

# A GAME OF WORDS

By Jeff Pistola

Several recently released books offer a keen insight into the game of Australian Rules Football and would be a great acquisition any library ... particularly with Father's Day on the horizon.

*The South Australian Country Football Digest* provides a further account of the rich history of regional football throughout the State.

The book is the second offering from Cowell resident Peter Lines, following the success of his initial publication *Encyclopedia of South Australian Country Football Clubs* four years ago.

Since being released last early month, Lines' latest labor of love has already outsold the previous edition at a rate of three-to-one, leading to a reprint being commissioned to arrive in time for the major rounds in the various country competitions, together with interest generated towards availability for Father's Day. Lines has been involved in SA country football for over four decades, initially as a player in various regions and nowadays acts as an umpire on the Eyre Peninsula, as well as being a dedicated student of the game's history.

"My first book concentrated on club history and grand final appearances, so with this book I have included player achievements and written about the careers of individual players, coaches and even umpires," outlined Lines.

"It has taken a lot of work once again, but I have been able to provide a records section in the latest book which includes the highest goal kickers to most games played, long serving coaches and even compiled lists of long serving administrators.

"I have also included lists under SANFL and AFL club banners of every player who commenced their football careers as a country player."

The digest contains 391 pages of country football history, statistics, records and stories, and features



*Eyre Peninsula resident Peter Lines has recently released his second regional football history book entitled South Australian Country Football Digest which is now available within the Adelaide Hills..*

over 100 team photographs, player profiles and the histories of more than 150 SA country football leagues and associations.

Within the latest publication are over 20 pages of Adelaide Hills football history, together with seven team photographs, while many Hills players are included in the overall records section, including current Gumeracha playing coach Quinton Graham who established the benchmark of most goals in an individual match within SA country football after booting 40 against Callington in 2010, while past Onka Valley spearhead Phil Howlett sits as the second highest scorer in one

particular season, having kicked 164 majors during 1976.

Past Hills regional players Max Brown, Graham Klose and Alf Skuse are also featured among the 50 individual profiles contained within the book.

*The South Australian Country Football Digest* is available for purchase at Pages and More in Mt Barker or by direct mail order from the author at [bplines@bigpond.com](mailto:bplines@bigpond.com) or by phone on 0438 819 391.

## Elite level

For those who closely follow the game at the elite level, *Lou: My Wonderful Life* is an autobiography on the life of Lou Richards, a

unique character who has traversed Australian sport and media.

For over half a century, Richards has made an immense contribution to the game of Australian Rules Football, and the book captures Richards' journey from a knock-about kid reared in the back streets of Melbourne's toughest working-class suburbs, to being Collingwood premiership captain in 1953, followed by a successful post-football multi media career.

Richards played 250 games for the Magpies over 15 seasons, including being skipper for four seasons, and the courageous and gifted rover also twice represented Victoria.

After his retirement as a player in 1955, Richards – affectionately known as 'Louie the Lip' – forged a successful career in newspapers and television, acting as commentator in a number of grand finals.

Honored for his services to sport with a MBE in 1982 and inducted in the Australian Football Hall of Fame in 1996, Richards is one of the game's all-time greats and his story is fully documented in *Lou: My Wonderful Life*, which is co-written by accomplished sports journalist Stephen Phillips.

Slattery Media have also recently released *Legends*, which documents the story of 24 players inducted as legend status into the Australian Football Hall of Fame since its introduction in 1996.

Chapters on such greats as Ron Barassi, Jack Dyer, Graham Farmer, Ted Whitten, SA's own Barrie Robran and 2012 inductee Barry Cable are included in the 368-page hard cover book.

*Grand Finals Volume II* charts the four decades of premierships contested from the outbreak of WW2, when the VFL increased from a 12-team Victorian based competition towards a professional national league.

The edition, part of a trilogy of grand final history, covers the culture of the times, the great football characters and champions, many who forged reputations on that last day in September, as well as supplying full statistical accounts of title deciders from 1939-78.

## The last hurrah

The 2012 Hills Football League Central Division minor rounds season will conclude this Saturday with a looming question mark.

The lingering question is whether Onkaparinga Valley can produce a Manchester City style renaissance and grasp a top five berth at the final hour.

Mt Barker should charge into the finals with an unblemished record, as it confronts the stagnating Bulldogs this Saturday at Mt Barker.

Commencing the season with five victories from their opening six matches, the Valley Bulldogs have won just two of their past 11 matches, and will require a minor miracle to defeat Mt Barker, let alone play finals.

Mt Barker and Onkas have met on 24 occasions since 2002, with the Barkeroos holding a 15-9 leeway.

The Bulldogs won two of the three 2011 meetings, including the semifinal clash at Uraidla Oval.

Uraidla Districts and Blackwood have formed a fierce rivalry over recent seasons, however, the clubs have encountered differing fortunes this season.

