

A reflection into the club and its players from a different perspective through snippets of yesteryear

Round 12 Edition

"S.A.N.F.L. News" – Friday 28 March 2014

ROBRAN CAST IN BRONZE

North Adelaide champion Barrie Robran has been revealed as the first of four SA football greats to be honoured with a bronze sculpture at the Adelaide Oval. Robran, widely regarded as one of the most gifted and versatile footballers to ever play the game, was present when his classic pose – taking an overhead mark – was unveiled at the Southern Plaza on Friday morning. The 66-year-old will be joined by fellow Australian Football Hall of Famers Malcolm Blight, Ken Farmer and Russell Ebert, who will have their sculptures individually unveiled at a later date.

"It's an extraordinary tribute," said Robran, who was joined by friends and family including his sons Matthew and Jonathon.

"And I am very, very grateful to those involved for selecting me for this honour.

I hope my parents, whilst they are not here, might be very proud.

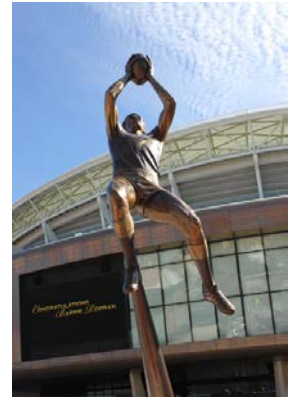
"The platform for which I was able to achieve this award was probably the North Adelaide Football Club. Without them, this just wouldn't have been possible so I am indebted to the North Adelaide Football Club which was always the football team I barracked for and wanted to play for.

"It is a lovely tribute."

The Honourable John Olsen AO paid special tribute to the generosity of sculpture benefactor Basil Sellers. "Today is a special day for football here at the Adelaide Oval," said John Olsen, Chairman of the SA Football Commission. "I know I speak for all football fans when I say that we are delighted Basil has chosen to honour four greats of the game in this way. His gift to the people of South Australia will ensure these legends will be honoured for all time at the Adelaide Oval, as will his generosity."

Crafted by sculptor Ken Martin, the tribute to Robran weighs 300kg and is 125% life size.

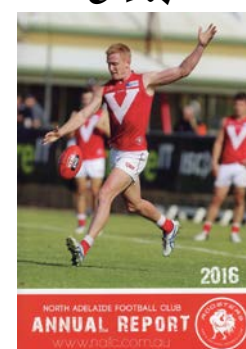
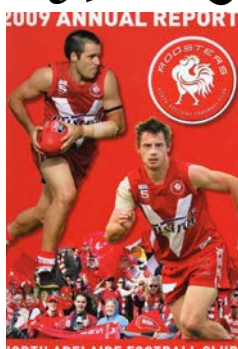
It took 500 hours to make from 250kg of clay-based plasticine. A mould was then taken from the plasticine sculpture before the sculpture was cast into bronze.



"Standard" April 9 1980

"North Adelaide Football Club is going all out this season to enlist the help of local business houses and residents for its 'Sponsor a Player' scheme. Interested people of businesses sponsor a player for \$250 for the season, and get a colour photo of their player. The photograph and details of the sponsor is prominently displayed in the Roosters clubrooms and the sponsor is always identified at all presentations, especially those in connection with the particular player. "Sponsors are finding they are getting a lot of free, effective advertising out of the scheme, and it's a great boost to the player to feel there's someone behind them," John Condon said. "Thirty-one players were sponsored this way last year and we're hoping many more will get backing this season."

North Adelaide Football Club Annual Reports Covers – A Recollection



From The Newspapers Match Report Quotebook

Ken Farmer

“Our full forward, Ken Farmer, justified the opinion expressed by many of the supporters of the club when he entered League football, and finished the season with a total of 62 goals. This in itself is a splendid achievement, but when we consider the brilliant way in which he outwitted the best back players in the League and obtained the ball, it classes him as a coming champion” – *N.A.F.C. Annual Report (1929)*

“A feature of the play was the wonderful marking of Farmer. Rarely was he defeated in the air, often bringing the ball down from the crushes when apparently having little chance of so doing” – *The Mail (1930, Rd 1 v Nw)*

“He (Farmer) could do practically nothing wrong, kicking 16 goals and two behinds from 18 scoring shots. Although he met with stiff competition... he was able to bring down marks with wonderful grace and ease, and his shooting was phenomenal. At least half his goals were from difficult angles, and several were from seemingly impossible positions” – *The Mail (1935, Rd 2 vs SA)*

“Farmer, North Captain and crack forward, required only 11 goals to bring his tally in League Football to 1,000. With a splendidly judged snap shot, he put on his tenth goal for the match, nine minutes before the end of the game. From that moment the question of whether the champion would reach his objective before the final bell held as much if not more interest, as did the actual result of the match” – *The Mail (1938, Rd 2 v WA)*

“The outstanding feature of the game was the goalkicking of Farmer. He scored 15 goals to bring his total to 101 for the season. Several of his majors were secured as a result of interference. At times 3 men were appointed to watch him” – *The Mail (1930, Rd 16 v SA)*

“Farmer was in goalkicking form... Farmer electrified the crowd today by his fine marking. Many times the North forward seemed as though opponents had worked him out of position, but he unexpectedly secured the ball” – *The Mail (1931, Rd 5 v PA)*

“The performance of Farmer was patchy. The champion got eight goals, several of them in good style, but at times he was very quiet” – *The Mail (1932, Rd 9 v GI)*

“In the most thrilling last quarter ever seen at Prospect North scraped home from South after the lead had see-sawed every few minutes. A vigorous burst when the game appeared lost, capped by two goals from almost impossible angles (by Farmer), gave victory to the home side in the last few minutes;” “Farmer’s 14 goals - three in succession in the last few minutes - gave North their win” – *The Mail (1939, Rd 2 v SA)*

