

WRFL Legend Alan Clough Honoured



WRFL life member Alan Clough was honoured with the award of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the recent Australia Day awards. The award recognised his services to Australian Rules football, lawn bowls and the community.

Alan Clough commenced his football career with Seddon Football Club Under 18s in 1948. He moved to the Footscray Football Club in 1955, the year following the Bulldogs' only VFL Premiership. He played in 17 senior VFL games from 1955 to 1957 and captained the club's Reserves team in 1957. In that year, he was vice-captain of the VFL's Reserves representative team for the interstate clash with South Australia at the MCG.

In 1958 he moved to Deniliquin Football Club in the Murray Football League as playing coach, where he suffered a serious knee injury that temporarily interrupted his playing career. Undaunted, he moved back to the Bulldogs in the role of club Secretary for the 1959 season.

A knee brace enabled Clough to resume playing in 1960 as captain-coach of Seddon Football Club, a role he maintained for 8 years until his eventual retirement at the end of the 1967 season.

Not content with retirement, he kept an active role in the game as an umpire. He umpired in both the FDFL and EDFL until 1989, along the way serving as Secretary of both the Umpires' Association and Umpire Appointment Board. His stint of umpiring in the EDFL resulted from his election in 1977 as President of the Seddon Football Club. Officials of other FDFL clubs were uncomfortable with the potential for perceived bias and implemented a rule to prevent serving club officials from acting as official league umpires, a rule that remains in force today.

Alan Clough was awarded Life Membership of the FDFL (now WRFL) in 1980 for his services to all facets of the game. He received Life Membership of the Umpires' Association in 1978; was inducted into the WRFLUA Hall of Fame in 2005; and awarded Legend status in 2008. He was named a Life Patron and Legend of the Seddon Football Club in 1998.

Alan's sporting and community involvement was not confined to football. He has had long involvements in the St Leonards and Sunshine Lawn Bowling Clubs; and with the Rotary Club of West Footscray. He continues his active following of both the Seddon and Western Bulldogs Football Clubs.

Congratulations Alan Clough OAM – a living legend of the WRFL.