

JOHN GDANSKI – BOARD MEMBER, ST KILDA FOOTBALL CLUB

Born and bred in Melbourne, John Gdanski is a passionate St Kilda supporter and one of the city's top solicitors.

Despite his top class education and extensive academic history, John has taken nothing for granted and is a perfect example of how to climb the corporate ladder.

Graduating from Melbourne High, John went on to further study at Monash University where he completed a Bachelor of Economics, Bachelor of Law, Diploma of Commercial Studies before completing a Masters of Law at Melbourne University.

John's first job was at a cake shop in Ackland Street during his days at Elwood High School but he also occupied posts at a car wash and as a vacuum salesman throughout university. At one stage the car wash owner bet John a car parking space in the city that he would never become a lawyer and as they say... the rest is history (and John never has trouble finding a spot to park!)

John's first break came at age 21 when he secured a job at KPMG Accountants where he worked for two years before spending four years with Freehill Hollingdale and Page Solicitors – a post that saw him seconded to the Corporate Affairs Office (now the Australian Securities Commission) to assist on the Herald and Weekly Times takeover.

Following this, John spent 18 months at Clayton Utz Solicitors where he worked as Senior Associate in the banking and finance section before being head hunted by American legal firm Johnson & Gibbs to establish an Australian banking operation in the United States. John worked in Dallas for a year and a half before shifting to Los Angeles to ply his trade for Brobeck Phleger and Harrison and considers the time spent overseas one of the greatest successes of his career to date.

Upon returning to Australia, John was made Partner at Wisewoulds Solicitors in Melbourne where he worked for four years, founding the Business Law and Trade section.

In 1995, John commenced at Fetter Gdanski Solicitors where he has worked for the last 13 years. The firm now has four partners and specialises in general business, corporate and company and property law.

John joined the Board of the St Kilda Football Club in 2001 and has spent considerable time and effort working with his executive colleagues to ensure the future of the Saints. His vision is to see the Club debt free forever and owning a state of the art training facility (which is now a giant step closer to reality) and like all St Kilda fans, wants to see the Saints hoist the Premiership cup aloft.

One of Gdanski's favourite business mantras is that "an honest executive is one who shares the credit with the people that did the work" and he is also a firm believer in Murphy's Law!



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