2012 ARU CLASSIC WALLABIES STATESMEN

1940s

Max Howell AO

Career: 1946-1948
Caps: 5 Tests
Position: Centre
Debut: v New Zealand, Dunedin, 14 September, 1946
Wallaby Number: 339

Born in 1927, Max Howell grew up during the great depression of the 1930s and first played Rugby at primary school in bare feet because boots were a luxury the Howell family simply could not afford. A lack of equipment did not constrain a young and talented Max who, at the age of 11, was selected to play in a combined NSW primary school Rugby team.

A talented sportsman, Max featured in his High School's Rugby, rugby league and cricket sides throughout his time at Sydney Technical High. He was also the youngest male to play 'A' grade basketball in Sydney when, at just 14 years of age, he represented the City of Sydney.

In 1945, and unable to afford a university education, Max went to Sydney Teachers' College on a scholarship of one pound a week, to work towards the newly-begun Diploma of Physical Education. That same year Max joined the Randwick Rugby Club where he started in third grade. However, his talent was obvious and, six weeks later, at 17-years-of-age, he was promoted to the top grade.

A little more than a year later, aged 19, Max was selected as a Wallaby as part of the team that toured New Zealand. Making his debut in the Dunedin Test against the All Blacks from the bench, Max became the first player in history to be substituted in the second half of a Test, which the All Blacks won 31-8. He was also picked for the second Bledisloe Test but withdrew the morning of the match due to a severe knee injury.

On his return to Australia, Howell had the medial meniscus in his left knee removed, however was fit enough to resume playing for Randwick the following season and in June 1947 again ran out for the Wallabies in the first Bledisloe Test of the year in Brisbane. Not selected for the second Test, Max regained his spot in the historic Wallabies side of 1947-48 for the tour of the British Isles, France and North America.

Max played in the Scotland, Ireland and Wales Tests as inside centre and partnered the Wallabies then vice-captain, later to become captain, Trevor Allan. The Wallabies won the Tests against Scotland and Ireland but lost to Wales 6-0 with Max suffering a broken nose ruling him out of the final two Tests against England and France.

The Welsh Test would be Max's last after he decided to retire from international Rugby, at 20 years of age having played 32 times for Australia, including five Tests, to concentrate on his studies.

A highly qualified and respected Physical Education teacher and professor Max has enjoyed time in the USA and Canada teaching and studying. He even found time to coach the Canadian side during their 1959 tour of Wales.

In 1981 he was invited back to Australia as Foundation Professor in the Department of Human Movement Studies at The University of Queensland. In 1992 he decided to retire from the role and was made an Emeritus Professor in 1993.

As well as teaching Max has written more than 50 books and had over 300 other articles published throughout his career.

In 2003 Howell was awarded an Order of Australia ‘for service to education as a pioneer in the development of sports studies and sport science as academic disciplines both in Australia and overseas and to the study of sports history’.

1950s

Dick Tooth

Career: 1951-1957
Caps: 10 Tests (2 as captain)
Position: Flyhalf
Debut: v New Zealand, Sydney, 23 June, 1951
Wallaby Number: 383

Born in Bombala, NSW, Dick Tooth's family moved to Newcastle when he was seven years of age where he attended Newcastle Boys' High School and played rugby league. It was when he enrolled in science in 1948 at Sydney University that he was introduced to Rugby. While in residence at St Andrew's College he played inter-collegiate Rugby for University's fourth grade side.

In 1949 Dick's ability came to the fore, moving up rapidly from fourth grade to second grade and in that same year had the good fortune to be selected from second grade to represent Australian Universities against NZ Universities. In 1950 Dick continued his rise through the ranks moving into the first XV where he played in the centre with Jack Blomley.

The following year, 1951, Dick was selected for the Wallabies and made his debut in a losing side against the All Blacks in Sydney. He played in all three of the Wallabies Tests against the All Blacks, none of which were successful, before taking time away from the game to focus on his studies.

In 1954 Dick returned to the international stage to take on Fiji in two Tests, before heading to New Zealand in 1955 for a three Test series against the All Blacks. The New Zealand tour would be Dick's only overseas tour under the guidance of captain John Solomon. He played 12 of the 13 games, eight as fullback, however when Solomon was seriously injured Dick finished the tour with four games at flyhalf.

In 1957 New Zealand came to Australia and Dick was appointed captain of the Wallabies for the two Tests, both of which were won by the All Blacks. These would be Dick's final Tests for the Wallabies.

