



WESTERN BULLDOGS PAST PLAYERS

Newsletter June 2020

Over the past five weeks, we have been working to expand our database of Western Bulldogs Past Players. If you are one of the 200+ people reading this newsletter for the first time, we welcome you.

Our mission is to reconnect and foster connections between players and officials across all different eras. The newsletter features past player profiles, history, news, and details of upcoming functions, which – *under normal circumstances* – will appear on the Events Calendar page.

We hope you enjoy the June 2020 edition.

PODCAST

See this edition of The Two Dogs podcast – ep3 – at
<https://player.whooshkaa.com/shows/the-two-dogs-podcast>



PLAYER PROFILE: Michael “Magic” McLean

95 games (23 goals) with the Bulldogs (1983-1989), 87 games (17 goals) with Brisbane (1991-97)

By ROSS BRUNDRETT – As a kid growing up in Footscray, Ross Brundrett wore Dave Darcy’s no.15 on the back of his Bulldog jumper and his main claim to footballing fame was being in the same year at Kingsville Primary School as Ted Whitten jnr.



His first job as a journalist was at The Footscray Mail where he covered Bulldog games for eight years, and for a further three years at the Western Times. He later wrote for The Sunday Press before spending the last 24 years of his career as a senior feature writer and columnist for The Herald Sun.

THERE'S a story that used to be told about Michael McLean before he got the nickname of Magic. Of how his first taste of football in Melbourne was such a cultural shock to the skinny kid from the Top End that while his under 19 teammates munched on oranges at quarter time, McLean was soaking his frozen hands in a bucket of warm water.

"It's true," the man declares from his home in Darwin. "It was a scratch match in the Dandenongs, at Olinda. There was a mist over the ground and there was a frost and it was like something out of England, I'd never seen anything like it, fog and ice, so cold and miserable...I had to soak my hands in boiling water to get some feeling back."

It was something of a miracle that McLean ever got the Bulldogs in the first place. "Royce Hart came up with the idea of getting the club to identify some of the best young talent in the country when he was coach – Gary Merrington was one of the scouts – and about four or five of us were picked out. There was Steve Macpherson from Tassie and David Noble from South Australia and Steve Wallis from Victoria and me from the Northern Territory."

Indeed, McLean lays claim to being the first Territorian to be recruited straight to the VFL although he almost hot-footed back home half a dozen times in those first few months,

"I was only 16 when I came down and I was terribly home sick. I would've shot through if it wasn't for my girlfriend moving down here to stay with her relatives. That's the only thing that stopped me. I used to catch the Belgrave line train after training on Thursday nights – it was the wildest train ride, especially at 10.30pm, there would be gangs and drunks smashing bottles and I'd just try and stay out of sight. And guess where my girlfriend's relatives lived? In Olinda. My Linda in Olinda."

Almost 40 years later, McLean and his "rock" – wife Linda – are still together. Proud parents of four and grandparents of six more. And McLean is one of the most celebrated sportsman in the Northern Territory, a former captain and coach of the indigenous All-Stars and member of the indigenous team of the century, he holds legend status in the NT league's Hall of Fame and was twice best and fairest winner with the Brisbane Bears as well as being vice captain of the club for his last four years.



It's a distinguished record of a proud player but McLean is still haunted by one huge regret; his departure from the Bulldogs.

"I loved the Bulldogs, I still love the Bulldogs," he says. "I wanted to be a one club player and I wanted to play 100 games. That was all I wanted to do."

A beautiful mover on the footy field, McLean didn't take long to make his mark at Western Oval, impressing then coach Bluey Hampshire with his ability to find space and use the footy to advantage, in the process earning the nickname 'Magic' (from teammate Steve Knight he suspects).

His career continued to prosper under the coaching of Mick Malthouse and he was the youngest player on the field when the Dogs missed out on a spot in the 1985 grand final, going down by 10 points in the preliminary against Hawthorn.

But things soured later in the 80s as the Bulldogs struggled to survive and McLean, by then deputy vice captain of the team, was burdened by one injury after another with disc problems in his back being the major concern.

It still came as a great shock when he wasn't offered another contract at the end of '89 – just as the club teetered on the brink of a disastrous merger with Fitzroy.

"I was absolutely shattered... I was sitting on 95 games and all I wanted was to keep playing with the Bulldogs and suddenly I wasn't wanted."



