

NORTH RYDE HAWKS PIONEER SOWED SEEDS OF SUCCESS

WHEN North Ryde businessman Bob Clayton completed his coaching duties with a local junior boys cricket team back in 1958 little did he realise he was on the verge of making history.

The youngsters inquired about starting up a league team in the Balmain competition so Bob advertised for players in *The Weekly Times* newspaper — and the North Ryde Junior Football Club was spawned.

It was formed by Mr Clayton, a gentleman worthy of commendation for the pioneering job that he carried out 50 years ago.

The North Ryde Club fielded an U/13s team in the Balmain Junior schoolboy division with Clayton the foundation secretary/ treasurer.

He was joined by president Joe Collis, assistant treasurer Harold Warton and assistant coach Greg Stokes.

In 1959 Bob recruited schoolboy footballers from Marist Brothers Eastwood as the Hawks fielded two teams in the U/14s and U/15s with former Balmain player Johnny O'Brien appointed club coach.

Clayton was a driving force in North Ryde's formative years before joining Ryde Eastwood Leagues and Football Clubs as foundation treasurer in 1962 along with Harry Quinlan (Gladesville Bowling & Sports) and Fred Fayers (West Ryde-Dundas).

They were Ryde-Eastwood pioneers when the NSWRL Second Division competition kicked off in 1963.

Bob is a Life Member of both Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club and the Registered Leagues Club Association — serving 26 years as a director on the Leagues Club Board until his retirement in 1989.

He managed Balmain S.G Ball and Flegg Cup teams during the early 1960s and was on the Junior League judiciary committee in 1959-60.

North Ryde's original Under 13 team in 1958 included Peter Collis, Phil Wilding, Col Davis, Warren Evans, David Tonkin, Bob Whiteley, Norm Nestor and Henry Bouveng.

By 1960 the Hawks had formed an A Grade team under captain-coach Alan Lawson but later amalgamated with Ryde District. In 1965-66 the Club played under the North Ryde RSL banner with Jeff Marler at the helm.

Clayton returned to North Ryde in 1967 where he served as president until 1970.

The Hawks achieved premiership success throughout the 1960s in the Ryde schoolboy division ranks but their maiden Junior League title came in 1971 — the Under 16 D Reserve Grade team coached by current Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club director Keith Aggett that defeated Leichhardt Coaching Class 14-0 in the Grand Final at Leichhardt Oval.

This talented side was skippered by hooker Graham Aggett and featured the likes of future Kangaroo Ian Thomson, Paul Dalziel, Adrian Murray, Jeff Regent, Glenn Burns, tough tackling lock Chris Bryan (brother-in-law of Balmain Tigers chairman David Trodden), Peter Lawson, Laurie McCall and Greg Richardson.

A young Mark Lawson was ball boy and his father Alan was team manager.



*Bob Clayton —
founding father of the
North Ryde Hawks.*



*Joseph Collis —
foundation president of the
North Ryde Hawks.*