACHING STAFF

Everyone at Claremont is bubbling with unbridled enthusiasm and optimism for a successful 2010 season when the Tigers will go back to wearing jumpers with a bold gold sash and league coach Simon McPhee being joined by some exciting new coaching talent.

"It's stimulating," declared McPhee when welcoming Adam Lange, Brad Dodd and Phil Matera to his coaching staff.

Claremont's players have worn navy blue jumpers adorned with the CFC monogram for the past 18 seasons after the gold sash was in use between 1976 and 1991.

When Claremont-Cottesloe joined the WA league in 1926 the club had a dark blue jumper with a gold band around the neck, with a big CC on the chest. In 1933, the club changed the design to one with three panels, a gold panel in the middle, emblazoned with CCFC, with two dark blue panels on the outside.

The CCFC was removed in 1935 when the club became Claremont. Then, in 1936, there was a change to a light blue jumper with two gold braces. In 1939, there was another change to a dark blue jumper with a gold V. This design remained basically until 1956 when the Tigers took on the gold sash which they retained until they adopted the CFC monogram on the chest in 1964. This remained until the gold sash was in use between 1976 and 1991.

McPhee's assistants this year are Lange (midfield), Dodd (back lines) and Peter Falconer and Matera (forwards). Former Tigers captain Darren Kowal will continue as a specialist skills coach. Also joining McPhee's coterie is Ryan Lasscock, a former West Perth football manager for four years and an astute football brain with a keen knowledge of football issues and the WAFL competition.

Falconer, an assistant to McPhee last year, played three league games with West Perth in 1981 and 1982 before a series of injuries, including a fractured collarbone, ended his senior career. He went on to play 100 A-grade matches for the Wembley amateurs, a club he coached in 2005-06-07-08 for three grand final



appearances for a premiership and two narrow losses to North Beach.

Lange (30) retired from playing at the end of last season after being captain of Swan Districts for the past three years and playing 125 matches for the club. He also played for Subiaco (13 matches) and North Melbourne (27) as well as making three appearances for WA.

Dodd (32) played 50 league matches for East Fremantle, 50 with the Fremantle Dockers and 60 for Claremont between 2003 and 2005.

Matera (34) played 45 matches for South Fremantle and he kicked 389 goals for the West Coast Eagles in 179 matches between 1996 and 2005. He was an all-Australian player in 2003.

"We're having pretty healthy discussions about footy, which we've always had," McPhee said. "But these are probably taking a different direction, or spreading in more directions than they perhaps did in the past. Adam offers strategies at stoppages and I think he will really help our structure and set-ups. "He communicates really well with the players and gets his point across well. I think he will help us tick a few boxes in regard to our stoppage play."

Of Dodd, McPhee said: "He's certainly having some good input. He has been coaching some Claremont development squads. He's got a really good football brain and a good manner, but he's probably a bit reserved in his approach at the moment.

"Peter Falconer is our main forward coach and is working well with Phil, who is available on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Fido (Matera) is not short of a word, is very passionate and is providing us with plenty of ideas regarding our forward set-up. We should have some good structural stuff in place for our forwards.

"The hallmark of his game was chasing and tackling and his message should have an impact on our small forwards like Jayden Woods, Jarrod Ninnette and Keifer Yu.

"Darren Kowal is absolutely fantastic. He comes to training once a week, looks at the boys kicking and provides direction with regard to skills."

Ross McQueen takes over from David Crute as coach of the reserves side and he is being assisted capably by Dale Ballantyne, Peter Staples and Trevor Scott.

The Club has also added strength to our football administration area with Phil Smart (Ex Recruiting Officer at Fremantle FC since its inception) commencing in a part time role managing our new football academy, Pat Watson (Ex Property Man at Fremantle FC since inception) taking over as Head Property Man at Claremont, and Ryan Lasscock (Ex West Perth Football Manager) starting as our new Chairman of Selectors.

