



Southern Football Netball League

Hall of Fame



JIM HONEY

EASTERN SUBURBS CHURCHES FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

- Played 300 games with Burwood United FC
- Eastern Suburbs Churches Football Association Committee Member 1978-79
- Eastern Suburbs Churches Football Association Vice President 1980-84
- Eastern Suburbs Churches Football Association Manager 1985-92
- Eastern Suburbs Churches Football Association Life Member
- Southern Football Netball League General Manager 1993

“When you're not playing, you still feel like you could do something to help,” says Jim Honey.

Honey is one of those ‘never left’ type of volunteers. Starting out at the age of 17, he’s played 300 games for Burwood United Football Club.

“I loved every minute,” he said.

Yet Honey felt there was so much more to contribute after playing. His previous roles include club Secretary, President and Committee Member for the Eastern Suburbs Churches Football Association. But he always asked himself, ‘What could be done to be better?’

Vice-President and Manager throughout the 1980’s, Churches desired to become a public company. Honey was influential in appointing a full-time administrator. Known for his selflessness through volunteering, Honey was now creating paid jobs for the very tasks he worked.

“Everything was about volunteering in those days. But we really changed that when I became the full time manager of the league,” Honey joked.

This professionalism saw the league flourish. Appointing a board of directors organised decision making, while purchasing a property in the late ‘80s was very much trendsetting territory. The new home was a hub for all the clubs, the envy of surrounding leagues.

“When you get the right people you can do anything,” Honey said. “Within a few years (other clubs) were adopting our strategies.”

The merger in ‘93 had been discussed for several years prior. Fellow inductees, Jim Meneilly and Stan Le Lievre were all central to the leagues joining.

“Churches was financially sound... South-East didn’t have much, just some old footies, we knew that but it was about so much more,” Honey explained.

“Divisions that permit clubs to move up and down allow teams to come back to life and re-generate.”

Honey knew the league would thrive. “We had plenty of expert football administrators doing this their whole life.”

Seeing out the transition, Honey decided the league was in good hands. Now, Honey’s version of retirement is managing the Oakleigh Chargers TAC Cup team.

“Coming to Oakleigh has consumed me... volunteering here eight days a week, it’s just what I want. I’m the team man,” Honey said fondly.

“I have a flood of memories from wonderful people I’ve worked with and that’s what makes footy go... we’re all doing the same thing, we just happen to barrack for different clubs.”

Volunteering has always been about mates for Honey. His connection with the football community lead to a successful career that continues today.

And 20 years later, he says there is still work to do.

By James Raknes