



Southern Football Netball League

Hall of Fame



GARRY CRANNY

SOUTHERN FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE

- East Caulfield Football Club (FFL) Player 1964-67
- Glenhuntly Football Club (FFL) Player 1969-75
- St. Kevins Ormond Football Club (ESCFA) 1st XVIII Playing Coach 1986-90
- St. Kevins Ormond Football Club (ESCFA) Vice President 1991-92
- Caulfield Football Club (SFNL) President 1993-99
- Caulfield Football Club (SFNL) Chairman of Coterie 2009-11
- Southern Football Netball League Board Member 2006-Present
- Southern Football Netball League Vice Chairman 2010-Present

Garry Cranny has been involved with the local football community his entire life. Caulfield, Glenhuntly and St. Kevin's Ormond to name a few of his former clubs. His career from playing into coaching is storied enough but Cranny is most proud to of his administrating.

Cranny is being inducted into the Hall of Fame based on his devotion to local football. With this, he carries a strong passion for the football community in Melbourne's southeast.

As soon as he left the sidelines for the boardroom, Cranny's impact was evident.

He oversaw the St Kevin's-Gardenvale merger forming the Caulfield Football Club in 1993, acting as president until '99. He's a life member of the club he helped build, encapsulating the kind of person Garry Cranny is and the character the Hall of Fame is hoping to reveal.

Cranny's ties to the local football scene go back 40 years. Playing in the Federal Football League as young as 11. Described as a tough competition with incredible talent it produced many league footballers, disproportionate to the size of the area.

Cranny remembers traveling to Federal games in the back of a furniture truck, where the boys would sit on bench seats with the back door half open. Some things may have changed, but community football is still about mateship – the reason Garry is still involved today.

A short break overseas, a time Cranny describes as his life after footy, didn't last long. The SFNL was in trouble and needed help. Reluctant at first, Garry raised his hand and in 2006 joined the league's board.

"Footy had been my life in this area. I wanted to play my part in keeping the Southern Footy League alive," said Cranny.

Now, nearly 10 years later, Garry has seen the resurrection of the league. "Thanks to a succession of good board people, great presidents, we've managed to thrive again," he said.

With 33 clubs and nearly \$1.5million in turnover, the league has never been stronger. "Our business is people... creating an environment where they can prosper, becoming a family," Cranny said.

"The clubs add value to their community, that's what they're there for... that's most important."

Cranny believes the league gives its players and all involved a sense of belonging. "The power of footy clubs is in the support that they can give people in difficult times," Cranny explained. "We face so many issues in the community and local footy clubs provide a place where people feel wanted and encouraged."

By James Raknes