All three gents have a wealth of experience in their chosen fields and we are delighted to have them on board for the 2010 season.



Pat Watson



Phil Smart



Ryan Lasscock

# YOUNG TIGERS GET THEIR CHANCE AT AFL LEVEL

Claremont's proud tradition of being the most successful WAFL club in producing quality young players continued when six Tigers teenagers were snapped up by AFL clubs after the 2009 season.

Lewis Broome

The West Coast Eagles drafted three players from Claremont's colts premiership side, drafting the versatile Gerrick Weedon and speedy rover-forward Ryan Neates and taking livewire small forward Lewis Broome as their first pick in the rookie draft.

Brilliant high-marking forward Nat Fyfe was drafted by the Fremantle Dockers, quicksilver rover Travis Colyer was drafted by Essendon and the silky smooth Nick Winmar was taken by St Kilda.

The good news is that Weedon, Neates, Broome and Fyfe will be available to play for the Tigers while they mature and wait for their chance in AFL ranks.

Over the past 22 years Claremont have led the field among the WAFL clubs in having 89 young men taken by AFL clubs, either as listed players or as rookies.

With Weedon, Neates, Broome and Fyfe all available for Claremont in 2010 it means that the club will have 18 AFL listed players available when they are not required by the Eagles or the Dockers. The number was boosted when Claremont took key defender Alex Silvagni and the experienced and versatile former Essendon player Adam McPhee in the WAFL reverse draft.

The other players available for Claremont are West Coast's Brett Jones, Beau Waters, Beau Wilkes, Eric Mackenzie, Tom Swift, Pat McGinnity and Lewis Stevenson and Fremantle's Byron Schammer, Nick Suban, Matt de Boer, Casey Sibasado and Ben Bucovaz.

It is well worth pointing out that of these 18 players 12 are home-grown Claremont products, the exceptions being Waters, Schammer, Suban, Bucovaz, Silvagni and McPhee.

The 27-year-old McPhee is a veteran of more than 160 AFL games and he looks certain to be a permanent member of the Dockers side. However, the 22-year-old Silvagni is a Dockers project player who could be available for Claremont for much of the coming season.

Silvagni, related to former Carlton stars Sergio Silvagni (239 AFL matches) and Stephen Silvagni (312), has been recruited by the Dockers from VFL club Casey Scorpions. Tough and reliable, he is a key defender who can also take a turn in the ruck. He was chosen in the 2009 VFL Team of the Year.

With so much talent available this year, from both the Tigers squad and the AFL-listed players, competition for places in the league side will be extremely keen.

Of the 2009 Claremont draftees, Colyer, Fyfe, Neates, Weedon and Winmar represented WA in the national 18's championship last year, while the diminutive Broome attracted the attention of West Coast with spectacular performances for the Tigers colts side in the preliminary final and grand final.

Colyer and Neates, rovers with sizzling pace and deft skills, are products of Claremont's development squads. So, too, is Winmar, a smooth, long-striding mover with the ability to break the lines. He played his junior football at Scarborough and Churchlands High School and represented the State at under-15, under-16 and under-18 levels.

Fyfe, who hails from Lake Grace and played for Aquinas College in the PSA competition, is a highly-promising forward who impresses with his tremendous marking skills. Weedon and Broome are products of Claremont's Kimberley zone.

By Ken Casellas



Ryan Neates



Travis Colyer



Nat Fyfe



Gerrick Weedon



Nick Winmar



## 2010 C.F.C. PRE SEASON GAMES COME & WATCH THE PLAYERS IN ACTION

Saturday 27th February 2010  
CLAREMONT TIGERS vs SWAN DISTRICTS  
at Claremont Oval  
Colts @ 9.15am  
Reserves @ 11.45am  
League @ 2.15pm

Saturday 6th March 2010  
CLAREMONT TIGERS vs PERTH DEMONS  
at Claremont Oval  
Colts @ 9.15am  
Reserves @ 11.45am  
League @ 2.15pm

