

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 6 JUNE 2017



Images

Left: Kapunda footballer, James Smith Pearce, 1879, B 7437

Right: Ian McKay of North Adelaide marks over Pat Hall of Norwood, Grand Final 1952

Background: Spectators at a football match, 1923, PRG 280/1/41/116

Explore the history of football in South Australia at the State Library

Discover the fascinating history of football in South Australia in two exciting exhibitions – ***Straight through the middle: Football in South Australia*** and ***In a league of its own: Celebrating 140 years of SANFL***¹ – from the collections of the State Library of South Australia and SANFL.

From the Far West to the South East, football has been an integral part of South Australian life. Through the State Library's collections, the exhibition ***Straight through the middle: Football in South Australia***, reflects all facets of the game in South Australia and takes you from country to suburban footy, and from SANFL to AFL².

Exhibition highlights include the scrapbooks of Ken Farmer, 'The Bradman of goal kickers'. Playing over 13 seasons for North Adelaide, from 1929 to 1941, he scored 1,419 goals at an average of over six a game. Farmer kicked over one hundred goals in 11 straight seasons and his highest tally in a single match was 23 goals against West Torrens in 1940.

Also on display are photos of Koonibba, the oldest surviving Indigenous football club in Australia. Founded in 1906, many of the family names in the 1925 and 1960 photos of the Club will be familiar to SANFL and AFL followers, for example Burgoyne, Davey and Betts.

¹ South Australian National Football League

² Australian Football League

Alan Smith, Director State Library of South Australia, says “Collections are at the heart of our services and this exhibition illustrates beautifully the diversity of the State Library collections. Visitors to the exhibition can see an array of memorabilia including football guernseys, badges, photos, banners, and children’s games and toys.

“We are pleased to have partnered with SANFL and the SANFL History Centre to also present *In a league of its own: Celebrating 140 years of SANFL.*”

This exhibition takes you back to the beginnings of SANFL and shows how it has evolved over the years through rare memorabilia, including trophies, scrapbooks of players, and photographs of teams, spectators, Football Park and Adelaide Oval.

On show for the first time is a stunning display of 50 Magarey Medals. Relive some of the great moments in football as you watch archival footage and listen to recorded 'footy conversations' of South Australian legends of the game.

“This is a momentous occasion for SANFL because it represents the most comprehensive collection of league memorabilia that’s ever been compiled,” said SANFL CEO **Jake Parkinson**.

“It represents a unique opportunity for people to immerse themselves in 140 years of great moments and achievements. We are honoured that the State Library agreed to host this important celebration of our history and thankful for the time, effort, and energy they have committed to this project.

“We owe a great debt of gratitude to the many volunteers who have made this exhibition possible and to the donors who have been so generous in terms of the materials on display.”

SANFL has a long and proud history within South Australia and continues to evolve to reflect the changes not only in the game but also our society. Both organisations, the State Library and SANFL, through the History Centre, share a common goal to collect and preserve the history of South Australia to ensure it is accessible to current and future generations.

Together the exhibitions tell the stories through the years of a game that has captured the hearts of the community and provides an insight into social change in South Australia. Both exhibitions are on display at the State Library of South Australia until 13 August 2017.

MEDIA PREVIEW

Tuesday, 6 June 2017, 11am

Meet in the Treasures Wall, First Floor, State Library of South Australia

Media are invited to view both exhibitions. The following people will be available for comment:

- **Alan Smith** – Director State Library of South Australia
- **Mark Gilbert** – Marketing Content Librarian and Curator of *Straight through the middle*, State Library of South Australia
- **Jake Parkinson** – CEO, SANFL

DETAILS OF THE EXHIBITIONS

Straight through the middle: Football in South Australia

7 June – 13 August 2017

Open: Mon-Wed 10am – 8pm, Thu-Fri 10am – 6pm, Sat-Sun 10am – 5pm (closed public holidays)

Treasures Wall

State Library of South Australia

Corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue

Free entry

In a league of its own: Celebrating 140 years of SANFL

7 June – 13 August 2017

Open daily 10am – 5pm (closed public holidays)

Institute Gallery and Ante Room

State Library of South Australia

Corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue

Free entry

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT

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