

**THE
BLACKS**



A.U.F.C.



PLAYING FOR 'THE BLACKS'
ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL CLUB
SEASON 2015

www.bobneil.com



PLAYING FOR THE BLACKS SEASON 2015

Greetings and welcome to the Worlds Greatest Football Club.

This booklet has been designed to assist you with your decision in making the bold move to play for The Blacks. Included is information about our rich culture and history, our teams, committee, playing opportunities, facilities, membership and career opportunities.

The Blacks have an unsurpassed Australian amateur football history having won 78 premierships in its 107 year life, 23 of those in Division One. The Blacks hold too many stunning record achievements to list but we hope you too can be a part of history with us. It may take you more than one season to beat the club record of 504 games and 1,402 goals (both held by our favourite son "Jerk") but now is an excellent time to start.

However, the record books do not tell the full story of what makes "Bob Neil" tick. As President and Vice Presidents we can say from experience that it is the combination of pure, clean sport mixed with the friendships that last a lifetime. These professional and personal connections will be invaluable to you in whatever job you are ever likely to hold in the future across the state, the country or the world.

The Blacks have always stayed true to their amateur ideals and you can rest assured that the man or woman alongside you is also playing for the love of the club and the game in its purest form. It makes success all the more glorious.

In 2015 we are excited at the season that lies ahead. We have re-established ourselves in Division 1, we will have lights up to play night games at beautiful Uni Oval so as to co-exist with AFL football at Adelaide Oval, and we continue to develop new teams with the Women's Team, Over 35's team and potentially our first junior team in 2015.

We offer our support to you personally and hope you make the decision to join the Blacks, where you can experience success with your mates at whatever level you aim to play at. We suggest you aim high but above all make sure you enjoy the experience.

If we can help you, either inside of football or outside, please do not hesitate to ask. If you spot us in the long room of the beautiful university oval before a match please introduce yourself or you can contact us directly (or via your coach).

Kind regards,

Michael Dadds
AUFC President
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M: 0412 815 008

**'Ludendum gratia
amoris est'**

**'One must play for the
love of the game'**





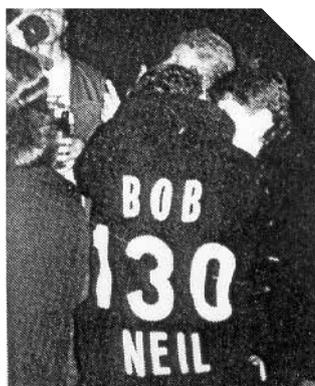
On behalf of the esteemed VP's

Peter "Doctor" Sharley, Peter "Pres" Maddern, John "Burger" Homburg, Rick "Biz" Sarre, Mick "Casanova" Kenny, Egils "The Latvian Warhead" Olekalns, Cam "Blue Loo" Bryson, Tom 'TomKat' Katsaros, Dave "Gordo" Gordon, Steve "Skittles" Parker, Tom "Dr Uggs" Martin, Peter "The Future Premier" Malinauskas, Nick "Papa" Raschella, Brian "Rocky" Austin, Marcus "Aussie" Trimboli, Tony "Cock" Roach

AUFC Vice Presidents



BOB NEIL



An appropriate starting point might be an introduction to our legend.

Bob Neil started as a player with the Blacks in the 1970s, later becoming a coach and committee member. But it was during the 1986 Amateur League Grand Final that his name first achieved legend

status, when a chant of "Bobby Neil! Bobby Neil! Bobby Neil!" was used to spur the Blacks on to victory. Soon his name began appearing all over Adelaide - on banners and over the loudspeakers at Adelaide Oval - and later, the world.

When a 'Bob Neil' banner was spotted at an Aussie Rules match at The Oval, London, he had ceased being a cult figure and had transformed into a phenomenon. His name even appeared on the Berlin Wall just before it was demolished in 1990. Bob Neil unites all those involved in the AUFC, promoting community, comradeship and pride.

Bob continues to be a great and regular supporter of the club as the legend continues to grow.

HISTORY AND CULTURE



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The AUFC has a long and proud history, with over 100 years on the field. There are over 300 players registered every season in men's and women's divisions and over 500 non-playing members and supporters. The AUFC was the fourth club to affiliate with Adelaide University Sport back in 1906. The club continues to have a close relationship with AU Sport, which supports the club with promotion, grants, facilities, administration and club development.

In recent times, AU Sport has been pivotal in the coordination, planning, funding & approval of improvements to the change rooms, playing surfaces, longroom redevelopment & the lighting upgrades for our ovals.

