



Southern Football Netball League

Hall of Fame



STEPHEN BARNES

SOUTHERN FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE

- McKinnon Football Club Senior Captain and Best & Fairest 1973
- Murrumbena Premiership Player & Senior Best & Fairest 1974
- Murrumbena Football Club Senior Captain / Coach 1976-77 & 1998
- Murrumbena Football Club Senior Coach 2005
- Southern Football Netball League Interleague Coach 2004
- Southern Football Netball League Board Member 2006-12
- Southern Football Netball League Sunday Radio Host 2006-12
- Southern Football Netball League Life Member
- Carrum Patterson Lakes Football Club President 2013-Present

Stephen Barnes says he's just one contributor, enormously proud with the development of the SFNL this past decade, and believes that everyone involved should share his pride.

"I love that a group of people came together when the league was in a delicate situation," said Barnes.

"At its lowest point, they put in a mighty effort and the league's had growth."

Barnes acted on the SFNL committee from '06 to '12. A well-deserved life member, he served the league when needed the most.

His history with the league dates back to the 1970s with Murrumbeena. Captain, coach and Best & Fairest in a premierships season - Barnes has coached the Lions in three separate decades, leading again from the sidelines in '98 and '05.

Barnes is now the President of the Carrum Patterson Lakes Football Club, a club that only joined the league in 2013.

"To have the club, now two-and-a-half-years on, competitive the entire time has been great," Barnes beamed.

"I'm so proud of the (club) project that a small group of us have tackled."

A true believer in the power of grassroots football, Barnes understands the impact it has had in his area.

"The community really supports the club, the reward has been seeing the pleasure people have from having a local football club," Barnes said.

Barnes also acknowledges the importance of junior pathways, keeping clubs supplied with players. In 100 years of existence, this season is the first the club has fielded both Under 17s and Under 19s squads.

"(They are) terrific kids that hopefully aspire to be seniors footballers at Carrum if they don't play at a higher level," Barnes proclaimed.

Barnes shares his excitement for the future of his club as well as the league's prospects, affirming the SFNL's greatest asset is in the divisional structure and the system of promotion and relegation.

"Divisional football offers clubs a chance to go down a grade and rebuild instead of bashing their heads against the wall," Barnes said.

Barnes added that the current state of the league will have more clubs wanting in to the SFNL.

"The reputation we've built over the last 10 years, the board and administration, is such that people take us seriously now," Barnes declared.

"Untapped areas of growth will continue to add clubs."

As for the Hall of Fame, Barnes is grateful while remaining humble.

"I know a lot of them and it's an absolute honour to be among them," he said.

Barnes said he wouldn't change his journey for anything, owing it all to his wife for her support and encouragement.

By James Raknes