Despite solid performances, when the 27-man Wallaby team of 1957-58 was named it did not include the current captain, Dick Tooth. At the time the decision to exclude the incumbent was highly controversial.

What Dick brought to the table was unusual versatility. He proved in the international arena that he could play fullback, inside centre and flyhalf all equally well, which would have made him an invaluable member of a touring party on a long tour. As well as his versatility Dick was also known as one of the greatest tacklers of his day.

While some made a big deal about Dick's exclusion from the 1957-58 Wallabies side he took it all in his stride and when the Wallabies were in the UK playing Dick was there undertaking his medical studies.

1960s

Lloyd McDermott

Career: 1962
Caps: 2 Tests
Position: Wing
Debut: v New Zealand, Brisbane, 26 May, 1962
Wallaby Number: 470

When Lloyd Clive McDermott, a son of a farm labourer, was born on 11 November 1939 in the remote North Queensland town of Eidsvold no one could have predicted that the talented and athletic young man would play such a big role in Australian Rugby's connection with the Indigenous and Torres Strait Island community.

From an early age Lloyd was recognised as having athletic ability and sporting prowess, talents that saw him awarded a church scholarship to attend the Church of England Grammar School ("Churchie") in East Brisbane.

The young Lloyd McDermott excelled at athletics, winning at the underage level and figuring in the Churchie teams that won the GPS carnival in 1956 and 1957. In 1957, he won the open 100 yards and 220 yards sprints, making him the fastest schoolboy runner in GPS Sports.

His speed and strength also saw Lloyd selected for the Churchie First XV in 1955, 1956 and 1957 where he enjoyed three dominant years winning the GPS Rugby premiership in 1955 and 1957 and gaining selection in the GPS First XV in 1956 and 1957.

After leaving Churchie, Lloyd entered the University of Queensland where he studied law. After his impressive achievements on the running track and Rugby field at Churchie, the young athlete was hot Rugby property and was quickly snapped up by the University Rugby club.

Playing on the left wing Lloyd showed tremendous speed and promise and earned his first State cap in 1961 against the touring Fiji side. In 1962 the young Indigenous man from Eidsvold in northern Queensland, after just three representative games in the Queensland jersey, earned selection for the Wallabies and in doing so made history as the first Indigenous Australian to gain national selection.

Up against Australia's long time trans-Tasman rivals the All Blacks, Lloyd's Wallabies debut was in a 20-6 loss to the visitors. McDermott was retained for the second Test, however despite a more spirited performance from the Wallabies the All Blacks once again emerged victorious 14-5.

These would be Lloyd's first and last Tests in the Wallabies iconic Gold Jersey. His short but sweet Wallabies career was not due to injury but a choice to stand up for what he believed in.

Following the All Blacks tour of Australia Lloyd McDermott decided to remove himself from selection for the Wallabies tour of New Zealand two months later due to the Wallabies scheduled 24-match tour South Africa, a country governed by Apartheid, in 1963.

For some the decision to turn away from a sport they were 'born to play' would have been difficult however, for Lloyd the choice was simple. He could not bring himself to tour South

Africa as an honorary ‘white man’ and in choosing his heritage over his sport McDermott made his first stand for equality.

While Lloyd did play on at club level for a season his international sporting career came to an end and in 1963 the speedy left wing from Eidsvold switched to rugby league and linked up with the Wynnum-Manly club in the Brisbane Rugby League competition.

The change of codes was short lived however, as after a season of league McDermott transferred to Canberra and took up a job in the Commonwealth Public Service. In 1972, he was admitted to the New South Wales Bar as a barrister-at-law making him the first Indigenous Barrister in Australia. After practising as a junior barrister, McDermott was the first assessor appointed to assist the Federal Court of Australia with Aboriginal land title claims.

While a return to the Rugby field never occurred Lloyd’s mind was never far from the game and in 1992, concerned that the only Indigenous Australian’s to play for the Wallabies were the three Ella brothers, Lloyd Walker and himself he established the Lloyd McDermott Rugby Development Trust.

The work done by the ‘Lloydies’ has taught thousands of young men and women about the game of Rugby and more importantly about healthy living, fitness, life skills and the importance of a good education.

While his career on the field lasted for just two Tests his influence and contribution to the game off the field will last an eternity.