We strive to succeed

The Blacks have an unsurpassed record in Australian amateur football history. Whilst we are disciples of the concept that there is far more to life than footy, we also figure that if we're going to kick some pigskin around against tattooed, muscle bound bikies for a few hours on a Saturday arvo then we may as well try to win. 78 flags across our history across all grades is testament to that.

We are genuinely amateur

We remain true to the ideals of amateur football, hence our motto. As the SAAFL has unfortunately morphed over the years to become amateur in name only, we strongly uphold the same principles of amateur sport that the first AUFC team in 1906 abided by and upon which the SAAFL was originally founded. This is enshrined in our constitution. Everybody at the Blacks is on the same level financially and otherwise.

We promote diversity

We welcome all comers whether you be an A grade centre half forward or the 7th on the bench for the Scum. We are a proud part of the Adelaide University sporting community, however membership is not confined to those studying at the University of Adelaide. All are eligible and all are welcome, especially those who have moved from the country and are looking for a place to continue their footy journey. We have a large number of players who reside at the residential colleges surrounding the University Ovals.





'If winning is all there is, we want no part of it'

We are a community

We have a preponderance of under-graduates playing in our top sides and make appropriate allowances for academic and professional commitments. It is a really supportive and enjoyable culture to be immersed in; a culture where those we attract are inevitably surrounded by like-minded men & women of integrity and quality.

We find that those who come to the club inevitably stay: the greatest football club in the world does tend to provide a rather compelling environment. It is a place where you make friends for life.

We are also proud of our Adelaide University Community and look to raise money and awareness for University programs wherever possible.

We like the social life

"If winning is all there is, we want no part of it", a phrase famously coined by AUFC living legend, Chocka Bloch. Chocka once also described the footy club as "a social club loosely based around football". Such descriptions go a long way to explaining the fun that goes with being a part of the AUFC, even if they don't quite explain the success the club has had.

Hold your Bowlies every Saturday night has been a club institution across various city venues since 1980. This is like no other footy presentation you have ever seen. Results, best players and goal kickers are but a sideshow to the sing-singing festival that surrounds it. In 2014 Hold your Bowlies returned to its spiritual home, the General Havelock Hotel on Hutt Street in the city.

In addition to that, regular events on the calendar include the President's Keg, Blacks Ball attended by over 400 of Adelaide's finest, Super Sunday together with a variety of team based events.

All events, together with a weekly wrap of the goings on around the club, are promoted in the irreverent Weekly newsletter, Substandard.



TEAMS

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The AUFC is considered to be the largest amateur football club in the world, with 9 registered teams.

Men

The AUFC was an inaugural member of the Amateur football league in South Australia. In 2015, the AUFC will field 7 football teams in the SAAFL. Each team has their own unique identity, ranging from the Div 1 team who take their footy a little seriously, the eccentric **Chardonnay Socialists**, the loveable **Bastards** and finally our lowest team known affectionately as **The SCUM**.

The Club has also fielded a team in the Over-35s Competition, called "The Greys".

Grade	Team Name
Division 1	Black Jack & The Showgirls, coach John Paynter
Division 1 Reserves	Super Gav & the Budgie Smugglers
Division 7	Sexy Pimp and The C-Men
Division 7 Reserves	The Kenny Everitt Video Show
Division C1	The Chardonnay Socialists
Division C2	The Bastards
Division C4	The Scum

Women

For the first time in 2013, the AUFC had a team in the SAWFL. The AUFC's SAWFL team is affectionately known as "Bob Neil's Girl Guides".

Non-playing members

The AUFC has a very large, proud and strong supporter group. In 2013 there were 535 financial members and 55 Player Sponsors.



PLAYING OPPORTUNITIES

With 9 teams taking the field each week there will obviously be a team to suit your ability and ambition.

The first few weeks at the club can be a bit daunting given the number of players at the club, especially if you happen to be picked in the Scum when you reckon you should be playing A grade, however these things tend to work themselves out sooner rather than later. We also have the Coaches and Football Director(s) working together to ensure that players end up playing in the appropriate team.

If we have a surplus of players, which we often do earlier in the season, preference is given to new players and those that at least occasionally attend training.

From 1 to 400: AUFC player numbers

Along with its unique social culture, the Blacks are one of the only amateur football clubs that have player numbers in excess of 100. The Legend, Bob Neil, had number 130 (for obvious reasons, this has now been retired).

The purpose behind this special numbering allows lower grade players (from C-grade and below) to freely move amongst teams without causing the headache on Saturday mornings of having two players with the same number.

In 2013, Ben "Bunny" Warren (2013 Division 8 Reserves Premiership Coach) had the highest number of 400.

University Games (Inter-Varsity)

Adelaide University students have the unique opportunity to play at the Australian University Games (AUGs).

