

Ian "Wrighty" Wright

Macquarie University Australian Football Club.

Ian "Wrighty" Wright started his involvement with the Macquarie University Football Club (MUAFC) in 1975 as a player, and has been involved as a player, committee member, or volunteer continually for the 35 years since. Wrighty is the heart and soul of MUAFC, and seemingly has always been.

Wrighty's present activities include the time keeping duties for all home games which usually involves 4 matches each Saturday, and the timekeeping for most of Macquarie University away games. He fulfils the Ground Manager duties, meeting the umpires, supplying them with paperwork and match footballs. Wrighty has done the timekeeping for most of Macquarie University matches since 1985. He completes the records for goalkickers for all matches, and compiles the paperwork with all match details. Wrighty also organises the distribution and collection of MUAFC Best and Fairest Votes for all grades/matches.

Wrighty distributes the gear for MUAFC Club Umpires, Runners etc and washes the used shirts each week. He also sets up and cleans up for each home game.

Wrighty arranged to establish MUAFC's Liquor Licence for Macquarie University canteen for all home matches. He is the official Licence Holder registered with the Licensing Court, and is responsible for ensuring that the club complies with the law regarding liquor sales including responsible service of alcohol requirements. He arranges for the dates of Macquarie University licence to be approved each season with the Casino Gaming & Liquor Authority, the NSW Police and Ryde and Ku-ring-gai Councils. Wrighty also arranged the Macquarie University license for Macquarie University Finals Canteen when the club hosted the SFA Finals catering at Kelso.

Wrighty is the Secretary of the Committee of NSW Australian Football History which is affiliated with the AFL (NSW & ACT). Wrighty assists in research which has included genealogical history of people involved in the early history of football in NSW, and the arranging of contact with living family members of deceased people. Wrighty is also assisting Macquarie University compile records of all State representation including Teale Cup and Shell Cup matches.

Since 1998 Wrighty has been the timekeeper for nearly all of the SFA Finals series of matches, and expects to be involved in the Finals timekeeping again this year for Div 2, Div 3, Div 4 and U18 Challenge Cup matches this year. Wrighty also assisted with the timekeeping of the last Representative match played by the SFA in Newcastle in 2000.

In the past Wrighty has held every administrative position within the Club, except President, though he was Acting President for most of one season whilst the President was overseas. Wrighty was on the MUAFC committee from 1976 until 1980, then 1985 until 1989, 1991 to 1996, and from 1999 to 2007. He was the longest serving Treasurer of the Club from 1999 to 2007.

Before taking up the timekeeping duties since about 1985, Wrighty regularly goal umpired or boundary umpired including during the time whilst he was a player. Wrighty played 101 matches from 1975 to 1980 and from 1985 to 1992.

From 1981 to 1984 Wrighty joined the NSW AFL Umpires Association as a Goal Umpire. He umpired 3 SFA 1st Grade Grand Finals and 3 Premier League Under 18 Grand Finals, plus several representative matches (Teale Cup and Combined Sydney games). He also umpired 4 matches at the SCG in the early matches to the Swans matches (including the early game to the Swans first ever home game at the SCG in 1982). At that time that was the highest level that could be achieved by NSW umpires - later they were appointed to the Swans games. Wrighty did umpire one Swans practice match. Wrighty was Assistant Secretary of the Umpires Association for 2 years and Secretary for 1 year. Wrighty was the NSW Delegate to the National Conference in Darwin.

During the 4 years that he was involved with goal umpiring, Wrighty continued to come to Macquarie games when he could and do boundary umpiring or run water.

Wrighty has been the Macquarie University representative at League Meetings when Club Delegate meetings were held. He was also the MUAFC representative on Macquarie University Sports Association Sports (MUSA) Committee for many years. In addition, Wrighty served on the MUSA Services Recognition Committee which used to award Life Memberships, Club Colours etc. for MUSA.

Wrighty has been Macquarie University Players Representative on several occasions when players have been reported and have had to attend Tribunal hearings.

He has also helped out Macquarie University injured players on lots of occasions such as taking them to hospital, calling ambulances etc particularly in the years before the club had trained physios strappers etc. at the games.

Wrighty has been Team Manager for several of Macquarie University Interschool sides including sides participating in Wollongong (several times) and Coffs Harbour. He has also helped organise matches and transport for preseason games, including several country trips.

Wrighty has assisted with Canteen duties over a long period including those times when the club provided the Canteen for Juniors Finals, and the National Schools Carnival as well as Premier League matches when Western Suburbs played at Macquarie University ground as their home venue. Wrighty has also helped out with Macquarie University Thursday Night training BBQ.

For several seasons Wrighty was involved with the inputting of all Macquarie University Match Results into the AFL's computer system, and he still phones through results of Macquarie University matches to the League. In the past Wrighty has written match reports for Macquarie University local newspapers the Northern District Times and The Weekly Times and he used to phone through Macquarie University results to AAP for publication in the press.

Wrighty has helped organise many Social events including the Annual Presentation Night on a couple of occasions. Wrighty has attended nearly all the club's social functions since 1975 and every Presentation Night. (Though he unfortunately missed the Swans V Essendon match at Macquarie Oval due to cricket commitments.)

Every past President of MUAFC has attested to the value of the contribution that Wrighty makes to the club. His efforts behind the scene are immense, and go a long way to ensuring that MUAFC remains a successful and growing club.

Wrighty has done just about everything at the club except coaching and being a selector – and he doesn't want either of those jobs!