He almost ended up following Mick Malthouse to the West Coast Eagles but the clubs couldn't come to an agreement and instead McLean became the first pick in the 1991 pre-season draft and ended up with the Brisbane Bear (later Lions) where he twice won the best and fairest and was vice captain of the club for his last four years. Later he spent two years as an assistant coach to Leigh Matthews before leaving to coach in the NT just before the Lions started their premiership run.

"I like to think I helped get them ready," he says with a laugh.

He coached with success for more than a decade in the NT before finally giving up the game a couple of years ago.

But he never lost his love of the Dogs. "You know my first game for Brisbane at Footscray I think I got about 40 touches, had a real good game. We lost by four or five points, but I got cheered by the Bulldog supporters and that was almost as good as a farewell game. I like to think we were saying thank you."

He still counts former Bulldogs including Matt Mansfield and Doug Hawkins amongst his mates and got together with a bunch of ex-teammates for a big night on the Friday BEFORE the 2016 grand final. "I went to the grand final and shed a tear. It meant a lot to me to be there but I couldn't have another big night with the boys after that. By then I was too old to have two big nights in a row," he laughed.

He might be feeling his 55 years, but he remains in good nick, close to his playing weight and despite his 17 operations during his footy career, his body has held up pretty well.

And off the footy field he continues to do good work with indigenous youth, the last 17 years with the Stars Foundation, helping to provide better health and education outcomes for indigenous girls, a job that takes Mick to all corners of the Northern Territory and also to the ACT and Melbourne.

He's what you might call a solid citizen, both off the field and on.

TRARALGON : THE BULLDOGS RECRUITING GOLDMINE

By NEIL CORDY



Neil Cordy played 235 VFL/AFL games with Footscray and the Sydney Swans.

After his AFL career Neil coached and played for East Sydney. He worked for Network Ten for 15 years as a reporter/presenter and on their AFL coverage.

He was the AFL Editor for the Daily Telegraph from 2011 to 2018 and is currently a member part of ABC Grandstand's AFL broadcast team.

When country zoning arrived in 1967, Footscray hit the jackpot when they claimed the lions share of the powerful Latrobe Valley competition.

The League had long been a gold mine for talent but one club in particular, Traralgon, punched well above it's weight.

Between 1969 and 1986 the Maroons supplied the Dogs with more than a dozen senior players including some of their greatest.

Brownlow and dual Coleman medallist Bernie Quinlan started the golden run in 1969 and was followed five years later by another star who claimed the same medals as well as the captaincy, Kelvin Templeton.

Geoff Jennings and Rick Kennedy made it three Traralgon skippers in the space of a decade.

The talent flow didn't shut down when the National Draft started in 1986, it just wasn't going exclusively to the Bulldogs anymore.

Hawthorn jagged a triple premiership player in Greg Dear, St Kilda and Essendon a 334 game champion in Brendan Goddard. The Saints have another ripper in Tim Membrey who was traded from the Sydney Swans.

We will get to more of those Traralgon talents later but for the moment let's take a look at the one who got the ball rolling for the Bulldogs, Bernie 'Superboot' Quinlan.

The introduction of zones came just in the nick of time for the Dogs because Quinlan was almost off to Punt Road. Before the rule change he'd been approached by Tiger's legendary powerbroker Graeme Richmond. Bernie's nine goals on debut for Traralgon had ramped up their interest even more.

"I was very close to going the Tigers," Quinlan said.

"I barracked for Richmond growing up and they were a powerhouse at that time. I even visited Graeme Richmond at the Vaucluse Hotel in Swan Street. But when the zoning rules changed it didn't worry me. I was just happy to have a chance at playing in the VFL."

Visits from Ted Whitten and Jack Collins eventually sealed the deal and Bernie made his debut alongside EJ in the round 17 win over Fitzroy (The team he would move to nine years later) kicking four goals.

The Dogs team also featured greats John Jillard and George Bissett plus an 18 year old Stephen Power who was playing in just his fifth game.

"I played eight games with Traralgon in 1969 and then nine with the Bulldogs in the same year," Quinlan said.

"It wasn't a big stretch to play senior footy, I'd already been playing senior basketball and cricket. I came to Footscray with one of my team mates from Traralgon Terry Simpson, Kade Simpson's (Carlton) dad. He went to teachers college and I boarded with a three other players in Batman Street which was very close to the ground."

KT was also a teenage star in Traralgon but there were some hard years early on playing for Glengarry in the junior comp.

"I started playing when I was eight and we didn't win a game in the six years I played there," Templeton said.

"I wasn't very tall at that stage and played in the centre and on-ball."

Despite the tough start Kelvin's talent shone through.

