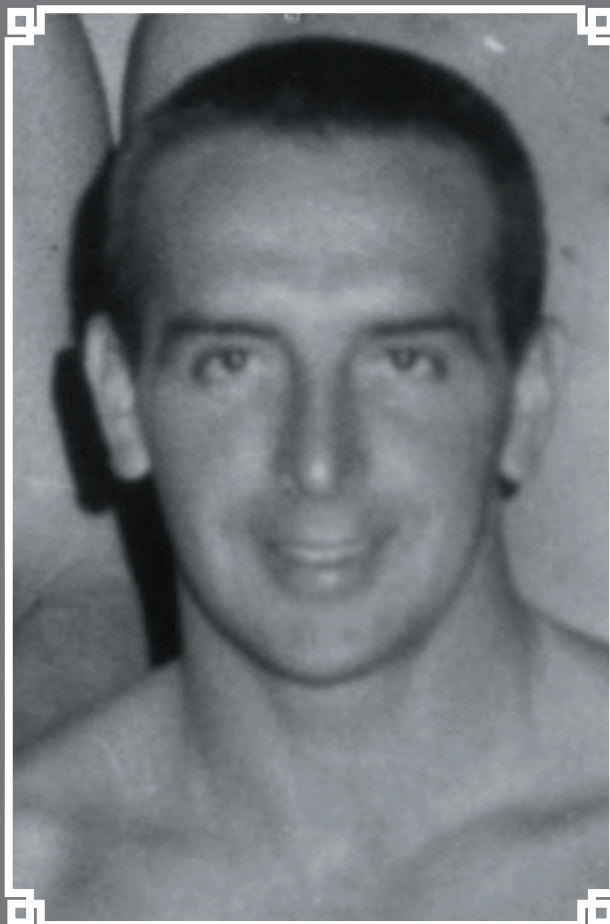


# JOHN O'BRIEN

## RICHMOND (VIC)

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John O'Brien from the Richmond Club in Melbourne represented Australia in two Olympic Games at Melbourne (1956) and as captain in Tokyo (1960).

Having been raised in difficult times and in a struggling area of Melbourne, his team-mates joked about the telegrams of support he once received from some of his old friends serving time in Pentridge Prison.

"Obie" was also a long standing representative for Victoria being selected continuously from 1953 to 1970, captaining the team from 1959 - 1968 and as coach 1967 - 1970. A very creditable career span. Always leading by example he was a determined and aggressive player and possessed an inherent ability to inspire his team-mates.

John is a Life Member of the Victorian Water Polo Association.

He was a multiple Best and Fairest in the Victorian Water Polo Association's Men's Competition and coached the Richmond Water Polo Club for almost 20 years. John's international career was clearly "cut short" when he wrote to the then Amateur Swimming Union of Australia following the 1960 Rome Olympic Games expressing his concern in respect to the appointment of the coach of that team.