Friday 12th March 2010  
EAST PERTH vs CLAREMONT TIGERS  
at Medibank Stadium  
Reserves @ 5.30pm  
League @ 7.30pm  
COLTS – Saturday 13th March @ 9.15am

## UP & COMING EVENTS AT TIGERLAND WAFL / ASCOT RACE DAY

Wednesday 17th February 2010  
\$80 per person all inclusive of bus from Claremont Oval to Ascot, admission tickets and race book, private area in the Terrace Restaurant which is air-conditioned with totes and tv's, drinks throughout the day and lunch.

## CORPORATE CLASSIC COCKTAIL PARTY & LEAGUE TEAM JUMPER PRESENTATION

Thursday 11th March 2010  
From 5.30pm come and enjoy drinks and food plus meet the players [some familiar some new] and find out who is the winner of the Corporate Classic – only \$30 per person all inclusive.

## FIRST HOME GAME FOR 2010

Saturday 27th March 2010  
CLAREMONT TIGERS vs SOUTH FREMANTLE  
Colts 9.15am  
Reserves 11.45am  
League 2.15pm



## Sizzling Summer Style at Tigerland

Mt Lawley stylist Deborah Dunsford had the difficult task of getting four Claremont Footballers (James Thomson, Tom Morrison, Tom Ayton & Tom Derrickx) to model in a fashion parade at the Hopman Cup on the 6th January. The fashion Parade was part of the Club's major sponsor, Claremont Quarter involvement at the Hopman Cup.

Deborah had the task of putting together a parade of clothes from retailers at Claremont Quarter including Brownies, Adam Heath, Father, Dangerfield, Portmans, Dotti, Quicksilver and Forever Now.

We were told that our young Claremont Models weren't too shy on centre court when parading in front of 5,000 people. We hope that same brashness is on show when they take the field in the next month for the Tigers.

A big thank you to the boys for taking part in the fashion parade.

# District News

The first major event for 2010 is Junior Registration Day to be held on Sunday 21st February across all junior clubs. In preparation I wish to provide a background on each club.



## Claremont JFC

Colours: Navy & Gold  
Ground: College Park, Claremont.  
Established in 1960, Claremont JFC has produced players such as Brownlow Medallist and CFC premiership coach Graham Moss as well as Claremont greats Steve Malaxos, Rob Melville, Warren Ralph & Dave Rawlinson. The club operates the AFL Auskick program and fulfil teams in year 4 (formerly under 9's) up to under 15's. Visit [www.claremontjfc.com.au](http://www.claremontjfc.com.au) for more information.



## Cottesloe JFC

Colours: Black and White  
Ground: Cottesloe Oval (Harvey Fields), Cottesloe  
The mighty Black and Whites have been existence for over 50 years, it has been the grass roots club for current West Coast Eagles player Tom Swift and current and former Claremont players Jake Murphy, Jack Reagan and Ryan Gale. The club operates the AFL Auskick Program along with fielding teams from year 4 to under 14's. For more information contact club registrar Andrea Coffey on 0403 050 575 email [andrea\\_coffey@hotmail.com](mailto:andrea_coffey@hotmail.com) or visit [www.cottesloejfc.com](http://www.cottesloejfc.com)



## Dalkeith Nedlands JFC

Colours: Royal Blue & Gold  
Ground: Dalkeith Oval, Dalkeith and Melvista Oval, Nedlands  
Now well over 50 years old, the Mighty Eagles have experienced rapid growth over the past 3 years forcing them to spread their wings over two grounds. The club is responsible for producing current board member and CFC player Tom Matson as well Tony Evans, Ben Allan, Ross McCallum and Simon Nimmo. The clubs fulfils teams from year 4 to under 16's along with a strong AFL Auskick program. For more information contact Club President Tony Gregory on 0438 961 126 email [registrar@dnjfc.com.au](mailto:registrar@dnjfc.com.au) or visit [www.dnjfc.com](http://www.dnjfc.com)