He was playing senior football for Traralgon at the age of 16 and kicked 104 goals in the 1973 season. He needed eight goals in the last round to get the ton and kicked nine before half time, he finished with 12 for the match.

"At the start of my first year of senior football it was a battle to be able to play because I was so skinny," Templeton said.

"I was only 11 and half stone and about six feet two, I had to convince the club I wouldn't get hurt."

It didn't take long before Kelvin was dishing out the pain himself. He won Coleman Medals in 1978 and 1979 kicking 118 and 91 goals respectively and the Brownlow in 1980 when he booted 75 from centre half forward. It was a stunning period of dominance.

Few would forget his 15 goal haul against St Kilda at the Western Oval in 1978.

He believes growing up in a hot house of football talent in Traralgon gave him a genuine advantage and the whole town was committed to success.

"Traralgon was always strong economically," Templeton said.

"They had the paper mill which was a big employer and the SEC. It was also very progressive in local government and the sporting facilities were first rate. That contributed to the standard of junior football."

Some Traralgon footballers were harder to move than others. Joe Cordy (Great grandfather of Zaine and Ayce Cordy) was invited to play with Geelong in the 1920s but stayed home as did his son Max who knocked back a chance to play with North Melbourne in the 1950s.

But when Max's eldest Neil Cordy (The author of this yarn) was invited to train with the Bulldogs in 1976 he couldn't get there fast enough.

Brothers Brian, Graeme and Roger all followed as did Brian's sons Ayce and Zaine Cordy.

Brian, a hard working backman in the 1980s, believes Traralgon's ability to produce football talent comes from the quality of its under aged league.

"Traralgon had the best junior competition of it's time," Cordy said.

"The junior teams weren't linked to any senior clubs so they were there just for the kids to enjoy and develop. There was none of that win at all costs which you see in junior clubs within seniors.

"The league was really well organised, with lots of teams, so plenty were getting a game in a good environment."

One of the best of those talented juniors was Alan Jennings who played nine games for the Bulldogs in 1982 before returning to Traralgon.

After kicking five goals against Essendon and Collingwood in the first two games of the season he led the VFL goal kicking.

He managed another five from the next seven before deciding Melbourne and the VFL wasn't for him.

TRARALGON PLAYERS AT FOOTSCRAY:

Bernie Quinlan	Leigh Aitken	Ralph Thomas
Brian Cordy	Neale Wright	Ric Hoeben
Geoff Jennings	Neil Cordy	Rick Kennedy
Graeme Cordy	Neil Hodder	Roger Cordy
Jimmy Stephenson	Neil Mildenhall	Terry Simpson
Kelvin Templeton	Peter Munro	

TRARALGON PLAYERS DRAFTED:

Adrian Campbell (Footscray)

Andrew McQualter (St Kilda, Gold Coast)

Brendan Goddard (St Kilda, Essendon)

Craig Biddiscombe (Geelong and
Richmond)

Craig Jennings (North Melbourne)

Dan McKenna (Geelong)

Greg Dear (Hawthorn, Richmond)

Jay Neagle (Essendon)

Jim Silvestro (Sydney)

Jordan Cunico (Geelong)

Nick Graham (Carlton)

Pat Gribble (Geelong)

Ryan Murphy (Fremantle)

Tim Membrey (Sydney, St Kilda)

Special thanks to Traralgon legend Gray 'Fluff' Malone.



Some of Traralgon's finest at the 2017 Player Recognition Lunch: (Left to right then in front) Peter Munro, Allan Jennings, Brian Cordy, Kelvin Templeton, Christin Macri (Ex-Leongatha), Graeme Cordy, Rick Kennedy and, in front, Geoff Jennings

PLAYER PROFILE: John Westacott OAM

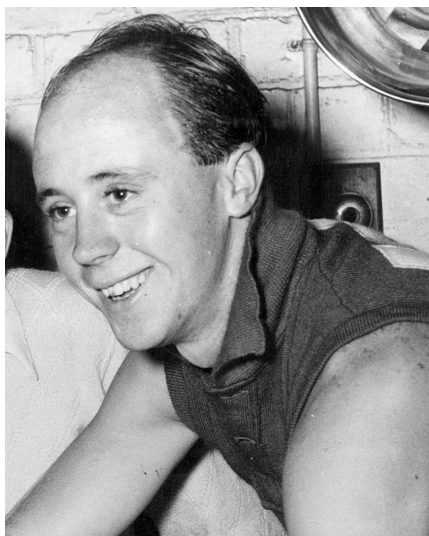
guernsey number 10; 34 senior games 1955–57, 1959

By Scharlaine Cairns- Editor of 'A History of the Footscray Football Club: Unleashed' and 'The Bulldog Heritage Vol.1 & Vol. 2' and long time Player Sponsor.