The AUGs have grown to be Australia's largest annual multi-sport event, with over 30 sports on offer each year, including Football. The Games are renowned for providing a friendly but competitive environment for Australian university athletes. As such, the Games have built up a reputation as a not-to-be-missed event.

Off the sporting field, an action-packed, week-long social program is conducted to complement the sporting activities and enhance the event experience for participants.

The AUFC has had a successful history at the AUGs, finishing 3rd in the last Adelaide-hosted games in 2012.

This event is only open to students, whether they are an AUFC member or not.





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FACILITIES

The club is based at the North Adelaide University playing fields, with access to 2 fields and 2 Grandstands, at Park 12 (University Oval aka Bob Neil # 1) and Park 10 (Bob Neil # 2).

The Park 12 Grandstand houses clubrooms and a recently upgraded function space, The Long Room, overlooking the beautiful University oval, which, in 2015 will also have lights to play night football. It is now the premier place in Adelaide from which to view grass-roots footy.

There is also a small gym available for player use under the grandstand and Blacks players get a special discount to attend the impressive Adelaide University gym on campus just over the footbridge.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

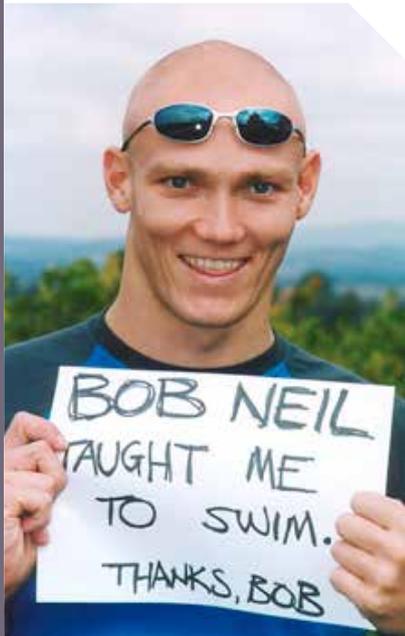
We have never and will never pay anybody to play Football for the AUFC. Instead, we have the capacity to open career and development doors that might otherwise remain closed. Our alumni / career network is unrivalled in this State. It is vast, prominent and particularly helpful to club members in the following areas:

- Employment opportunities, including specific employment positions where practicable;
- Business mentoring;
- Providing new networks and contacts;
- Further education.

As a member of the AUFC, there are also unique opportunities to be involved off-field in the committee and other leadership or service roles that help the club and also provide terrific personal development. We have a strong commitment to developing young men and women as leaders and pivotal contributors to society, as well as improving their footy, and our committee is reflective of the young group that lead our club.



You may be interested to read what some prominent past Blacks players thought of their time at the club (more are available on the website):



"A life changing experience. Great for enduring relationships, terrific and convenient venue, and particularly relevant to, and supportive of, the fact that study/exams etc are a real priority - as is representing the Blacks!"

Wayne "Jacko" Jackson
Ex CEO of the AFL,
Chairman Minter Ellison Lawyers
A Grade Premiership Player 1962

"AUFC. The Blacks. Uni. The Scum. Bob Neil.

Connections. That's what life is all about. From Sydney to Singapore, Shanghai, Seoul, St Petersburg, Seattle, Sao Paulo, Santiago and back to South Australia, the AUFC gives me great connections.

Life is about building networks and relationships. AUFC gave me contacts from all walks of life from Elizabeth migrants to Silver spooners to good old SA country boys and set me up to see the world."

Tim "Plug" Harcourt
"The Airport Economist", UNSW
academic, former Austrade Chief
Economist, International Adviser
to the Premier of South Australia.
Member of the (original)
Scum, A10 and A9, 1983-88

"I joined the Blacks in 1987 and played there for 18 years. It was a wonderful part of my life as a player, Member of the Committee and Club Captain. I was able to enjoy the success of multiple A1 Premierships as well as the opportunity to represent South Australia on multiple occasions. The very special and unique culture at the Blacks has resulted in the formation of many professional networks as well as enduring personal friendships that have continued to this day. The University Football Club is one of a kind with its combination of historical significance in amateur football, fantastic playing facilities and support, the spirit of the teams at all levels and the wonderful opportunities and personal satisfaction that come from being involved with such a great Club."

Andrew "Mad Dog" Muir
Commercial Director,
Ahrens Group
A Grade Captain 1991-1996,
All-Australian Amateur,
A Grade Premiership Player

"Within minutes of you turning up to training, you will be a member of a club that values your contribution. You will get a (usually life-affirming) nick-name and 20 new friends who will put their bodies on the line for you no matter how well (or badly) you play. And when you grow old and grey, the only things that they will remember will be the times that you were great! This is a club from which you don't transfer out; you run slower and slower while your memory gets better and better."