1970s

Tony Shaw

Career: 1973-1982
Caps: 36 Tests (15 as captain)
Position: Flanker
Debut: v Wales, Cardiff, 10 November, 1973
Wallaby Number: 565

Tony Shaw enjoyed a remarkable career in Rugby.

From the Gregory Terrace Rugby nursery, Shaw showed from an early age what he was capable of at the top level.

In 1973 he put on a display for Queensland against Tonga, playing himself into the Wallabies squad for a nine-match tour of England, Wales and Italy. His form was such that he was selected to play in five of the nine games, including the Tests against Wales and England, both of which were lost.

In 1974 Shaw was in the Queensland team against the visiting All Blacks, and his career seemed to have stalled as he was not picked for either of the two Tests. Realising that his preferred number eight was out of reach due to the legendary Mark Loane 'owning' the position, he decided to concentrate on the flanker position or second row.

When Japan visited in 1975 and then England, Shaw once more secured his place in the Wallabies side, this time as a Flanker. His 'go-forward' style complimented the physical confrontational style of the Australian pack and together with Mark Loane and Greg Cornelsen, created what is considered by many as one of the best back row triumvirates in Australian Rugby history.

After the English tour, Shaw was off to tour the British Isles and France in 1975-76, with John Hipwell as captain. Shaw would play in 19 of the 26 matches, including the five Tests, against Scotland, Wales, England, Ireland and the USA.

In 1978, following a disastrous season the previous year, Daryl Haberecht took over as Australia's coach, and began discussions with Tony Shaw and Paul McLean regarding the captaincy. While not even captain of his club side at the time Shaw was given the reins setting up an interesting situation. When Wales toured the captain of Queensland was Mark Loane, however during the Tests, Shaw was leading the Wallabies around the park.

Australia won the two Welsh Tests and Shaw retained the captaincy for the 1978 tour of NZ, where he would play 11 of the 13 matches, including the three Tests. The first two were lost 12-13 and 6-22. Prior to the third and final Test coach Daryl Haberecht suffered a heart attack and was hospitalised. The team rallied in his absence, and in a remarkable display overran NZ 30-16 with Greg Cornelsen scoring a record four tries. It is reported that the reason for the Wallabies turn around in form was thanks to an inspirational on field speech from Shaw.

In 1979 Dave Brockhoff took over the coaching duties and appointed Mark Loane as the captain for the one and only Test against the All Blacks for the Bledisloe Cup. The Wallabies beat the All Blacks 12-6 and it was the first time in 45 years that the Cup had been won at home, and one of the greatest Rugby scenes ever followed, with the Aussies running round the stadium brandishing the Bledisloe Cup.

With Loane's decision to go to South Africa in 1980, Shaw once again became captain and in a remarkable home series against the All Blacks, Australia ran out victors in all three Tests.

Shaw's captaincy was retained for the 1980 tour of Fiji the home games with France in 1981 and the 1981-82 Wallabies tour of the British Isles.

On 10 July 1982 at the Sydney Cricket Ground Shaw played his final Test for the Wallabies against Scotland and while there were appearance for his state against the All Blacks and Argentina the curtain was drawn on a remarkable Test career, which saw him captain the Wallabies in 15 Tests, and Australia in 23 other matches, a rare feat.

1980s

Brendan Moon

Career: 1978-1986
Caps: 35 Tests
Position: Wing
Debut: v New Zealand, Christchurch, 26 August, 1978
Wallaby Number: 598

Born in Melbourne it would not have surprised anyone had Moon chosen a career in the VFL however, his parents decision to move to Brisbane saw the athletic young man attended the Marist Brothers College at Ashgrove in Brisbane's western suburbs where he developed his love for Rugby.

Moon's abilities on a Rugby field at Marist Brothers won him an Australian Schoolboys representative jersey in 1976. Unfortunately his time in the Australian Schoolboys fell in the period between the two tours to Britain.

On leaving School Moon played for Brothers. However, before he could don a Brothers jersey his form in the Under 19 competition as centre saw him rewarded with selection in the Queensland squad to tour Japan and North America in 1978.

Originally omitted from the opening fixture against Japan B, Moon was a late inclusion on the left wing after Mark Peacock injured an ankle at training. He was most impressive and scored a try in Queensland's 69-18 victory. In the next match, Moon showed his debut try was no fluke finishing with four tries against the Japanese national side.

After resting from Queensland's 13-6 loss to British Columbia, Moon played in the remaining three games, scoring five tries against Stanford University and three tries against University of Southern California to finish with 13 tries in five matches on tour.

