

MITCHAM FOOTBALL CLUB – ‘HALL OF FAME MEMBER’ (#7)

Garry Wathen

(1953 –)



Garry Wathen, in 1974

Garry is a Mitcham boy, born in 1953. In 1966 Garry walked into the Club as a 12-year-old, playing in the Under 16's, proving to be a handy player (and team captain) at school and in junior football.

Predominately a Reserves player, Garry's strengths lay in the Club's off field needs, first working on the Senior Committee in 1977, while still a player. Garry had a lifetime of playing footy, but his greater contribution and interest would see him focus on Club administration; in particular developing the Club facilities and improving the overall presentation of Walker Park. In addition, over time Garry became recognised as official Club Historian, a role he has held for several decades since the 1986. Garry's major achievements are many, but he will be forever acknowledged as the author of the Club's first 100 years' history (1888-1988) book: "Place Kicks to Drop Punts".



Active Service, 35+ years:

1966 – 1979	13 years as a Player, 205 games
1977 – various	14 years on the Senior Committee, plus 8 years on PPOA
1976 – 1979	4 years with Junior Clinic, for boys aged 8 – 12 (<i>forerunner to Aust Kick</i>)
1977 – 1980	4 years Senior Committee, plus the Men's Fundraising Committee, EDFL Club Delegate, Bingo duty
1981 – 1989	Played a leading role to set up MFC Past Players and Officials Association (PPOA). Secretary first 8 years.
1986 –	Appointed MFC Historian (ongoing)
1988 – 1993	5 years Club Secretary, Public Officer, Club Delegate, Tribunal Advocate.
1998 – 2000	3 years as Sponsorship Manager



Garry in 1989 at the launch of the Club history book, "Place Kicks to Drop Punts"



Garry in 2021 at the Club Reunion Dinner

Achievements:

1978	Best Clubman / Player
1980	Life Member
1989	MFC History book published: First 100 Years 1888 – 1988, Author: Garry Wathen, 'Place Kicks to Drop Punts'
1997 & 1999	'Rockin the East' Rock Concert at Walker Park (4-man Mgt. Team),
2010	Hall of Fame Foundation Member

Walker Park - Redevelopment Works ('MCG of the East'):

Garry has always had a very keen interest to make Walker Park "the ground" for footy & finals, cricket, and general community use. *Dare we say 'the MCG of the East'.*

Key liaison role with City of Whitehorse (CoW) Officers & Councilors, MP's & AFL:

1989	Ground resurfaced.
1989	New flood lights installed (\$10,000 each from MFC, CoW).
1992	Organised funding re Grandstand Time Keeper's box. (Honouring Time Keeper / Life Member Alex Allan).
2000	\$350,000 New change rooms (3-man Mgt Team with G. Cassidy/P. Dungan)

2020	\$3.56 million grandstand fully renovated plus new viewing room wing and deck (Lead Project role with Matt McCubbin & Luke Smith)
2021	New ground floodlighting renewal (150 Lux)

