

LANCE LEAK

CHAIRMAN, PORT FOOTBALL CLUB

Played senior football from age 13, playing in excess of 300 games of country football.

A Grade Premiership player Border Districts Football Club.

Played for Tintinara, Naracoorte, Peterborough, Tintinara Pinnaroo, Border Districts.

Club Secretary, Border Districts, Tintinara, Pinnaroo, Port (Acting 6 months).

Assistant Secretary, Gladstone Combined, Port.

Junior Secretary, (Inaugural) Kowree Naracoorte F.L.

Junior Board of Management, Port.

Chairman, Port.

Delegate : Lameroo & District F.L. - Pinnaroo
 Port Pirie F.L. - Port
 Spencer Gulf F.L. - Port

Club Activities : Goal Umpire – Naracoorte
 Committee – Border Districts
 Trainer – Port
 Time Keeper – Port

52 Years service to Country Football in South Australia.

Life Member : Tintinara Football Club
 Port Football & Community Sporting Club
 Port Pirie Football League

Sydney Olympics Relay Torch Bearer.

Australian Sports Medal.

S.A. Community Football Luncheon Address

Football has been a large part of my life, my late father was a Club Secretary, my playing days from my early teens, administration while playing, continuing now, with my involvement in Club and League activities.

I have never been one to attend A.F.L. and S.A.N.F.L. Matches except for my annual sojourn to the Adelaide Grand Final and have always enjoyed local country games. What's better than to go to your local oval, surrounded by cars tooting their clubs goals and avid local fans. What about local grudge games, Naracoorte and Kybybolite, Pinnaroo and Ngallo, Bordertown and Mundulla, Central and South Augusta, Ports and Sollies and I'm sure you all have similar hometown rivalries in your own leagues. Country footy, the best and cheapest entertainment in South Australia.

SANFL Chairman Mr Payze, Chairman David, Members of the South Australian Community Football Board, Special Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you sincerely for this honour, I am deeply humbled by your recognition. Thank you also, to the Spencer Gulf Football League, for your nomination, it is very much appreciated.

Due to my employment, my football journey took me throughout the state and every community accepted my playing and administration efforts and interests and I firmly believe, that a township or city, with strong Football and Netball connections, are a strong and great community.

There have been many highlights for me and I take the opportunity to speak about a few.

1. As a club Secretary, I was directly involved with our local club, to introduce Netball into the Tatiara Football League. Even after amalgamation, this was a wonderful addition to the league and a great boost to sport in that leagues area.
2. In 1977, bottom ranked Tintinara defeated Bordertown at Mundulla to win their only A Grade Premiership after 25 years in the league. All but diehard Bordertown fans who were going for 3 in a row, and I still suspect even many of them, barracked for the sentimental favourites over the Red Hot Roosters. What a wonderful night followed, I think.
3. I was invited as the inaugural Secretary of the Kowree Naracoorte Football League's new Junior Board of Management in 1983. I am very pleased this committee continues successfully to serve junior football in the South East.
4. As a Delegate to the Spencer Gulf League, I was fortunate to be part of the joining of the Port Pirie and Port Augusta Leagues into 1 League entity. Still a work in progress, I know the end result will be a great success for our 2 cities competition.

5. Last year, as Chairman of the Port Football Club, I was honoured to have hosted the Centenary celebrations of the St. Marks – Port Football Clubs. Every event was a tremendous success, especially the Club's Hall of Fame Dinner. As Rob Kerin will agree, this night will live in every persons memories forever.

It would be remiss of me not to reflect and thank some gentlemen, whom over that same journey, have been great mentors to me, men of vision.

1. The late Max Williams, to me epitomised a great football administrator. His contribution to our game was second to none and his early wisdom to me was much appreciated. He is sadly missed.

2. Ken Jeffrey : Ken chaired the S.G.L. for many years, sometimes in most difficult circumstances. At all times he put the best interest of football first and I think my best description of him was, the old proverb, “When the going gets tough, the tough get going”. A wonderful thinking administrator.

3. Jim Hewitson : While we have not directly worked together in football, we share community activities. I admire Jim for his football commitment to the administration of our game. For many years, we have enjoyed many robust football discussions, sadly I have not won too many of our friendly arguments. Thanks mate.

4. Ken McLean, who has served the S.G.L. For many years. He has had the responsibility to lead the new League in its first years of operation.

5. Two outstanding club administrators, David “Midge” Johnson and Geof Keane, who have built the Port Football Club to the successful entity it is today. It is almost their responsibility for me being before you today. They welcomed me to our club and provided me the opportunity to serve football since my arrival in Port Pirie. Thank you to Midge and Geof for your leadership, encouragement and friendship.

6. Finally, Bill Brown. His contribution while I have been fortunate enough to be a part of SGL football, as P.P.F.L. President, S.G.L. Vice President and Northern Zone Director is and has been outstanding. Again his encouragement and giving freely of his time to all who ask and his leadership in the north of this state is much appreciated by all.

In closing, I thank you for this great honour bestowed upon me, I fully appreciate your presentation and trust that I can serve football in our league and surrounds for many years to come.