On leaving school at Wesley College, John Westacott began an apprenticeship with Myer Heritage furniture in Footscray. Proximity led him to the Western Oval and playing football with the Bulldogs. His career with the Footscray Football Club saw him captain the Footscray reserves for a couple of seasons and play 34 games for the senior team between 1955 and 1959. During this time he was also studying for a Diploma of Business Management at RMIT and, on occasion, was so tired that he admits he sometimes fell asleep in lectures.

A highlight of John's football career was being close to selection in the 1954 premiership side, having been named as an emergency for the 1954 grand final side, along with Lionel Ryan, Ron Porta and Alan Warren. He also participated as the Footscray representative in the VFL/VFA combined team that played against a VAFA team in the football match played as a demonstration sport for the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. Future Footscray Football Club president Tony Capes played for the VAFA team in that game.

John retired from football altogether in his mid-twenties to concentrate on establishing the business, Danish Deluxe furniture, he founded with his two Danish business partners, Neville Askanasy and Borg Gjorstvang.



John Westacott 1950s and today

From the late 1950s, Danish Deluxe held licenses for the manufacture of Scandinavian furniture by selected renowned designers and also produced commercial and domestic furniture under its own name. The company quickly established a reputation for high-end Danish design furniture, selling nationally by 1961 and, soon after that, successfully breaking into the international export market. As well as manufacturing chairs for the Sydney Opera House, Danish Deluxe was responsible for the manufacture of chairs for the Australian Pavilion at EXPO '67 in Montreal, the Australian Academy of Science building in Canberra and other notable venues, including the new Australian Parliament House opened in Canberra in 1988.

John studied small business management at Harvard Business School and served on Senator John Button's Small Business Advisory Council during Button's term as Federal Minister for Industry and Commerce.

John was involved in his furniture business for close to forty years before his 'first retirement', as he calls it. He then began a second career, serving as a judge's associate in the Supreme Court – a role that involved providing assistance to the judge, in court and in chambers, managing chambers and undertaking research. John filled this role for 14 years, before his eventual 'second retirement'.

Always a keen golfer, with a single-figure handicap, John has devoted much of his life to the game he loves. After serving as captain of the Victoria Golf Club for five years and president for four years he was also awarded Life Membership of that club. He served on the council of the Victorian Golf Association (VGA) for 23 years, as president (for five years), vice-president, and chairman of numerous committees. He also served on the executive of the Australian Golf Union (AGU) and as AGU president. He was president of Golf Australia, and captained and managed several Australian teams competing in international amateur golf tournaments, including the Nomura Cup (the biennial Asia-Pacific Amateur Golf Team Championship for men) and the Eisenhower Trophy (the International Golf Federation's biennial World Amateur Team Championship for men). Two of the international teams with which John was involved over the years were victorious.

John is also a national level golf referee and has officiated at Australian tournaments for more than 25 years.

In 2014 he was honoured with an OAM in the Queen's birthday honours list and, in 2018, was inducted into the Victorian Golf Industry Hall of Fame.

On occasion, John did manage to combine his love of golf and his association with the Footscray Football Club, teaming with Dave Darcy, Jim Thoms, Don Henderson and, sometimes, Jack Collins to win players' golf day trophies, which the group would donate back to the club. Some of those trophies form part of the current Bulldogs Museum collection.

John has been a member of the Lorne Life Saving Club for many years. Former St Kilda footballer, 1958 Brownlow Medallist, Neil Roberts is also a member of that club. John's involvement with lifesaving led him to also serve on the Surf Life Saving board which worked to raise funds to build the headquarters for that organisation.

John and his wife Anita have three children. Their son Andrew has been the CEO of the Melbourne Grand Prix Corporation since 2011. Prior to that he was the General Manager of Operations for the Grand Prix Corporation and, before that, had a management role with the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games. Their daughter Anna is married to a judge and lives in Rhode Island, USA, while their other daughter Georgie is married to the son of John's former Bulldog team mate John Kerr (who, due to a quirk of fate, she met by chance, independent of her father's Footscray football connections).

Nowadays John is a tour guide at the MCG. He has also taken up cooking and, never one to shy away from a challenge, enjoys cooking 'anything complex'.

It is clear that John's life after football has continued to be very fulfilling, but he continues to describe his time playing football for Footscray with great fondness: 'It was a great time, with a great bunch of guys!'

