

Vale: Keith HARRIS-WALKER

14.3.1947 - 7.2.2013

PUBLISHED 7th February 2014

Cherished memories of a wonderful and loving husband, father and father-in-law, pop and friend. One year has passed and you are missed everyday by us all. Your strength, courage and commitment has showed us the way to carry on without you. May your spirit shine forever and help us through life's journeys. You will never be forgotten and always in our hearts.



Your loving family Malola, Shane, Tanya, Elisha, Linc, Madeleine, Joshua, Zachary, Mia, Lucas and Arabella.

PUBLISHED 14th March 2017

Today would have been your 70th birthday and we all hope you are celebrating in your special place. Our family are moving forward with their lives, with children and grandchildren who are growing up so fast excelling in their sports and studies. You would be very proud of them, they are awesome. With the promise we made to each other I am watching over the family and continuing to love and support them. We miss you every day and love you to the moon and back.

Always and forever, your Babs xxoo

On behalf of the Touch Football community, Touch Football Australia wishes to extend its condolences to the family of Keith Harris-Walker, who passed away on Thursday.

Keith Harris-Walker was a valuable contributor to the sport of Touch Football throughout Australia and internationally. The Australian contingent in New Zealand paused yesterday and today with a moment's silence to honour the life that has touched so many.

Keith was a Life Member of Touch Football Western Australia who had had a long involvement in the sport over many years. His achievements include representing Australia at a number of international events as well as being an assistant coach at an Australian Men's Open level in the 1990's.

In recent times Keith had been a coach for South Africa in the 2003 and 2007 World Cups.

Rest in Peace - Keith Harris-Walker

Honour for lifetime's work in sport

The West Australian

Tue, 20 November 2012 12:29PM

He would never admit the contribution he has made to Australian sport, but Keith Harris-Walker's study walls tell a tale or two.

The humble Kallaroo sportsman, who coached the Australian touch football team to four world championship titles, was inducted into the WA Rugby League's Hall of Fame this month.

Mr Harris-Walker, 65, who retired from coaching in 2007, was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 2010, but is still in contact with his old sides and writes development programs for local teams.

The man teammates fondly known as "Roady", and who was awarded an Australian Sports Medal by former prime minister John Howard in 2000 and life membership to TouchWest in 1996, began his sporting career as a Derby schoolboy.

He represented the Royal Australian Navy at rugby during his nine years of service before he returned home to Perth in 1974 to restart his rugby league career with North Beach. After he changed over to touch football, he won a world championship medal as a player for Australia as well as coaching the four victorious national teams.

"In an Aussie Rules State it's nice to be recognised," Mr Harris-Walker said.

"It is a bit humbling, of course. But you don't do these things to get recognition. I see it more for the family because they are the ones who supported me."

Awarded Life Membership of Western Australia Touch Association in 1996.

- 1982 Represented Western Australian Men's Open - Nationals
- 1983 Captain/Coach Western Australia Men's 35's - Nationals
- 1985 Represented Western Australia Men's 35's - Nationals
- 1986 Represented Western Australia Men's 35's - Nationals
- 1987 Represented Western Australia Men's 40's - Nationals
- 1988 Represented Western Australia Men's 40's - Nationals
- Australian Representative Men's 40 - Merit side
- Australian Representative Masters - Presidents XIV
- Australian Representative Masters - World Cup
- 1990 Captain/Coach Western Australia Men's Open - Nationals

REPRESENTATIVE COACHING HISTORY:

- 1983 Captain/Coach Western Australia Men's 35's - Nationals
- 1990 Captain/Coach Western Australia Men's Open - Nationals
- 1991 Coach Western Australia Men's Open - Nationals
- 1992 Coach Western Australia Men's Open - Nationals
- Coach Western Australia Women's Open - Nationals
- 1993 Coach Western Australia Mixed Open - Nationals
- 1994 Coach Western Australia Men's Open - Nationals
- Coach Western Australia Women's Open - Nationals
- 1995 Coach South Australia Men's Open - Nationals
- 1995 Coach Barbarians Men's Open - Qld Tour
- 1996 Coach Barbarians Men's Open - Qld Tour
- 1997 Coach Barbarians Men's Open - National Touch League
- 1998 Coach Barbarians Men's Open - National Touch League
- 1999 Coach Barbarians Men's Open - National Touch League