## INNALOO JFC

Colours: Red & White  
Ground: Birralee Reserve, Innaloo  
Innaloo JFC re established itself as a junior club in 2009 by running AFL Auskick. In its history it has been a development ground for Inaugural AFL West Coast Eagles players Laurie



## MARIST JFC

Colours: Royal Blue & Black  
Ground: Newman College, Churchlands  
Marist JFC was established in 1964 and is one of the largest clubs in the district. The club has produced recent Claremont players such as Travis Colyer (now drafted to Essendon) along with Kane Mitchell, Rory Walton, Dylan Ross and Brandon Franz. The club operates AFL Auskick and teams all the way through from year 4 to under 17's. For more information contact president Kelvin Reynolds on 0414 722 576 email [Kelvin@wrightrealestate.com.au](mailto:Kelvin@wrightrealestate.com.au) or visit [www.maristfc.com.au](http://www.maristfc.com.au)



## MOSMAN PARK JFC

Colours: Red and Black  
Ground: Davis Oval, Mosman Park  
Mosman Park JFC is a continual developing club efficiently run a young vibrant committee which includes former Hawthorn premiership, Fremantle Docker and Claremont player Ben Allan. The club has also produced West Coast Eagle 'Big man' Quinten Lynch as well as Claremont forward David Crawford. In 2010, Mosman Park will fulfil AFL Auskick and year 4 to under 12's. For more information contact Andrew Maurice 0410 642 660 or email [samson19@gmail.com](mailto:samson19@gmail.com)



## NORTH BEACH JFC

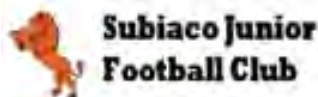
Colours: Yellow, Red, Black  
Ground: Charles Riley Reserve  
Established back in the 1950's North Beach JFC has developed strongly over the past 4 – 5 years and for the first time in many years will field an under 16's side. New Claremont colts coach Wayne Blackwell was a product out of Charles Riley Reserve along with the Brayshaw and Farmer brothers. The club operates AFL Auskick and year 4 – under 16 sides. For more information contact president Jeff Carger – 0409 089 817 or [jeff@rbsharpe-co.com.au](mailto:jeff@rbsharpe-co.com.au)



### SCARBOROUGH JFC

Colours: Green, Black and Gold

Ground: Abbott Park, Scarborough & Millington Reserve, Karrinyup  
Established in 1967, Scarborough JFC has grown to be one of the bigger clubs in the Claremont District. It has been a developing ground for St Kilda draftee Nick Winmar and Claremont Premiership colts captain Matt Davies also producing AFL players Tyson Stenglein, Matt Connell (Adelaide & West Coast). The club operates AFL Auskick and fulfil teams in year 4 – under 17's. For more information contact Pat Taylor on 0400 685 065 or patrick.taylor@jhg.com.au



### SUBIACO JFC

Colours: Maroon and Gold  
Ground: Rosalie Park, Shenton Park  
Established in the late 90's by former Subiaco and South Fremantle great and current Subiaco FC president Neil Randall, the club continues to grow under strong guidance & administration. In its short existence it has produced Claremont FC players in James Thompson and Trinity Handley. The club runs AFL Auskick and teams up to under 15's. For information contact Des Thompson on 9381 4302 or email piatcorpptyltd@gmail.com or visit www.subiacojfc.com.au



### SWANBOURNE JFC

Colours: Navy & Gold  
Ground: Allen Park, Swanbourne  
Well known as one of the larger clubs of the Claremont District, Swanbourne has been the community home for many players to come through the pathway of the Claremont FC such as Tony Delaney, Andrew Browne and Michael Cousens. Swanbourne JFC runs AFL Auskick and fulfils teams all the way through from year 4 – under 17's. For more information contact Sam Murray on 9385 5004 email sammerc@optusnet.com.au or visit www.swannytigers.org.au