Moon made his Wallabies debut against the All Blacks on 26 August 1978.

In 1979, Moon played in 10 of Queensland's 12 matches, including the one against the touring Irishmen when the home side lost 18-15 in the last minute. In the Test match that followed five days later, Moon made his first Test appearance at Ballymore and backed up a break by Mark Loane to score Australia's only try to give the Wallabies a 12-9 lead at halftime only for Ireland to run away with the match in the second half 27-12.

However that despair turned to joy after the Wallabies reclaimed the Bledisloe Cup from the All Blacks for the first time in 28 years winning the one and only Bledisloe Cup Test of 1979.

In 1980, Moon linked up with one of the most exciting backlines in Wallabies history playing outside of Mark Ella, Michael Hawker and Michael O'Connor. The ball passed through the hands of these players in a flash, giving space and time to Moon.

Moon and the Wallabies continued there good form, albeit with a couple of speed bumps along the way, then in 1984 under new coach Alan Jones, the side felt they were on the cusp of something big.

The 1984 Wallabies were a revelation. Playing behind a dominant pack, the backs ran superbly and Moon was at his peak, using his in-and-away to great effect. In the first international against England, a bearded Moon made a dangerous run towards the left corner flag that set up Australia's first try. However, disaster struck when Moon broke his arm on Chris Butcher's elbow.

In 1986, Moon returned to the Test arena for the first time since his injury during the 1984 tour and showed he hadn't lost anything scoring a try against the Italians.

Moon also figured in the Tests that followed later in the year against France and Argentina, however for the second time in his career ruled himself out of selection for the Wallabies tour of New Zealand choosing to stay home with family instead.

The decision resulted in Moon missing one of the Wallabies most historic Bledisloe Cup victories and unbeknownst to him at the time would mean his Test against Argentina at the SCG was his last.

Despite playing well for Queensland in 1987 and setting himself to appear at the inaugural Rugby World Moon was struck a cruel blow when big prop, Cameron Lillicrap, trod on Moon's foot during a drill session. At first, Moon thought the foot was just bruised, however X-rays confirmed the worst – his foot was broken. The injury cost Moon a place in Australia's World Cup campaign and any more Test caps.

A remarkable finisher, Moon scored 60 tries in his century of games for Queensland, while in 35 tests for Australia, he scored 14 tries. In addition to his appearances in the 15-aside game, Moon was an accomplished performer in the Sevens version of the game frequently representing Australia in the famous Hong Kong Sevens under player/coach, John Maxwell.

1990s

Richard Harry

Career: 1996-2000
Caps: 37 Tests
Position: Prop
Debut: v Wales, Brisbane, 8 June, 1996
Wallaby Number: 725

Born in Sydney, Richard Harry's first taste of representative Rugby came when he was attending Scotch College in Melbourne. Selected at scrumhalf for Victoria in the National Age Championships it took Harry three changes in position before he finally realised his dream of wearing the Wallabies jersey in 1996.

Growing up, a young Harry marveled as Greg Cornelsen scored four tries against the All Blacks at Eden Park in 1978. It was this experience that spurred Harry on to become one of the game's most successful Props.

Despite starting his representative career as a scrumhalf he quickly moved to Flanker following his family's relocation to Sydney in 1980 and his attendance at Barker College.

On leaving school he studied for an economics degree at Macquarie University and played for the Eastwood club, making his first grade debut in 1988 before spending a year working in London where he played for Harlequins.

On his return to Eastwood, he represented NSW `B' as a flanker but could feel his dream of higher honours was disappearing.

In 1993 he heeded a suggestion from then Wallabies coach Bob Dwyer to move to the front-row and the following year changed clubs to Sydney University to join a pack that included Mark L'Hullier, John Langford and Jim Fenwicke, under the coaching of Brian Burnett.

It was this move that allowed Harry to hone his skills at loosehead prop and re-ignite his dream of playing for the Wallabies. In 1995 he won NSW selection to play Otago and attracted the attention of national selectors winning a place on the end-of-season emerging Wallabies tour of South Africa.

Having built up to 120kg while maintaining his mobility, Harry was selected at loosehead prop for an Australian XV to play an England XV in 1995 and as reserve prop for the second Test against New Zealand.

In 1996 Harry's move to the front row delivered him his dream, a Wallabies jersey. Alongside fellow debutant hooker Marco Caputo and front-row veteran Ewen McKenzie Harry walked out in the Wallabies Gold jersey against Wales in Brisbane.