INTERNATIONAL

- 1991-1993 Ass Coach Australian Masters - 1991 World Cup
- 1993-1994 Ass Coach Australian Mixed Open - Trans Tasman
- 1993 Coach Australian Presidents Mixed Open - NZ
- 1994-1997 Ass Coach Australian Men's Open - 1995 World Cup
- 1997 Coach Australian Men's 30's - 1997 World Cup
- 1999 Coach Australian Men's 30's - 1999 World Cup
- 2003 Coach South African Men's Open, Women's Open, Mixed Open and Men's 30's - 2003 World Cup
- 2007 Mentor Coach for South African Touch Association for 2007 World Cup

NCAS TOUCH QUALIFICATIONS:

- Level 3 Touch Coaching Certificate
- Level 4 Coaching Coordinators Certificate
- Level 3 Referees Coaching Coordinators Certificate
- Selectors Manager Course Certificate
- Level 4 Selectors

STATE & NATIONAL TOUCH ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS:

- 1989-1994 Executive Committee - Western Australia Touch
- 1989-1994 Coaching Director - Western Australia Touch
- 1990-1994 State Technical Director - Western Australia Touch
- 1991-1999 Technical Panel - Australian Touch

STATE & NATIONAL TOUCH AWARDS:

- 1997 Life Member - Western Australia Touch
- Life Member - Northern Districts Association
- 1998 Contributions to Touch - Australian Touch
- 1999 Australian Sports Medal
 - Australian Honours List presented by the Western Australian Touch Association on behalf of the Prime Minister and the Governor General Of Australia
- 2003 Life Member - South African Touch Association

Points of interest gleaned from the Touch profile:

- Helped start Touch in the following WATA affiliates: Fremantle; Southern ; Northern
- Played for WATA affiliates: Fremantle; Southern and Northern in winning Men's Open State title teams
- First WATA coach to coach any side in a National competition to a Bronze medal (Women's Open 1994).
- Only WATA male player to represent Australia in a World Cup as a player. World Champion side
- Only WATA coach to coach two World Cup teams (both World Champions) while assistant coach in two other World Cup competitions (also World Champions)
- Only WATA member to be awarded the ATA Contributions to Touch award
- Represented Australia in Touch (including playing and coaching) in five (5) World Cups and around the top half dozen for the most amount of representative caps for Australia

- The 1st WATA Life Member
- The 1st Northern Districts Life Member
- Only WATA coach to coach South Australian Men's Open side
- Coached the Barbarians Men's Open at four National Touch League competitions (1996 -1999 inclusive)
- 1st overseas person to be awarded Life Membership with the South African Touch Association
- Australian Mens Open Assistant Coach - 1995 World Cup, Hawaii (Gold Medal)
- While working alongside Coach, Peter McNevin, Keith assisted to win the '95 world cup title in a final that remains one of the most famous matches ever played in touch, confirming his mastermind status in developing revolutionary defensive techniques (eg. short side, long side defense).
- Australian Mens 30's Coach - World Cup 1999, Sydney (Gold Medal)
- Coach of Barbarians Mens Open for first 3-4 years of NTL, achieving the team's current record ranking of 8th during his tenure.
- National Technical Panel - Director of Seniors
- WA's only Level 3 Touch Coach

- Since 1999 he has been working with South African Touch in a Head Coach role for the;
 - 2003 World Cup, Japan
 - 2005 Youth World Cup
 - 2007 World Cup, South Africa

- Due to his outstanding reputation as a Coach he has attracted other leading Australian representative coaches to assist him in preparing South Africa for the 2007 World Cup.
- 2nd most capped Australian representative (other than Scott Notley).

