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I'd like to acknowledge all the men I played with at Souths and Canterbury and the players I toured with in the 'rep' teams. Judy and I still keep in touch with many of the boys – 'Solid', 'Chang', 'Chook', 'Gaz', 'Ned' Kelly and 'Bozo' Fulton ... some of the greatest players the game has produced. Judy and I also regard their wives and partners as some of our best friends.

We're grateful we've seen three great kids, Darren, Troy and Cassandra, grow to adulthood and we're very proud of the fact they have given us seven beautiful grandchildren ... Stevie, Bronti, Bobbi, Brooke, Charli, Jordy and Jack.

We're very proud of all their achievements and their respective partners who have come into our life ... Toni, Judy (Judy McCarthy No.2!) and Matt.

All this from two kids off the streets of Redfern.

Thanks also to David Gillis, who was my first boss in the Holden Dealership, and since then I've worked with two terrific bosses in Kevin Fraser and Garth Butler. Thanks also to Craig Sutton, who's a good bloke even if he is a Manly supporter.

I'd been approached a few times before to do a book but this time Alan Whiticker at New Holland Publishers twisted my arm that little bit higher. Thanks to Brad Ryder who worked very hard on the writing, John McKinven for his editing and all the team who put this book together. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Bob McCarthy

Brad Ryder

I'd like to thank in particular Alan Whiticker of New Holland Publishers for having faith in me to write this story. When *Glory Days* was released in August 2011 with a chapter on each of the South Sydney 1967-71 legends, it was clear that the Bob McCarthy chapter was worth developing. So in early 2012 they contacted me with the idea and I accepted the challenge. Bob's school day mates Dalley Robinson and Bill Phillips gave great stories of those days and to what life was like in the Redfern/Surry Hills area. Gary Stevens, his second-row partner for South Sydney, and briefly with Canterbury, gave great insight into what it was actually like playing alongside Bob, while Warren Thompson gave very clear memories of Bob's junior days at Chelsea and his first year in first grade.

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Lastly, thank you 'Macca', for sharing your life story with all of us.

# Foreword

I first met Bob McCarthy when we were teenagers in the South Sydney Junior League, when I played for Kensington and Bob was at Chelsea United. Even though we were rivals for the same lock forward position in the 'rep' teams, we became great mates. In 1961 we travelled to New Zealand together with Souths' 'Jersey Flegg' team as 16-year-olds, when the selectors shifted him to second row ... a sign of things to come.

There we were, two city boys from fairly modest family backgrounds, times were tough and we were out of the state for the first time in our lives. When we arrived in Christchurch and saw the snow on the mountains we looked at each other and said, 'How good is this game of rugby league?'

'Macca' was always going to be a great rugby league player and after years of playing against him, I learned that it was better to be in the same team. We played together for eight seasons at Souths and in a lot of 'rep' teams together in the 1960s and 1970s, during which we became extremely familiar with each other's playing styles. But he was like that with every other player; he could sense when others were running out of petrol and he would just follow them up the centre of the field, looking for that vital break and sniffing out that try.

Bobby is his own man ... a great Test player and captain in his own right, and a fine coach. He always made his point of view clear to everyone during his career – even to some coaches who tried to change his game or administrators

who second-guessed him as a coach. Although I didn't always agree with him, I respected his approach: if you have no opinion and say nothing, then you'll be nothing.

Now I can't believe we're in our 60s, I still think of us as being 20-year-old kids and we catch up as often as we can, through weekly phone calls or personal visits. Bob loves attending Men of League functions because we meet up with old friends and find constructive ways to help out former teammates in need. He hasn't changed that much over the years ... a friendly guy, funny and very personable to anyone he meets for the first time, but humble about his own achievements. We'll be having a beer together somewhere and he'll hold the floor ... 'Hans Christian McCarthy' we call him ... a natural story-teller.

Bob McCarthy's story is a classic case of the harder you work the more success you have and that goes with everything in life. He's a lifelong friend and a man who has taught me invaluable life lessons on and off the field.

Ron Coote, President of the Men of League Foundation  
(AM)