Rick "Biz" Sarre
Law Professor UniSA
Div 8 Premiership player 1980





"The Blacks, put simply, changed my life. What started as a run around with some mates who seemed to be having a lot of fun turned into a journey which has been running for 15 years and still counting. On field we play for the right reasons, with a culture of pride, success and respect. We enjoy the success and celebrate hard. Off field the club is bigger than the team and the people we meet along the way make it extra special."

Anthony "Dimma" Di Marzo
CEO, Lucid Consulting Australia
Scum player 1998 to 2008,
Scum coach 2000 to 2008.

"The Blacks is much more than Australia's greatest and most successful footy club. The mixture of so many diverse people, the unrivalled Blacks network and the camaraderie of playing for your mates rather than for dollars make the Blacks a unique and special place. So many doors open when you're surrounded by great people. An absolute privilege to be part of the club - get on board!"

Tom "TomKat" Katsaros
Partner with Maples and Calder
(Singapore) LLP
Club Captain 2000, A grade
premiership player in 1996
and 1999, Current Blacks VP

"Adelaide's business community is built around relationships, and there is no better way to start those and life-long friendships than the Blacks"

Jamie "Rastas" Restas
Chairman of Partners,
Kelly & Co. Lawyers
Blacks Player: 1990 - 98,
Club Treasurer: 1994 - 1997

"Football is pure at the Blacks. A bunch of young men with different backgrounds coming together and playing for the right reasons with a vision of greatness and overcoming odds through a mix of talent, extreme passion and fun. Uni Oval in Spring ahead of a beckoning finals series brings goosebumps to the neck and a serious itch in the foot. Footy at the Blacks brings friendships that endure and an affinity to a white V that will last forever."

Evan "Buzz" Arnold
CEO, South Adelaide Football Club, A Grade Captain, A Grade Premiership Player, Leading Goalkicker

"The Blacks culture embodies loyalty, equality and friendship; everything that is great about playing team sport. It encourages uniqueness in individuals by creating an environment welcome to all. Most importantly, it recognises why we love to spend our Saturday afternoons chasing a piece of inflated leather around an oval together, not just to win, but because it's fun."

Nick "Walrus" Kurzel #18
Analyst, Aspect Capital Limited (Alternative Investment), London AUFC Club Captain 2008-10, SAAFL medallist 2009

"Playing footy with the Blacks will start a fire in your soul that will never go out. It will burn like a meteor in your playing days, then leave you with a lovely warm glow for the rest of your life, stoked and refuelled with every sight and thought of Uni Oval."

Tom "Dr Uggs" Martin
Special Counsel, Norton Rose Fullbright, Perth A Grade Captain 2004-2006, A Grade Premiership Player 1999

"The culture surrounding the AUFC is like no other football club I have ever known. Embracing, fulfilling, no stereotypes, just decent guys bonded by the love of football and all things that are good. Great place to start making life-long friends and business/employment opportunities, not to mention trying to win flags in your respective team."

Tom "Tex" Walker
Current A Grade Captain

"For me personally, The Blacks reignited my passion for footy in a way only this great club could. After school I was left wondering where and if I would even continue to play football. Luckily for me, on the eve of the season and not knowing anyone I chose to have a kick at The Blacks. Within weeks I had made some great mates and my passion for footy was at an all time high. The best part of this club is that it caters for all individuals with a range of abilities but most importantly it has a culture of mateship and fun."

Tom "Barty" Bartlett
Ex A Grade Player, current Sturt League Footballer

"Adelaide Uni is the greatest football club in the world because..."

...it has the coolest Guernsey in Aussie sport

...it has more registered players than any other footy club in the country

...it has a club song the envy of the nation. Who else references 2 club legends, beer, ginger wine and general fitness levels?

...it has a losing song. The very existence of which reflects the spirit and attitude of the club

...all players are treated equally from A1 to A10 enabling them to coalesce as one mighty team

...it has the single greatest club legend in the history of sport.....Bob Neil"

Anthony "Lehmo" Lehmann
Radio & Television Personality, Accountant & AUFC A grade (1992-1994)



At The Blacks we love our footy and the life that surrounds it. Training has re-commenced in 2015 on Monday and Wednesday nights (6:00 at University Oval) and we would love to see you out there to enjoy the experience that goes with being a part of the World's Greatest Football Club.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the club have a look at the following links:

Club website

www.bobneil.com

Facebook page

www.facebook.com/bobneil130

Adelaide University Sport

www.theblacks.com.au

The Blacks LinkedIn Business Group

www.linkedin.com/groups/Adelaide-University-Football-Club-Business-5038844/about

Follow us on Twitter

If you have any queries or simply wish to sign up please contact any of the following:

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