### WEMBLEY JFC

Colours: Black and White  
Ground: Henderson Park, Wembley  
In its extremely short existence of 4 years, Wembley JFC have rapidly grown with over 200 participants. The club has development a strong link with the Wembley Amateurs which produced Claremont goal kicker James Staples. In 2010 the club will continue with the AFL Auskick program and



### WEMBLEY DOWNS JFC

Colours: Blue and White  
Ground: Luketina Reserve & Empire Ave, Wembley Downs  
Established in 1967, Wembley Downs JFC is a club that has grown significantly over the past. It has produced players such as current AFL players Paul Medhurst (Collingwood), Brett Jones (West Coast) and Mitch Morton (Richmond) and previously Andrew MacNish (West Coast), Chad Jones (WCE/NM), Mark Hepburn and Adam Lange (NM). The club fulfils AFL Auskick and year 4 to under 17's. For more information contact Registrar Meagan Aplin 0416 657 462 email cmaplin@bigpond.net.au or visit www.wembleydownsjfc.org.au



### WEST COAST JFC

Colours: Red, Black & White  
Ground: City Beach Oval, City Beach  
Following the clubs of City Beach/ Floreat Park & Churchlands/Wembley the West Coast JFC was formed in the mid 80's. It has produced AFL footballers such as Daniel Southern (Western Bulldogs) David Sierakowski (St Kilda/WCE), Ben Colreavy (Fremantle). Current Claremont players to come through West Coast are Ian Richardson and Lewis Stevenson. The club operates AFL Auskick through to under 17's. For more information contact Mark Lockwood 0405 115 949 email mark.lockwood@inet.net.au or visit www.westcoastjfc.com

runs teams from year 4 – 13's. For more information contact president Steve Lawrence on 0427 192 383 email thelawrences@inet.net.au.

# WAYNE BLACKWELL BACK TO WHERE IT ALL STARTED

*Wayne Blackwell will take a trip down memory lane when he coaches the Claremont colts into battle this year. He will be turning the clock back 33 years to his first year at the club when he was a joyous member of the 1977 colts premiership side.*

Blackwell's 1977 teammates included Jim Krakouer, Steve Malaxos and Lindsay Kanther, who were together again in Claremont's memorable 1981 league premiership.

Now Blackwell is back at his club of origin after a long and successful career in football which has seen him play 112 league matches for the Tigers, many games for WA and 110 for Carlton in the VFL competition. And after that he enjoyed a distinguished coaching career and there is no doubt that his wealth of experience will be invaluable in the development of Claremont's teenagers in colts ranks.

"That's my main job, to improve a young footballer's ability, to teach him and give him every opportunity to play senior football with Claremont," Blackwell said. "My role will be to develop players under the umbrella of the senior coach in the direction of training methods and playing style."

Already in the pre-season training sessions Blackwell is delighted at the attitude of the colts squad and the willingness to learn. "They're like sponges, absorbing everything," says Blackwell. "Rarely when I speak do I not have everyone's eyes not fixed on me."

But ever the disciplinarian, Blackwell mused over what he has perceived as a lack of intensity among some of the 2009 group still in the colts squad. "Some of them are cruising," he said. "It is important for the older players to show leadership qualities to the newcomers."

He then singled out a couple of players remaining in the squad after playing in 2009, saying that Cam McKay was outstanding with his attitude, application, habits and enthusiasm, as well as his skill level. "These

attributes are infectious and he's been a real standout," Blackwell said. "And Ben O'Regan also has been showing an excellent attitude."

One hundred teenagers were invited to take part in the pre-season training program, starting in November and Blackwell and his assistants face the onerous task of reducing the squad to a more workable number of around 35.

Helping Blackwell to reduce the numbers will be his assistant coaches Richard Smirk, Rory Mitchell, Peter Ellis and Anthony Lambrinidis. "It has been terrific to have this group of coaches, with their thoughtful input and different ideas," Blackwell said. "Coaching the colts is proving to be a lot of fun. I really enjoy getting back into an environment which is very professional."