The Wallabies won 56-25 and a fortnight later Harry was back on the park in Sydney for his second Test, which was another big win for the Wallabies 42-3.

After playing against the All Blacks in Wellington and Brisbane and South Africa in Sydney in the Tri-Nations, he won selection on the Wallabies tour of Italy and the United Kingdom. But

after winning further caps against Italy and Scotland he became a tour casualty when he broke his thumb in a match against Ulster.

It was a tough learning curve in his first year at national level, but with a taste of playing international football, he set his sights on maintaining his position for the 1999 World Cup.

The front-row combination of Harry, hooker Phil Kearns and tighthead Andrew Blades carried Australia through a busy 1998, with Tests against England, Scotland, New Zealand and Fiji.

The Harry, Blades, Kearns combination was still intact for the 1999 Tri-Nations Tests against South Africa and New Zealand, before they embarked on the triumphant Rugby World Cup campaign.

Harry played against Romania and Ireland, sat on the bench against the United States, and took his place in the front-row against Wales, South Africa and France.

In 2000, he closed down the most successful of Test careers with three Tests against South Africa and two Tests each against Argentina and New Zealand.

2000s

George Gregan

Career: 1994-2007
Caps: 139 Tests (59 as captain)
Position: Scrumhalf
Debut: v Italy, Brisbane, 18 June, 1994
Wallaby Number: 717

Born in Lusaka, Zambia, in 1973 no one could have predicted the road that lay ahead for George Musarurwa Gregan.

After being born in Zambia, Gregan's parents made the move to Canberra when he was just 10 months old.

From the time he was mobile he showed a great interest and ability at sport, particularly golf and cricket. By the time he was 19 he boasted a single-figure handicap in golf and represented ACT in cricket.

His talents in Rugby didn't go unnoticed either and in 1992 Gregan was offered, and accepted a Rugby scholarship at the Australian Institute of Sport.

In 1993 after a number of standout performances for ACT Gregan found himself at an invitational Sevens tournament in Fiji. When former Wallaby Greg Cornelsen noticed him he was so impressed by the talented scrumhalf he informed the Australian Sevens coach Glen Ella about the young dynamo. Before he knew it, Gregan was in a national Sevens tournament where he was named Player of the Tournament.

Just two months after his national Sevens debut Gregan found himself in the 1994 Wallabies squad. However a Test debut did not come immediately as Gregan warmed the bench for the two Irish Tests with incumbent Wallaby scrumhalf, Queenslander Peter Slattery, directing duties.

It was a Test against Italy in Brisbane that Gregan won his first Test cap however not everything went to plan for the young scrumhalf and at the 60th minute Gregan complained of blurred vision and had to be replaced by Peter Slattery. The selectors kept faith with the youngster, and he was picked for the second Test, in Melbourne, and again a third time for the Wallabies Test against Western Samoa in which Gregan was named Man of the Match.

It was the scrumhalf's next Test, his fourth, that would shoot him into Rugby history. Taking on the All Blacks at the Sydney Football Stadium the game was evenly poised with four minutes remaining on the clock. All Black Jeff Wilson beat several defenders and looked certain to cross in the corner. Gregan had other ideas and, in desperation lunged full stretch at Wilson to knock the ball from his arms, saving a certain try, and securing the match 20-16 for the Wallabies. The win delivered the Wallabies the Bledisloe Cup.

Following his heroic efforts Gregan continued to shine in 1995 with two Tests against Argentina before heading off for the Rugby World Cup in South Africa. Gregan played well, however it wasn't to be for Australia, with England knocking out the defending champions in the quarter finals.

In 1996 new coach Greg Smith brought Gregan back into the side as the number one scrumhalf after he was left out for two Bledisloe Cup Tests at the end of the previous season.

Gregan returned to being one of the premier scrum halves in the world and three years later under new Wallabies coach Rod Macqueen, played a key role in Australia's second Rugby World Cup triumph.

The Wallabies continued their golden run in 2000 securing the Bledisloe Cup and the Tri Nations.

Toward the back end of 2001 Gregan took over the reins of the Wallabies from John Eales and captained the side for the next five seasons, which included leading the team to the 2003 Rugby World Cup final in Australia.

In total Gregan led the Wallabies in a record 59 Tests and when he hung up his Wallabies jersey in 2007 had amassed a world record 139 Test caps, a feat which may never be surpassed.