

# Riverina dominates NSW State squad

# NSW

From **LIONEL BEALE**

**The football season in Sydney starts this Sunday with NSW playing Fitzroy in the Australian Football Championships first round at the Sydney Showgrounds.**

After last weekend's possibles and probables practice match the NSW squad was selected.

The squad is: From the Riverina: Max Kruse, Gary Colvin, Reg Gleeson, Jim Jewell, David Scott, Evan Connick, Colin Anderson, Ray O'Connor, Greg Smith, John Gannon, Bruce Stewart, Gerald Peiper, Jim Prentice, Harry Skreja, Mark Newton, Brian Quade, Terry O'Keefe, Peter Cerato, Lindsay Jacobs.

From Sydney: Kent Coburn, Graham Charles, Laurie Pendrick, Ian Geddes, Mark Atkins.

From Newcastle: Peter Bauemler. Reserves — Kevin Jackson, Bob Curtis, Alan Dudley (all from Sydney).

Surprise of the 25 man squad is the almost complete dominance of Riverina players.

Secondly, not one player from North Shore, the 1978 premiers, was selected.

Nonetheless, it's a great squad and having seen these players train there can be no doubt that NSW will give a great account of themselves on Sunday.

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**Mark Newton from Ariah Park and Jim Jewell from Finley, selected in the NSW squad, previously played with Fitzroy.**

Newton played three senior games with Fitzroy while Jim Jewell played Under 19s and reserve grade competition for the Lions.

They will be no strangers to the Lions style of play and could prove a big help to the NSW team.

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**New State coach Allan Jeans has had two squads in training for several weeks, one squad at Wagga and the other in Sydney.**

His influence can be seen on some of the players in the State squad.

Local clubs would be mad not to accept his offer to assist the club coaches and help themselves to his wealth of experience.

Our congratulations to Allan on being made a life member of the VFL last month.

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**After the NSW-Fitzroy clash this Sunday there is a three week's break until April 8 when the Sydney competition starts.**

But it looks like being a season well worth waiting for with a new league president, Bern Heafey, a new general manager for the League, Russell Hopper, a new State coach Allan Jeans and six new club coaches in Sydney.

There is also something very new — a NSW Country Australian Football League for all Leagues within the State.

Chairman of the committee to come up with a constitution is Brian Haste of Lockhart.

Both Farrer and South West Leagues have agreed to join and just last week Broken Hill agreed to join.

So it's big and new things happening in NSW in 1979.

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**In the New Year honors list appeared the name William Henry Hart of Kingsgrove for sport and the**

**award was a B.E.M. (British Empire Medal).**

W. H. Hart is, of course, Bill Hart — for nearly two decades the President of the NSW League and also of the Western Suburbs Club.

Bill has worked hard for the game and it was his efforts that a few years ago carried the "Riverina Amendment" which allowed players of the Victorian Country Football League domiciled in NSW to play for NSW.

Well done Bill Hart — a long overdue acknowledgement for your unselfish efforts for the game.

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**I do not want to start this season by being nasty to umpires, but I must tell you this.**

Last season, North Shore's wingman Graeme Hamilton was unanimously voted best on the ground in the 1978 grand final.

This capped a great season for him as he also won his club best and fairest award.

How did he go in the Phelan Medal, the Sydney equivalent of the Brownlow Medal?

You might well ask as Graeme Hamilton failed to get one vote from the men in white all season.