

Vale: Rod Wise

26 October 1950 – 12 April 2023

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Friday 21st April at 3pm

Walker Park Sporting Complex

Merriman Drive YASS NSW

Refreshments will be served following a private burial at
The Australian Hotel



Wed 12 Apr 2023, 02:18 PM

Touch Football Australia (TFA) is deeply saddened by the news of the passing of a stalwart of our sport, Rod Wise. Our condolences and thoughts are with Rod's wife Janelle and children Camille, Angela, Andrew and Laura at this most difficult time.

Rod had been dealing with ill health recently and is now comfortably resting in peace.

Rod was a giant of the sport. A dedicated volunteer, administrator and much-loved member of TFA staff, holding management positions in both the Australian Capital Territory and Queensland.

Prior to these positions Rod was the Southern Suns Regional / Riverina director, playing an instrumental role in the development of the sport in this region and the backbone of the Southern Suns NTL permit at the time.

Rod's passion however was at community level and his beloved Yass Touch where he among others founded the hugely successful Yass Touch Knockout in 1989.

Rod's hard work and dedication has been honoured with Life Memberships at Southern Suns, Yass Touch and NSW Touch Associations. Such was Rod's contribution to the sport, in 2007 the NSW Touch Association named their Volunteer of the Year Award after him (the Rod Wise Medal) which carries the highest honour that can be bestowed upon a volunteer in the state.

TFA Chair, Erin Taylor reflected on Rod's legacy *"Rod was a true gentleman of the sport, a real character with a heart of gold. His infectious laugh and personality touched so many in our community, he will be sorely missed, I offer my thoughts to his wife Janelle and family at this most difficult time."*

Wisey. A lifelong legacy.

1975 – 2008 Yass Touch Association Committee

1988 – 1997 Regional Director Riverina Touch Association

1998 – 2007 Regional Director Southern Suns Touch Association

2002 Life Membership NSW Touch Association

2007 NSWTA names Volunteer of the Year Award the “Rod Wise Medal”

2008 – 2010 General Manager, Queensland Touch Association

2010 – 2017 Business Development Manager, Touch Football ACT

Vale Rod Wise



Posted on Wednesday, April 12th, 2023

With great sadness, we advise the passing of New South Wales Touch Association Life Member, Rod Wise. The man affectionately known as ‘Wisey’ has left us with an outstanding example of volunteerism to follow.

Rod was a giant of our sport and a volunteer by which all volunteers are measured. His benchmark led to the creation and naming of the NSWTA’s most prestigious award in 2007, the Rod Wise Medal for Volunteer of the Year.

His involvement in the sport extends back over 45 years. It started over a beer at the Australian Hotel in Yass with Mick Benton. Before long, they were founding members of the Yass Touch Association, an organisation he was President of for many years. His passion for the sport and Yass itself saw Rod as one of the main drivers of the Yass Knockout. The Event became one of Australia's most popular and respected grass root knockouts over the past 35 years. His vision and view on a collaborative approach saw the NSWTA partner with the Yass TA in delivering the Knockout in the early 2000s. While Rod may have stepped away from a leading role in the Yass TA and The Yass Knockout several years ago, he was always available to advise and assist when and where needed.

While his volunteerism at the Yass TA would be enough to fill a lifetime, his involvement in the then Region 1 (later to become the Southern Suns) as Regional Director would see him make an even more significant mark on the sport. It was a role that most people throughout NSW and Australia would associate and remember him with.

When you think of the Suns, you immediately think of Rod. He took on the Regional Director role in the old Region 1 in 1989 and remained there until 1997. He took a break for two years before returning and remained in the position until his retirement in 2006. Under his watch, Region 1 and the Southern Suns were a force in the sport and enjoyed success not seen before or since. While many committee members aided Rod in those years, even they would acknowledge that Rod's drive and passion for the region was the critical element of continually moving forward as a region, both on the field of play and in its administration.

As Regional Director, he championed not just his region but country touch football as a whole, and he was a leading voice in the resurrection of the City versus Country games. He always worked collaboratively with the NSWTA Board and Office but was well aware of keeping the organisation accountable and asking questions when needed.

After a lifetime of dedication, passion, and commitment to the sport across NSW, Rod was awarded Life Membership of the NSW Touch Association in 2006—the twelfth person to receive such a high honour since the organisation's foundation in 1972.

To Janelle, Camille, Angela, Andrew, Laura, and the extended Wise family, please know that our community is mourning your loss, and we send our collective strength and wishes to you all at this sad time.

Rod will be missed by many across the sport, from his wise counsel to his drive, love of the Suns, dry wit, and cheeky grin and not to mention his racing tips which always seemed to come after the race was run and won. It is, however, nice to know and, in our eyes, somewhat fitting that Rod's last 'official' touch football role was that he was able to, although not well at the time, present his medal at the NSWTA Golden Jubilee Dinner in October 2022.

Rest in Peace, sir. You should be rightfully proud of the legacy you have left with us all to carry on in your name.

