

# BARRIE ROBRAN

## NORTH ADELAIDE

As his reputation grew, Victorian clubs courted Barrie Robran to cross the border to play in the VFL. As early as May, 1969, there were reports of VFL interest. North Adelaide secretary Kim Smith indicated the mood on both sides of the fence, when he told *The Age*: "Victorian clubs have been driving him mad. He is sick to death of their approaches and eventually he signed with one of them. But he has advised Carlton he has no intention of going to Melbourne." Few outside his family and friends knew what drove Robran but the Victorian suitors soon understood it as anything but money or fame. When he finally signed a form for – binding him to the Blues – he did so for the princely sum of a city jumper. His mates would say he could have grabbed some money for his club even though he did not want it for himself, but they only did so in jest. They knew Robran's values meant even that approach was out of the question. Carlton kept persisting, but after talking with Robran between the 1972-73 seasons, Blues president George Harris seemed to accept Robran's loyalty. He declared at the club's 1972 annual meeting:

"It's extremely doubtful Robran will ever come to Victoria to play football."

Robran's decision was based on his personal values and circumstances. "I only ever wanted to play for North Adelaide and I was happy to do that," Robran said.

"When I had consolidated my place in the side down here, I probably only ever wanted three things out of life: a good home, a good family and a good job. I had those three things here in Adelaide."

He also admitted the transition from Whyalla to Adelaide had been difficult enough. He did not want to go through all that again in a switch to Melbourne. But another more important factor kept him in Adelaide.

"My wife (Taimi) and I had only been married for four weeks when Dad died, so mum came down to Adelaide to live shortly after that," he said.

"I was the oldest of three kids so it was really my responsibility to take mum under my wing so that was another reason that I never contemplated going to Victoria. I was responsible to be here with my mother."

Robran's loyalty could not be compromised. "I don't mind admitting I am an intensely loyal person and I still am," he said.

"It was probably heightened by my North Whyalla upbringing. We were loyal to our cause because there were just the four teams within a fairly big city." **R**

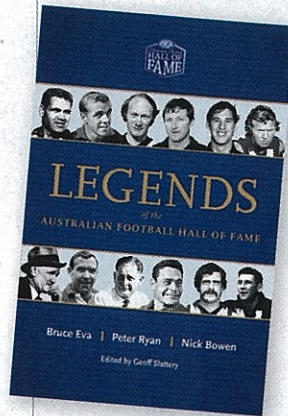
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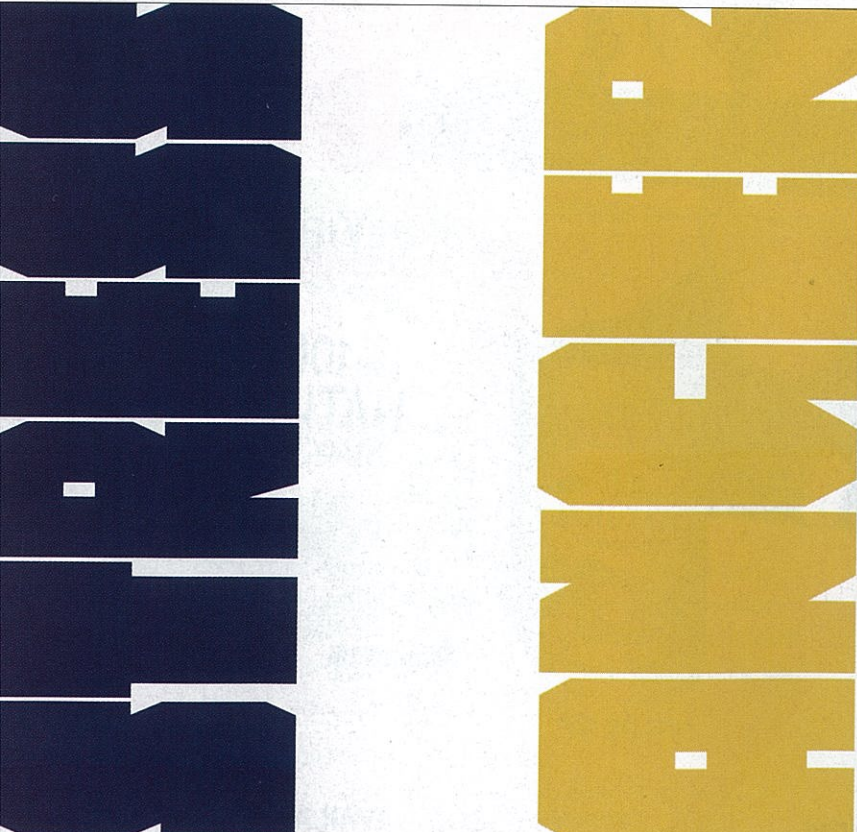
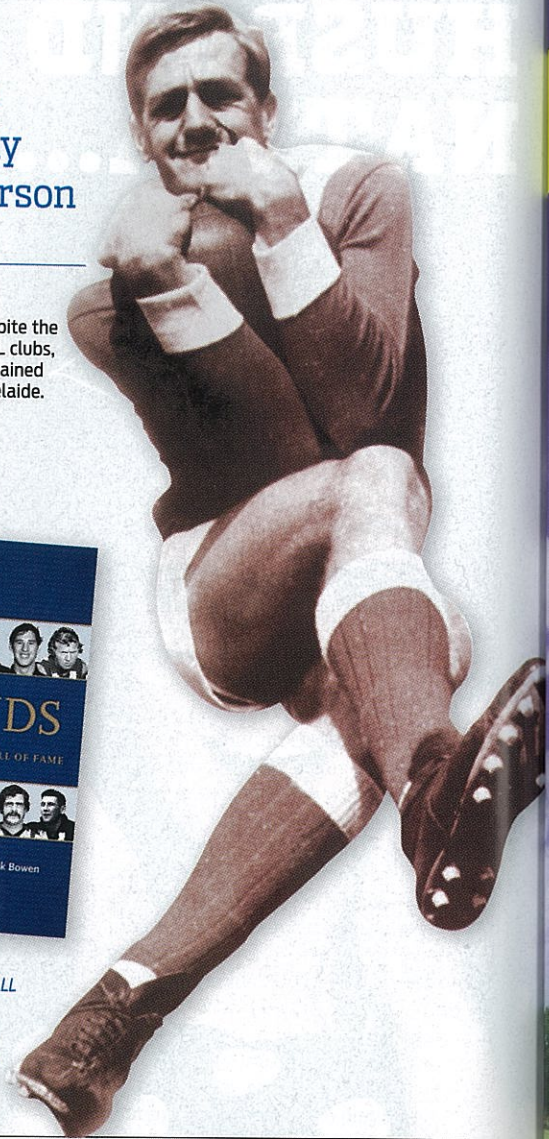
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I am an intensely loyal person

BARRIE ROBRAN

**COMMITTED:** Despite the best efforts of VFL clubs, Barrie Robran remained loyal to North Adelaide.



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