

Robb Aussie Rules

The Robb College Australian Rules Football Club has had a chequered and incident-packed first 25 years.

From the club's humble beginnings on the south-east goat paddock adjacent to Lake Zot until now, the Aussie Rules Club has established itself as one of Robb's most successful and colourful teams.

The year West court was first occupied, 1963 marked the start of Robb's most fruitful early years.

Intervarsity competition was held in Sydney and the UNE team was led by captain-coach and well known Robb identity, John Obst. Robert Cason was Vice-captain with Rob Wesley-Smith, Sandy Cuthbertson, Will Dennis, Rex Warton, Juergen Rive, David Coates and Daryl Hennessy also representing Robb.

John Obst played a magnificent season and was awarded a Full Blue among other accolades.

In 1964, Robb won the Northern District Shield in local competition and travelled across the Nullarbor for Intervarsity.

The UNE team was captained and coached by Rob Wesley-Smith with the ever reliable Bob Cason as Vice-captain. At the Blues Dinner in the newly opened dining hall, both Robert and Bob were awarded Half-Blues. During the 1964 season Robb also played against visiting teams from Sydney University, Queensland Teacher's college and the Northern Rivers League. The backbone of this talented side was made up from John "Digger" Diggers, Will Dennis, Geoff Edwards, Peter Schmidt, Bob Graham and Bob McLean.

While the tunes of the Rolling Stones echoed down the hallowed corridors of North Court in 1967, Robb Aussie Rules Club had another efficacious season winning the Northern Districts Shield for the fourth year in succession. Bob McLean played brilliantly winning the Cason Medal for the best and fairest player in the University League and was selected in the All-Australian Universities Team.

The period between 1968 and 1972 was dominated by student demonstrations ignited by the Government's involvement in Vietnam. A period of promis-

*By Tom Murrell
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cuity also prevailed with the pill now being freely available.

It seems that this new found sexual freedom (obviously heavily indulged in by Aussie Rules players) led to a breakdown in club records. The only evidence from this era was that Jack Makeham was the club's number one ticket holder.

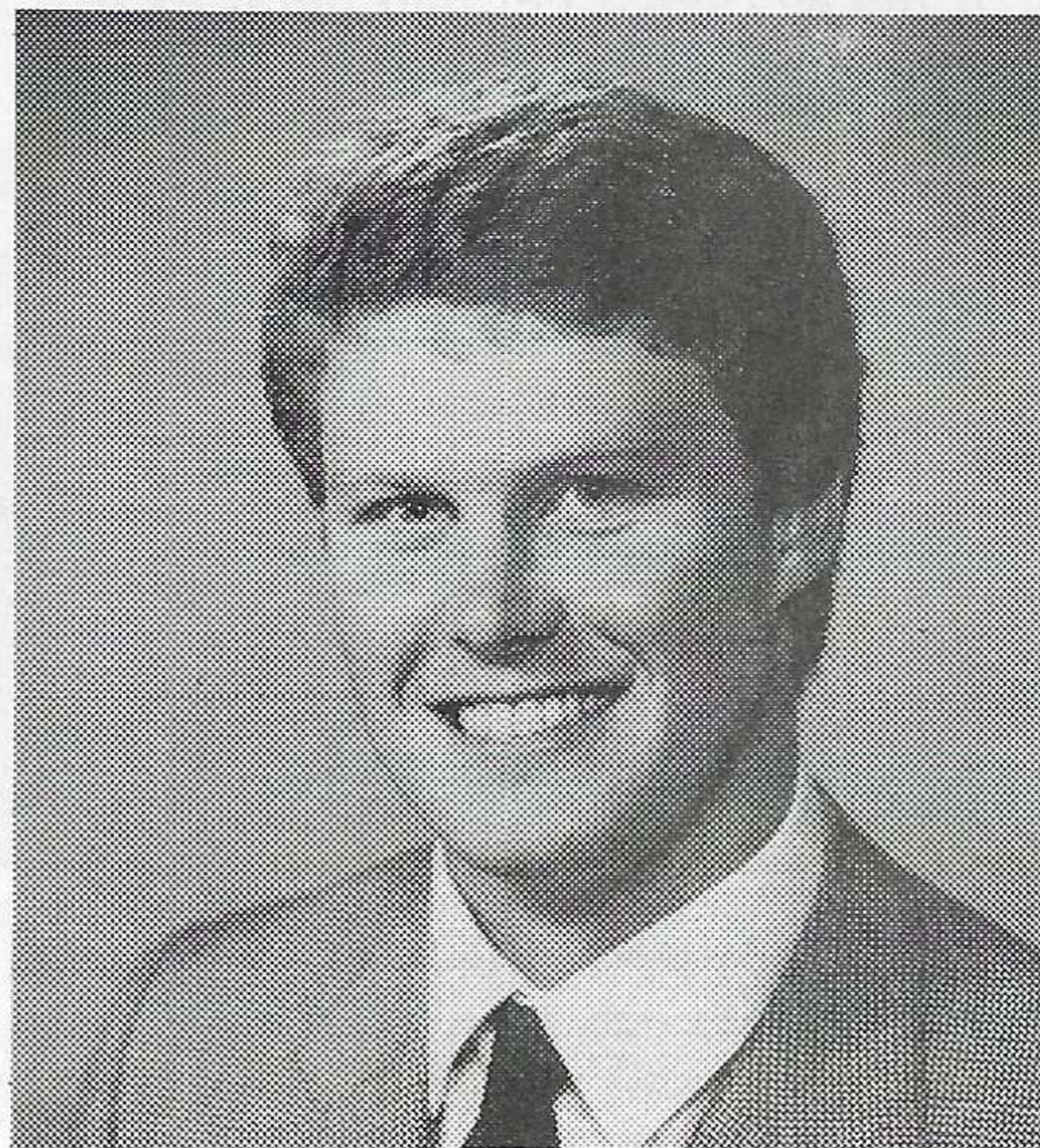
By 1973, the club had rid itself of its earlier frustrations but lost to a combined Wright-Austin-Drummond team in the final of the local competition. I.V. was held in La Trobe with "Rusty" Reynolds at the helm.

