

CANDIDATE STATEMENT – SIMON WALLACE

As a long-time member, who's also a father of 3, a lawyer and a director of an innovative, ASX-listed public company, I offer myself as a candidate for election as a director of our beloved Richmond Football Club.

First things first.

We have record membership, no debt, our facilities are of premium grade, we have invested in our own VFL side – playing at a refurbished Punt Road Oval – and our investment in community partnerships, digital engagement and our football department has never been higher.

I pledge, should I be elected, to build upon these off-field achievements and I warmly applaud them. I have no desire to fix what isn't broken.

However, I also offer to Members an opportunity to be represented by someone with a profile, background and attitude clearly distinguishable from the current directors.

For full details: www.gotiges.com.au

4 points

The 4 Points of difference between my offering and the record, priorities and composition of the Board are as follows:

1. Representative

Too many current directors cannot personally understand what it means to be a Richmond fan under 50, who's supported the club since childhood, with no memory of Richmond success in their autonomous lives.

That perspective is important, and it should be reflected on our Board.

It's not.

2. Our Jumper

Our famous jumper should be Yellow and Black, not the charcoal and mustard that it has been allowed to become.

It's important.

3. Commitment

If I'm elected, I'm all-in on Richmond, our supporters and our community.

Save for marquee night games, I'll seek for Richmond games to be played at the default time of 2:10pm, at the MCG, on a Saturday.

That should be Tiger Time.

I'll advocate for the introduction of "con-free" poker machines at the Wantirna Club, drastically reducing our association with the harmful effects of excessive pokies losses.

While I'm a director, I'll also never have a sip of alcohol at any Richmond Function.

4. Accountability

This season was not, as the club has said, "disappointing", but totally unacceptable.

Judging from the Club's remarks, it was also quite unexpected, which is arguably a bigger concern.

I suspect that the Richmond board has been too credulous in accepting predictions from the football department, then failing to take remedial action when promised progress fails to appear.

I will also be accountable to you. If Richmond has not won at least one flag in my first two terms, I will not seek a third term.

Summary

Richmond members need to have an honest conversation with ourselves and the Club about where we are, how we got here, where we're heading and what need to change.

If someone wants to be on our Board, then they should put in the work – as I have – and share their constructive suggestions.

The Richmond members will then decide who represents them.

Please Vote

The voice of a Richmond supporter is like no other.

Your vote is your voice: Let's hear it.

See you at the G and, always, Go Tiges.