The coaching group is being supported by fitness guru Steve Gravina, talent development manager Steve Calder and team manager Graeme Mabbs, who is a friend of Blackwell and is back at Claremont after coaching the Tigers colts in 1980 and 1981 for fifth and second placings. Mabbs was also team manager to coach Peter Coventry when Claremont won the colts premiership in 1979.

Among the many hopefuls at training are lads from the Kimberley and the Great Southern zones. Catching the eye from the Kimberley have been Luke Davies, who has a great vertical leap and attacks the ball with gusto, and Kenneth Brolga, a small forward with clever evasive skills.

Looking the goods from the Great Southern are wingman Tyler Stone, a hard nut from Denmark who kicks well with either foot, Jeremy McGovern, Warwick Proudlove and Jarrad Whittle.

Among the promising city newcomers are Tom Mitchell, Tom Taylor, Jordan Aitken, Tom Ledger and Tom Cusack.

Blackwell, Claremont's vice-captain and centreman in the club's 1981 premiership year, was runner-up in the league side's fairest-



and-best award in 1982 and 1983. He joined Carlton in 1984 and ended his senior career there in 1990.

He then embarked on his coaching career as playing coach of Portland in the Western Border League in 1991-92-93, winning the premiership in 1991 and then finishing fourth and third. After a year off, Blackwell was playing coach of North Brisbane in the QAFU competition and his side was beaten in the first semi-final.

Blackwell returned to Perth in 1995 and was an applicant for the Claremont league coaching position. Darrell Panizza got the nod and Blackwell went to Northam as playing coach of Railways, who won the flag after going through the season undefeated. And, for good measure, Blackwell finished second in the Avon Valley association's fairest-and-best award.

Then it was back to the city where he coached the Perth league side in 1996-97-98, with the Demons finishing third in 1997. Then came a two-year stint as East Fremantle's league coach, with the Sharks finishing fourth in 1999 and second to East Perth in 2000.

After a few years out of the game, Blackwell coached Maddington in the Sunday League competition in 2007 and 2008, with Maddington winning the 2007 flag with a grand final victory over Kenwick.

**By Ken Casellas**

# Great Southern Storm



The development of young footballers in Claremont's Great Southern region of WA is going ahead in leaps and bounds since the Great Southern Storm was established in 2007 with 30 players.

Now there is a list of 96 players, whose ages range between 14 and 19, training with the Storm. The primary aim is to develop youngsters to play football to the best of their ability and to assist them in reaching their goals.

These goals range between playing 100 league matches for their club, graduating to Claremont's league side, or even taking the massive leap into the AFL system. The Storm facilitates this pathway.

Training is held twice a week, with one night devoted to running and the other to improving the skill level of all players. There are two groups on the nights set aside for skills training, and this ensures that the younger players are not in danger of being hurt by bigger and stronger bodies.

Our season starts in October and ends in March when all the players will be fit and ready for a new season. The Storm's mission statement affirms the desire to create an environment which provides an elite training program that will strengthen football in the Great Southern region.

To achieve this, the Storm has the help of well-known Claremont identities in football operations manager Darrell Panizza and coaches Andrew McGovern and Phil Gilbert. Basil Worner, in his 60th year as an athletics development coach, is conditioning coach.

One of the Storm's inaugural players is Jesse Laurie, who is back at Claremont after a year as a rookie with AFL club Port Adelaide.

Each year a player is awarded the Joe William Burton Medal. This player must be everything the Storm stands for. He must be committed, responsible, do everything to the best of his ability, show leadership skill and support the club and wider community.



The first ambassador was Jarrod Whittle and last year's recipient of the award was Warrick Proudlove. Both young men are trying out for the Claremont colts side.