The combative duo have locked horns in two of the past three Central grand finals, including last season's unforgettable stoush at Hahndorf Oval.

Plenty has changed since then, and the Woods will miss the finals for the first time since 2003.

Blackwood upset Uraidla in Round 9, however, the Demons currently maintain second spot with 14 victories and they should have few problems accounting for the Woods.

Lobethal last defeated Mt Lofty by 25 points on April 16, 2005, as Colin Hackett was named best for the Tigers.

Both clubs have endured periods of flagging fortunes, with Mt Lofty slumping to the floor during the early period of the decade, and the Tigers during the latter stages.

In 2002 Mt Lofty failed to win a game ... ironically thrashed by Lobethal in Round 18 by 317 points.

The Devils won three successive premierships from 2006-08, during a period in which the Tigers commenced their spiral down the ladder.

Lobethal were a dominant force in the late 1990s, but success comes in cycles ... ebbing and flowing like a roller coaster.

The Tigers are once again highly competitive, however, they haven't played finals since 2004.

After recording consecutive wins against Blackwood and Bridgewater, the Tigers pushed Uraidla last Saturday at Uraidla Oval.

They will be keen to respond this Saturday against a young Devils combination which will implement their chip and run game style.

Ironbank currently hold fourth position and remains a mathematical chance of claiming third spot.

The Thunderers will play finals for the first time since 2007 and confront bottom ranked Bridgewater on Saturday at Ironbank.

The Raiders have certainly improved, with competitive recent displays against Lobethal, Torrens Valley and Blackwood.

Torrens Valley will venture to Hahndorf, and the Valley Lions can smell finals.

The Valley Lions are capable of testing the leading sides, exemplified last Saturday against Ironbank.

Torrens Valley tested Hahndorf for three quarters earlier in the season, before the Magpies stormed home with a powerful final stanza.

Hahndorf must win to maintain a one-game buffer ahead of Ironbank and claim the all important double chance.

**Tips:** Mt Barker, Uraidla, Hahndorf, Lobethal, Ironbank.

## HILLS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

### COUNTRY DIVISION QUALIFYING FINALS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25 AT NAIRNE OVAL

**U13 - 8.30am BIRDWOOD v NAIRNE BREMER**  
**JC - 9.40am MEADOWS v NAIRNE BREMER**  
**SC - 11.00am BIRDWOOD v MEADOWS**  
**B - 12.40pm ECHUNGA v MEADOWS**  
**A - 2.30pm KERSBROOK v BIRDWOOD**

### COUNTRY DIVISION ELIMINATION FINALS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26 AT BIRDWOOD OVAL

**U13 - 8.30am KERSBROOK v MACCLESFIELD**  
**JC - 9.40am ECHUNGA v KANGARILLA**  
**SC - 11.00am ECHUNGA v NAIRNE BREMER**  
**B - 12.40pm KANGARILLA v NAIRNE BREMER**  
**A - 2.30pm MEADOWS v NAIRNE BREMER**

## HILLS FOOTBALL HILLS FOOTY FINALS - BE THERE!

# Packing down for State

By Josh Marton

Mylor teenager George Campbell continued an impressive development in his chosen sport of rugby union by recently representing SA for the third consecutive year.

The 14-year-old enjoyed his best interstate performance to date, and was named as overall best forward during the 2012 national Under 14 tournament held on Queensland's Gold Coast during June.

In another highlight, Campbell was also a member of SA's maiden victory in the age group during the carnival.

Playing as a loosehead prop, Campbell's dominant performance at that level also earned him a position in the SA Under 15 Invitation side in which he was voted best afield by the Victorian opposition in the second of two interstate clashes played in Adelaide.

Originally playing Australian Rules, Campbell switched codes in 2010, joining the Old Collegians club in the SA Rugby Union competition.

Since making the transition, the Scotch College student has

represented the State each season, and appears to relish the opportunities to play at a more competitive level.

"The State fixtures would have been the hardest games I have ever played," assessed Campbell.

"However, they were more enjoyable than club games, both in the game play and having billets of players from the opposition team."

Standing an imposing 182cm with a solid frame, the promising Hills player is hoping to convert his developmental successes into a career, realising that making the State side each season is the first step to fulfilling his dreams of playing at the elite level.

"My intentions are to make it at a professional level, and with a lot of effort I think that dream could be reached," Campbell said.

"On a smaller scale, I want to make the State representative team every year, as I have since I started playing"

Campbell credits his accomplishments to his parents who transport him to every match and training session, while he barracks for the Melbourne Rebels in the elite Super Rugby and rates past Wallaby skipper Stirling Mortlock as his favorite player and role model.



Right:

*Mylor resident George Campbell has continued his impressive development in rugby union ranks by turning in solid performance for SA during interstate competition.*