

Vale: Phillip Francis HAWTHORNE

1943 - 1994



Phil represented Australia in Rugby Union in 22 consecutive Tests then switched code playing Rugby League for the famous St George Club. He represented Australia in League in 1970 when he captained the Test side against Great Britain.

Phil moved from Sydney to Coffs Harbour and became interested in what was to become a passionate relationship with Touch Football. This included as a player and representing Australia as an Assistant Coach at the 1988 World Cup and Test against Canada and New Zealand and a National Selector 1991 to 1992. He also represented NSW as an Assistant Coach from 1986 to 1988.

Phil joined the Coffs Harbour Touch Committee and took several administration roles such as President Coffs Harbour Touch, Regional Director of Finance, NSW Board of Management Member as Trustee and also NSW State and National selector.

He later joined the Australian Touch Association Technical Panel where he took on the role as Director of Selectors a position he held from 1990 until he passed away. For the last three years of his life Phil fought Leukaemia with the same grit and courage he showed on the football field. He was an inspiration to many, not at least Sue Burey, his constant companion and supporter and to his children Melissa, Mark, Adam and Scott

A sporting Legend, Phil will be sadly missed by all who knew him

Biography

21 Caps for Australia – Wallaby Number 479

- Position Fly Half
- Place of Birth Newcastle, NSW
- Date of Birth 24 October 1943
- Died 18 September 1994
- School Newcastle Boys' High School
- Club Wanderers (Newcastle)
- Other Clubs Randwick
- Province NSW
- Debut Test Match 1962 Wallabies v New Zealand, 1st Test Wellington
- Final Test Match 1967 Wallabies v New Zealand, 1st Test Wellington



Phil Hawthorne was a brilliant fly half who alongside Ken Catchpole formed a halves combination, when at their best, had no equal in Australian rugby history.

For six seasons Hawthorne played a crucial role under John Thornett's leadership that helped establish Australia's standing in world rugby. Hawthorne brought a level of all-round skill to fly half that few aside from Mark Ella and Stephen Larkham have even matched. He was tough, durable, a fearless tackler and had a level-headed temperament. Hawthorne was blessed with silken hands, intelligence, great vision, an array of tactical kicking that meant defenders could never relax when he was in possession and he rarely sold the dump to his outside supports. Throughout his international career Hawthorne was never dropped by the Wallaby selectors and missed just one Test through injury.

Born and bred in Newcastle, Hawthorne had was still two months shy of his 19th birthday when he made his Test debut against New Zealand in Wellington. From that debut, Hawthorne played in 21 of the Wallabies' 22 Tests through to the end of the 1967 season. He toured New Zealand in 1962, 1964 and 1967, South Africa in 1963 and with the Fifth Wallabies to Britain, Ireland, France and Canada in 1966-67. He also played in a World XV in South Africa in 1964.

Hawthorne was at the core of some of Australia's greatest ever victories - the two away wins against South Africa in 1963, the first time the Springboks had lost back-to-back Tests all century; the 20-5 defeat of New Zealand in 1964, the largest loss at home in All Black history; and the 2-0 home series win over South Africa in 1965. On the Fifth Wallabies tour to Britain, Hawthorne was honoured with the captancy in the uncapped match against Southern Counties

at Oxford. Hawthorne switched codes to play rugby league with St George in 1968, on a record \$30,000 contract, and two years later became a dual international when chosen for the Kangaroos against Great Britain.

In 1991 Hawthorne played in a Golden Oldies rugby tournament in Perth but felt strangely lethargic. Shortly thereafter, he was diagnosed with leukaemia. In 1994, aged 50 he lost a long and brave fight. Alan Jones said: ‘He was a most gifted player, an inspirational player. It was the way he played that set Australia on a new [rugby] direction.’”

Phil Hawthorne played 21 Tests for Australia in a wonderful six-year career.

Highlights

1962

Hawthorne won his first Test cap alongside Ken McMullen in the 1st Test, 9-9 draw with New Zealand in Wellington. He partnered Ken Catchpole in the 2nd Test, 0-3 loss at Dunedin but was back with McMullen for the 3rd Test, 8-16 defeat at Eden Park.

1963

Hawthorne played fly half in all five Tests. He combined with McMullen in the 18-9 victory over England in Sydney and the 1st Test, 3-14 loss to South Africa in Pretoria. Catchpole returned at halfback for the final three Tests of the Springbok series.

1964

Catchpole and Hawthorne were the halves in all three away Tests against New Zealand.

1965

Hawthorne and Catchpole combined in both home wins against South Africa.

1966

Hawthorne partnered Catchpole in the two home losses to the British Lions.

1966/67

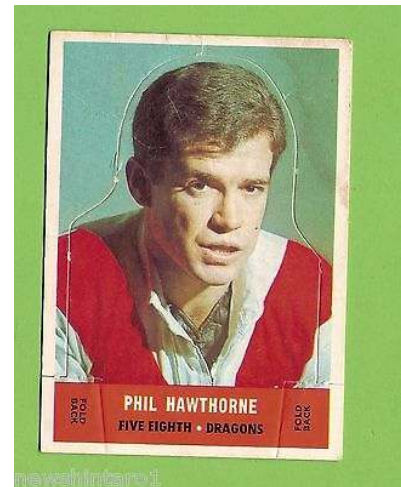
Hawthorne and Catchpole played in four of the five Tests on the Fifth Wallabies tour, against Wales, England, Ireland and France. In the international at Twickenham he kicked a record three dropped goals. Hawthorne withdrew from the international with Scotland due to a depressed fracture of his right cheekbone and was replaced by Victoria’s Paul Gibbs.

1967

In his final season of international rugby Hawthorne and Catchpole started against Ireland in Sydney and New Zealand in Wellington.

Extracts from Rugby League Project Biography

Champion pivot, the son of Newcastle's 1928 State rep Frank Hawthorne, had a brilliant RU career before signing with St George in 1968. Phil Hawthorne was just 18 years of age when he made his debut for NSW and the Wallabies in 1962. Possessing superior ball skills and a match-winner with the boot, the quick-thinking five-eighth toured overseas on six occasions and played in 21 Tests for Australia. At rep level, Hawthorne formed a brilliant partnership with the great Ken Catchpole but it was not until 1967 that he left his native Newcastle to join Catchpole at Randwick.



The following year he switched codes on a \$30,000 contract and became a dual international just two years later. Hawthorne landed two field goals in Australia's 37-15 thrashing of Great Britain in the First Test of the 1970 Ashes series and with Graeme Langlands and John Sattler both unavailable for the deciding Third Test, he was named captain. Australia lost the match 21-17 (and the Ashes) and Hawthorne did not play rep football again.

He found himself starting the 1971 season in reserve grade (where, in the opening match of the season against Balmain, he potted the first one-point field goal in a premiership match) and did not play in a first grade game in 1972.

Hawthorne left Sydney and captain-coached the Coffs Harbour 'Comets' but later fought a courageous battle against leukemia. An inspiration to other sufferers of the disease because of his self-deprecating modesty and good humour Hawthorne passed away in September 1994, aged 51.

Hawthorne is remembered as a field-goal specialist with notable statistics including:

- 6 field goals in 5 Test matches on the 66-67 Wallaby Tour
- 18 field goals in 18 appearances with St George in 1968
- 12 field goals in 12 appearances with St George in 1969
- 3 field goals in his 3 Rugby League Tests in 1970.