The Great Southern Football League won the last year's colts premiership after going through undefeated in the Landmark carnival. Whittle and Proudlove were the co-captains and 95 per cent of the squad was from the Storm.

The Storm receives excellent support from local clubs who offer their grounds, facilities and training



equipment. All of these clubs have a representative on the committee. The Storm's colourful jumper has been designed to incorporate all the colours of the Great Southern clubs. And these jumpers are certainly worn with considerable pride.

The Storm shares a similar philosophy to Claremont in that it makes it a priority to support and encourage home-grown talent. The Great Southern has much to offer Claremont.

It is one of the fastest-growing regions in WA, and with Claremont's metropolitan zone shrinking due to recent re-zoning, plus an ageing population, the Great Southern is hopeful that more players will be able to make the transition from the country to the city.

This year our players will be playing matches in Bunbury and in Perth and will also meet a visiting team in Albany. There are plans to take some of the Storm squad on an interstate trip next year as a reward for dedication and hard work.

Players do not have to pay a joining fee. This would not be possible without the support of the wider community and generous sponsors. All sponsors have signed a three-year contract.

This year the Storm has 11 players trying to make the grade with the Claremont colts and we wish them every success as they endeavour to succeed in their chosen pathway.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CFC PAST PLAYERS & OFFICIALS ASSOC

The AGM and Election of Office Bearers for 2010 will be held at the Club at 5.30pm on Friday 26th February 2010.

All Past Players & Officials are welcome to come along, renew your membership [if not already] and meet old friends.



# LORNE COOK IS A TIGERS LEGEND

*The name Cook has been synonymous with the Claremont Football Club since Ben Cook played the first of his 21 league matches for the Tigers 74 years ago.*

A tireless worker, the late Ben Cook went on to serve as a vice-president of the club for 18 years and also spent countless years as the club historian.

His son Lorne is a true Tigers champion, an outstanding footballer who is one of only seven to have played more than 200 league matches for Claremont. And now he has been honoured as Claremont's 2010 match-day legend.

Lorne Cook has a rich football history. He made his league debut in 1959 and went on to amass 229 appearances in 14 years in senior ranks. He was captain in 1967, 1968 and 1972 and won the club's fairest-and-best award in 1968.

The versatile Cook, a left-footer and a fine overhead mark, was tough, tenacious and talented and he represented Western Australia with distinction in ten interstate matches. He played as a half-forward flanker in WA's winning 1961 Australian carnival side in Brisbane, as a half-back flanker against Victoria and South Australia in 1967 and at centre-half-back against Victoria in 1968.

Cook was vice-captain in 1964 when the Tigers ended a 24-year drought to win the premiership. Sadly, he missed the wonderful four-point grand final victory over East Fremantle because of a knee injury. He kicked two goals and helped the Tigers to beat Subiaco in the first semi-final and played in the preliminary final nine-point win over Perth.

But loyal Claremont supporters among the 21,446 fans at Leederville Oval on September 12, 1964 will never forget the courage, commitment and leadership Cook showed to play a pivotal part in the side's thrilling three-goal win over West Perth to earn a place in the first semi-final a week later.

Cook was opposed to West Perth's so-called hard man Ray Lucev, who was employing extremely robust tactics in a bid to unsettle the Tigers. Cook bravely stood up to Lucev and his telling blows will forever remain a vivid memory of one of Claremont's finest hours.



**NEXUS**  
RISK SERVICES

**THE PEOPLE FOR  
BUSINESS INSURANCE**

Nexus provides innovative business insurance and risk management solutions to clients across WA.

Our services cover an extensive range of industry sectors including manufacturing, engineering, construction, transport, retail, property, leisure, hospitality and sporting clubs and associations.

**Greg Norrish**

Level 3/31 Ventnor Avenue WEST PERTH 6005

9340 3444

[www.nexusrisk.com.au](http://www.nexusrisk.com.au)

PERTH BUNBURY ALBANY GERALDTON KATANNING