

Peter McKenna – Australian Rules Football legend



Peter McKenna, well-known as an Australian Rules footballer and subsequently as a sports commentator, is married to Marita Browne, the great grand daughter of Peter Carrucan.

As a child he barracked for Essendon Football Club, but was drafted to play for Collingwood in 1965. In an interview in 1999, Peter told ABC sports reporter Amanda Smith, *'The day I walked in (to Victoria Park, Collingwood's home ground), I just fell in love with the place, and I forgot about Essendon in no time. And just loved playing there; there was something special playing for Collingwood.'*¹

Peter wore the number 6 guernsey for Collingwood Football Club from 1965 to 1975. In his 12 year career with the Magpies, he played 180 games, led the club's goal kicking in eight consecutive seasons (1967-1974), won the club's best and fairest player award in 1970, won an All-Australian vest in 1972 and won the John Coleman medal (the most goals kicked in the season by any player in the AFL) in 1972 and 1973.

Regarded as one of the first 'pop stars' in the game, he was a favourite of the Magpie Army due to his supreme skills.

He still holds the record of kicking at least one goal in each of 121 consecutive matches. His highest return was 16 goals in a round 19 win over South Melbourne and he kicked a total of 838 goals during his long and illustrious career.

He played in only one grand final, booting six goals in the first half of the famous 1970 loss to Carlton. Alas, teammate Des Tuddenham accidentally cleaned him up just after half time, the Pies were swamped and the rest is the bleakest episode in the club's painful finals history. *"I went home to bed and I can't remember even how I got home. In hindsight I shouldn't have played that second half."*²

This year he was thrust back into the Grand Final limelight when he was invited by the A.F.L. to present the Toyota AFL Premiership Cup to Collingwood when they won the 2010 Australian Rules Grand Final.

After retirement from football Peter became a football commentator with Channel 7 and later with Channel 9. Nowadays, he works as a driver for State Parliamentarians.

He was inducted into the Australian Football Hall of Fame in 1999.

1 The Sports Factor, 27 August, 1999

2 <http://www.news.com.au/premier-john-brumbys-idol-peter-mckenna-keeps-his-boss-moving/story-e6frf9jf-1225925067725>