Farmer “thrilled the crowd with three goals in quick succession. Two were gems, one a seemingly impossible shot over his head, and the other from an acute angle” – *The Mail (1933, Rd 14 v SA)*

“Farmer again took his goalkicking tally to three figures (his 7th goal for the day) with a phenomenal wet ball performance. He kicked 13 goals from 16 shots, two of which went out of bounds” – *The Mail (1934, Rd 17 v WA)*

“After the first quarter... Farmer gave North followers a marking and goalkicking treat that he has seldom equalled... Once the ball was booted into the goalmouth Farmer was irresistible” – *The Advertiser (1935, Rd 1 v GI)*

“Scoring 16 goals from all angles with machine-like accuracy, Ken Farmer added another notable page to his brilliant goalkicking record. All eyes were on North’s star forward, and the spectators were thrilled when he defeated single-handed two South men in a desperate struggle and sent the ball through the posts from a seemingly hopeless position near the boundary line” – *The Advertiser (1935, Rd 2 vs SA)*

“Farmer showed that he is playing better than ever before. Speed in the race to the ball, uncanny judgement in marking, and reliable kicking made him the outstanding player on the ground” – *The Advertiser (1936, Rd 8 v PA)*

“The outstanding individual feat of the day was Farmer’s dominance of the North Adelaide’s forward lines. He kicked all of his teams score of 6.3 at half-time, and finished with 9.6 of his teams 9.10” – *The Advertiser (1940, Rd 1 v GI)*

“Late in the second quarter Farmer was responsible for some spectacular work in bottling three quick goals to put them (North) within touch. Two of them were kicked from the side of his boot, and the third followed a brilliant lead and a soaring mark” – *The Mail (1940, Rd 5 v WA)*

“Ken Farmer... was chaired from the field after the game... the last game of his career. The Redleg skipper (Kevin Hardiman) presented Farmer with the ball which had been used in the game;” “Before the game North Colts formed a guard of honour for Farmer, who was given a rousing reception from the crowd” – *The Mail (1941, Rd 17 v Nw)*

From The Newspapers Match Report Quotebook

Peter Cloke (1980, Rd 6 v WT)

“The irresistible Peter Cloke, with a string of those stupendous Cloke marks, made sure that chance (Torrens’ revival) came and went” – *The Advertiser*

Frank Cox (1889, Rd 7, Medindie v South)

“Cox, who is active and light in his movements, should develop into a smart man. At present he ought to practice, and should preserve more coolness than he appears to at present. The same remark will apply to the rest of the team, who have yet a lot to learn, and are now, as it were, only beginning to cut their wisdom teeth in football” – *South Australian Register*

Greg McAdam (1980, Rd 15 v WT)

And then there was Greg McAdam creating havoc for Torrens in the centre. A curious mix of brute strength and cool, Barrie Robran-style class, McAdam gave North tremendous drive. With aggressive, high-jumping players in front of him at centre half-forward (Craig Stanbridge) and full forward (Gavin Leske), McAdam rarely wasted an opportunity” – *The Advertiser*

Charles Drew (1909, Rd 5 v WA)

“C. Drew was the best man of the 36. Invincible in the air, his marking was a feature of the afternoon’s play. He also showed himself a thorough master of all the intricacies of ground work, and when called upon by Reedman to take his place in their ruck acquitted himself with equal success” – *The Advertiser*

William McKenzie (1956, Rd 6 v St)

“Great goalkicking by full-forward Bill McKenzie was the key factor in North Adelaide’s 21 point win over Sturt at Unley Oval. In conditions unfavourable to accurate goal-getting, McKenzie kicked the heavy ball with remarkable power and accuracy to post eight goals from nine shots” – *The Advertiser*

Jay Viney (1995, Rd 22 v SA)

“Viney was outstanding across half-back, using handball as a weapon rather than an accessory and consistently running through the centre square” – *The Advertiser*

Adrian Sutter (1964, Rd 3 v PA)

“North full back Adrian Sutter, who had played finely throughout, despite hostile treatment from the crowd for his overdone ‘niggling’ tactics against Ian Hannaford (Port), made some brilliant saves...” – *The Advertiser*

Grenville Dietrich (1983, Rd 6 v Nw)

“North played a superb team game, but if the day belonged to any one player, it was Grenville Dietrich. His big marking and accurate kicking accounted for almost half his side’s score. Dietrich not only kicked 10.2, he worked hard around the forward lines using his strength where it was needed on many occasions” – *The Advertiser*

Darel Hart

“Looking forever the war-torn gladiator from days gone by, North Adelaide captain Darel Hart yesterday strode off Norwood Oval, mud splattered, weary but triumphant. The battle-hardened campaigner had just unleashed a special brand of courage and commitment... qualities that helped spark the Roosters to their seventh successive win” – *Sunday Mail (1987, Rd 12 v Nw)*



“Giving North an even sharper edge was... Hart, whose intelligent roving skills again embellished another wonderful display by tireless ruckman Michael Redden” – *The Advertiser (1989, Rd 5 v WT)*

“(North’s victory) can largely be attributed to rover Darel Hart’s intelligence and poise... Hart found himself, ball in hand, on the attacking side of centre with most, but not all, options covered. The resultant sequence – which included the assistance of a shepherd from Peter Bennett, two bounces and an unerringly straight kick for goal – was manufactured from the kind of virtuoso genius that turns games and tortures opponents because of its sheer impudence. Thereafter, North hurried on an uncharacteristically straight 3.1 without reply” – *The Advertiser (1991, 2nd Semi v SA)*

“North Adelaide rover Darel Hart must be gaining in confidence of late. He played without his helmet last Saturday” – *Football Times (1984, Rd 14 v WT)*

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