

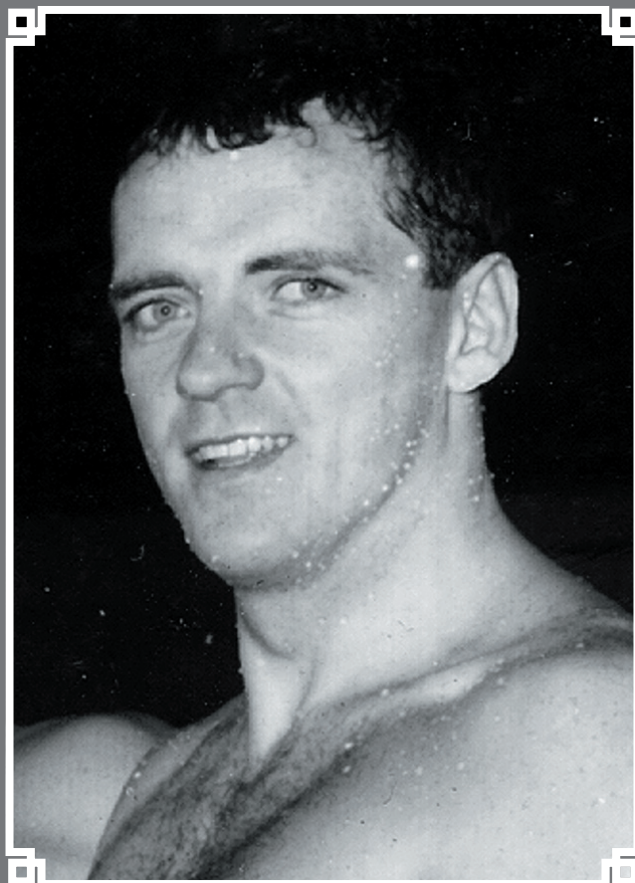
MICHAEL WITHERS

KEW (VIC) BALMAIN & MANLY (NSW)

GOALKEEPER

149 CAPS, 1960 - 1972

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Michael Withers originally represented the Kew club of Melbourne and was the prominent goalkeeper for the Australian teams at the Rome (1960), Tokyo (1964) and Munich (1972) Olympic water polo tournaments. He was also a valuable member of the Australian team of 1965 which beat a number of European national teams for the first time in a record 56 match tour. He possessed excellent reflexes and accrued 149 Australian caps throughout a 12 year representative career.

“Mick’ could very well have been a four-time Olympian as he was a member of the ill-fated Australian team that were denied entry to the Mexico City Games in 1968. Michael also played in over 80 interstate games, first for Victoria and then for NSW in 10 National Championships, spanning from 1958 to 1972.

He was an integral team member during the golden days of the Victorian State team and won a total of seven national titles. He was responsible for inaugurating the first (unofficial) Australian Club Championships at Manly in 1975. Michael was not only a brilliant goalkeeper with amazing reflexes but he had the admirable personal attitude that any goal conceded was his responsibility and not the fault of the defence.