

Life Member Bio

Robert Francis Carroll

Known to a lot of mates, past players & lifelong enduring friends as “Corky” Carroll - the Nickname given to me after an American World Class Surfer competed on our shores in the Seventies - who I tried to emulate surfing with limited success.

I came to the Club mid-1972, as previously my lottery marble had been drawn out for “National Service” reporting in January 1973. Fortunately, The Labour Party led by Gough Whitlam won the General Election in 1972 and stopped the last call up to which I was in.

Those days my close mate Peter “Tails” Taylor worked with Geoff Scott at McEwans in Moonee Ponds, and I worked for my father in the Electroplating field. Just having completed my apprenticeship, he asked Tails to come down to the Club bring a few mates if you want to play a game and have a drink or two after the match.

Well, that was the start of some Forty years involvement within the Club enjoying friendships names Brown, Lusher, Lynch, Ellis, Lord, Kirk, Elliott, Bell & Hurley, to name just a few.

I played a number of games in the reserves over the years & ran the VFU Players Accident Fund after Darrel Carpenter. And went on to various years on Executive’s & General Committee’s & won “Best Clubman” in 1974

Tails and I loved the social side more than probably we should have, although he also loved playing, and went on to Coach the Senior Thirds in those days. Our whole weekend day & night was devoted to having fun - unfortunately we did get a reputation for it more than once - Tails probably lot more than me, he was the ultimate Entertainer.

In 1975 I chaired the Social Committee taking over from Darrell Lynch with the endless commitment of great ladies like Val “Raffle” Cuthell, Margaret Rae, Barbara Yallouz, Judy Middleton, Val Slevison, Judy Sevaggi, Jody Ransome (nee Carroll), Gaylene Abraham (nee Andrews). Great times had.

In 1981 Bobby Leathers was elected President the combination of Leathers, Griffiths & Owen professionalism should not be forgotten. WOW!! great four years in the Clubs history.

I reluctantly accepted the Presidency in 1986 after John Selvaggi, although we all wanted “Silver Fox” Jim Slevison - Ron Middleton’s lieutenant to take it on which he did in later years.

And a special mention to Morrie Gunston Treasurer. I remember saying one Thursday night “Morrie where’s the float for the Bar”. He replied “hang on, I am counting it out now” in the boot of his car - nothing got by Morrie – a wonderful man

In 1993 I was awarded “Life Membership “

The Club has not been spared of tragedy from the loss of Peter “Pecka” Ransome, Tony Farrall & my Best Man Peter “Tails” Taylor.

A couple of years back John Ellis gave me a Medal he won “Peter Taylor - A Reserve Best Fairest Medal “. Saying its better with you, I will never forget that gesture John - Thank you

I am very fortunate to have met my wife at the Club and know so many people within the club who are our close friends today.

That’s just a brief history of my time at our Club

Thank you - Strathmore Football Club you have given my family & I endless enjoyment