WHAT IS *TIM CALLAN* UP TO?

Tim is one of three partners in Pure Asset Management. They raise funds for ASX-listed Small Capitalisation companies. Tim is based in Point Lonsdale. He and Kristen have three sons aged 6, 5 and 18 months.

Tim played 19 games for the Bulldogs from 2008 to 2010. He previously played 15 games with Geelong from 2003 to 2007 and finished in the top three in the Geelong VFL B&F three times.



Will Minson, John Van Groningen, Tim Callan and Liam Picken in 2010. Red Dust Role Models working with remote communities in the Northern Territory to encourage Indigenous youth to live a healthy lifestyle.





Alec Epis and Allan Stoneham May 2020

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER IN TOUGH TIMES

By ROSS ABBEY

Over the last couple of months, we have often heard comments like “if we support each other we can get through these tough times”.

Over the years, Champion Essendon footballer Alec Epis has mentored many AFL players. In early 2020 Alec was very ill in hospital. He is now recuperating at home, with regular meals provided by Julie and Allan Stoneham, and regular visits by Stuart Magee.

CONGRATULATIONS

Terry De Koning – Son Sam was drafted by Geelong. His older son Tom plays for Carlton.

John Georgiades – Son Mitch debuted for Port Adelaide in Round 1

CONDOLENCES

Alan Clough (9/11/1932-20/4/2020)



Leanne Quinn is with Abbey Quinn.

Yesterday at 3:35 pm · 🧑🏻‍🤝‍🧑🏻

I'm saddened to tell all my family & friends that dad (Alan Clough) passed away peacefully in his sleep at 11.45 today, he is now at peace.

The celebration of his wonderful life will be later after this virus.

Love you dad RIP ❤️❤️🔴🔵



Excerpt from the WESTERN REGION FOOTBALL LEAGUE, 'VALE ALAN CLOUGH OAM', Wednesday 22 April 2020,

<http://www.wrfl.com.au/vale-alan-clough-oam/>

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The Western Region Football League wishes sincere condolences to the Clough family after the passing of Alan Clough OAM.

Alan was a decorated member of our community, having been involved as both a WRFL Umpire and a player of the Seddon Football Club.

Alan became a WRFL Life Member in 1980 and was honoured with a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2013 for his service to the sports of Australian Rules Football and Lawn Bowls and to the community.

He was secretary to the Umpires Advisor between 1978-1984 and umpired across all levels for more than 26 years.

In 2005 he was awarded a place in the WRFL Umpires Association Hall of Fame for services to umpires throughout the 1970's, before being elevated to Legends status in 2008.

Alan also held several roles at the Seddon Football Club, including President, Committee member and Player. He also served as a Captain Coach during his tenure with the club.

He was inducted as a Club Legend of the Seddon Football Club in 1988.

Alan played 17 games with the Footscray Football Club (now Western Bulldogs Football Club) and was as Committee member at the club after his playing days.

The league administration and the wider WRFL community's thoughts are with the Clough family.

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LOST DOGS

We would like to send the Newsletters to all Past Players and Officials. It is a constant challenge to keep the database current. If you know the email address and or mobile of any of the following please forward them to ross.abbey30@gmail.com

Aaron James

Angelo Petraglia

Angie Tantsis

Bob Fox

Bryan Edwards

Clive Newman

Craig Somerville

Dallas Patterson

Darren Saunders

Daryl Griffin

Gary Barlow

Gary Steel

Harry Frei

Ian Williams

Ivan Rasmussen

James Cook

John Cuzzupe

John Georgiades

John Taylor

Ken Newland

Mark Kellett

Mick Kelly

Neil Bristow

Patrick Bowden

Paul Gow

Peter Castrikum

Phil Cronan

Robert West

Shane Loveless

Tony Evans

MEMBERSHIP: AFLPA ALUMNI

Being a member of the AFLPA Alumni offers great advantages to past players including:

- ⇒ Up to \$500 refund on excess payments when in hospital if you are in a private Health Fund
- ⇒ Up to \$8000 refund for extra operation charges should you require surgery on body joints, including damaged teeth.
- ⇒ An opportunity to seek funds from the Geoff Pryor Fund or an Injury and Hardship fund in the event of suffering financial hardship.
- ⇒ Join by ringing Rebecca Gross at AFLPA on 8651 4351. The one off joining fee is \$50.

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	Matthew Mansfield	0439 336 939
	Gary Mc Gorlick	0409 804 057
	Ilija Grgic	0413 677 736
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