

**ITEM                    MAYORAL MINUTE - COMMENDATION OF BRIAN WARE**

**Department        Executive Services**

**Author Initials: AT**

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**REPORT**

In the past year more than ever, our local sports administrators and volunteers have proven themselves to be true local community heroes.

For many, the connection and comradery that local sport provides is so important and it is because of the women and men who wake up early, mark the lines, cook the sausages, and square the ledgers that we can enjoy our children's and our own local sporting pursuits.

No one in our community can be commended more for their commitment to their local club than Brian Ware.

Brian, known as Dixie to most, started over 42 years of volunteer service to the Balmain Touch Football Association when he attended an AGM and walked out as the secretary after the Club's President, Secretary and Treasurer resigned. They left him with a fold-up card table and an old-time clock — no funds, footballs or paperwork.

Over the following years, the club moved from Leichhardt to Taplin Park, then from Taplin to Campbell Park, and then finally in 1982 to Timbrell Park where limited facilities led Dixie to purchase an old caravan from which he coordinated the local competition.

When the current clubhouse at Timbrell Park finally came to be, it was Dixie who was said to have moved every brick, adding labourer to his long list of volunteer duties for the club.

Dixie was the first to arrive and the last to leave, 40 weeks a year for 42 years. He demonstrated an astonishing commitment to the members of his local club and their families.

I am sure that every club member past and present who has been part of Dixie's touch football family are very appreciative of all the work he has done for their club.

I would like to thank Dixie for his lifelong and tireless service to one of our area's great local sporting clubs.

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council note the report.