

**Life Membership Nomination - Neil Stiles**  
**Playing Record - 35 seasons, over 500 games**

Neil joined the Melville Waterpolo Club in 1982 and was invited to join F Troop. In these 35 seasons, Neil has played over 500 grade Neil has been part of F Troop every season save one, when he played in a higher grade, but the pull from his F Troop teammates was too strong. On the retirement of F Troop stalwart Reg Boston, Neil graduated to the role of Captain Coach, organising and running the teams' regular Monday evening training sessions as well as match day responsibilities.

Neil has also played in the Club Winter Competition, organising teams and mentoring a number of players that had never played before, and recruited them to play for F Troop. A number of these newcomers have gone onto play in or win grand finals.

**WAWPI Association Premierships: 13**

F Grade – 1984/85, 1989/90, 1990/91, 1991/92, 1993/94, 1994/95, 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99

E Grade – 2001/02, 2007/08

Division 3 – 2012/13, 2013/14

Neil won Association Premierships with his son Lee in 2001/2, 2007/8, 2012/13, and 2013/14.

**WAWPI Association Fairest & Best**

F Grade – 1998/99

**Volunteering**

Over the 35 years of membership at the Club, Neil has been involved in a number of volunteer positions:

- **Club Committee:** Neil served on the Committee in 2002/03, 2003/04, 2004,05 and 2005/06.
- **Coaching:** In addition to coaching the F Troop team, for a period of 6 years Neil coached Melville Juniors as his children started playing. Neil coached the 14 & Under Junior Men's team in the National Championships in Adelaide and Assistant Coach in Sydney for the 16 & Under Junior Men's National Championships. Neil also coached the 14 & Under Junior Women and 16 & Under Junior Women's to compete in the National Championships in Sydney.
- **Bar Manager:** Neil volunteered to manage the bar for over 3 years, and in that time the Tom Hoad Cup started, running the bar in one of the biggest events the Melville Water Polo Club was involved in. In addition to this, Neil volunteers to set up and pull down the temporary seating for the event.
- **Events:** Neil, along with F Troop teammates volunteered at all the major events held at the club:
  - The 1987 America's Cup Festival of Sport Water Polo Tournament;
  - The 1988 Olympic Qualifying Tournament; and
  - The 1991 and 1998 World Swimming Championships
  - Seafood Extravaganza: The F Troop team was central to the running the seafood extravaganza, one of the bigger social events at the Club for many years. Neil along with the late Reg Boston, would set off early in the morning to catch a feed of crabs, then would spend the remainder of the day helping prepare the seafood and set up the function room for the event.
- **Club Maintenance:** Neil has been a constant feature volunteers were sought to help out at the busy bees, painting the club rooms and cleaning the grounds. Neil organised the shade covers for the baby pool and over the years has assisted in repairing the canvas covers over the pool deck.

Neil's commitment to the Club is evident in the significant contribution he has made since joining the Club, and the Committee has no hesitation in recommending to the members that they confer on him the honour of Life Membership.