The following year under the expert coaching of Ian "Cleo" Cleeland the tables changed with Robb winning the local pennant back from Wright-Austin-Drummond by seven points. Intervarsity was held in Canberra with rover Vin Brown being selected in the Combined Australian Universities side as well as winning Radio 2AD's "Sportsman of the Week".

The season was highlighted when UNE beat Queensland University by five points to secure the Clem Jones Shield. Robb men instrumental in the win were Rusty Reynolds, Bob Farquharson, Mitch Hook, Jack Barclay and Ian Wettenhall.

In 1975, the Rolling Stones were still putting out hit records while Robb again won the local premierships under the brilliance of Bob Farquharson.

Tamworth joined the competition in 1976 and Gunnedah in 1977. During



Twenty Five Years of 'Robb'

these years Robb was led by Mike Krause (Captain-coach) and in 1977 won the Northern NSW Country Championships, beating Newcastle by a few points. David "Lambsey" Trennery excelled himself both on and off the field winning Robb's coveted "Animal Award".

By 1978, Uralla and Coffs Harbour joined the competition. Moree, Gunnedah, Wee Waa, Coonabarabran and Tamworth broke away to form the North-West Australian Football Association.

The years 1979 and 1980 were lean ones for both the Rolling Stones and the Robb Australian Rules Club. No teams were fielded.

However, in 1981, an influx of Victorians came to the club's emotional rescue. Robb entered teams against North

Coffs, South Coffs, Grafton, Port Macquarie, St. Albert's, Duval-Austin and Armidale City. Robb lost the minor semi-final to City by 17 points.

In 1982 the coastal teams left the New England League to form their own competition. Robb won the local premiership, while finishing fourth in the NSW Country Championships.

This feat was repeated in 1983 under the coaching of Brian Hansford.

Unfortunately the local competition folded with 1984 known as "the season that never was"!

In 1985, the revitalised Robb Rams have won the 1985 North West Premiership - a fitting way to conclude a quarter of a century of Australian Rules Football.



Long hair was the order of the day in the early seventies. This is the 1974 Robb Aussie Rules side: (back row) Dave Trenerry, Jim Holmes, Russ Reynolds, Mitch Hooke, Jock Barclay, Dave Pring, Col Muller, Duncan Fraser, 'Fingers' Morrow, Brian Baird, Keith Peasley, Chris Atkins; (front row) Ian Cleeland, Vin Brown, Bob Farquharson, Ian Wettenhall, John Raddatz and Tim McConachy. Lurking in the background (right) is Hugh Rawlings. Photo: Robb Aussie Rules Club.

"Boys are built differently to girls, aren't they?" - Joco.