



# WESTERN BULLDOGS PAST PLAYERS

Newsletter February 2020

## 2020 RECRUITS DINNER

Seventy five people had a terrific night hearing from five impressive young men who are embarking on their career with the Bulldogs as well as retiring Director Matthew Croft and List Manager Sam Power.



Above: Gordon Casey (WB# 573), Riley Garcia, Ted Whitten (WB# 633), Stephen Power (WB# )

Top right: Ray Walker (WB# 475), Alex Keath, Scott West (WB# 830)

Bottom right: Josh Bruce, Alan Stoneham (WB# 614)

# WESTERN BULLDOGS PAST PLAYERS SEASON LAUNCH DINNER

## INCLUDING 1985 LIST REUNION

### ROUND 1 v COLLINGWOOD FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH

All **Past Players and Officials and their partners** are invited to attend the Season Launch Dinner. This event will include a Reunion of the 1985 list. It is an opportunity to celebrate the service to the club and a great way for former teammates to catch up with one another.

Time: **Dinner starts at 6pm** before the 7.50pm start of the match  
Venue: **Danvers Room** at Marvel Stadium (enter via **Gate 6** and go to Level 2)  
Tickets: \$40 per person.  
Package: Includes dinner and reserved seat (Cash Bar)  
MC: Kevin Hillier  
**Special Guests:** **Mick Malthouse** **Jim Edmond** (WB# 656)  
and a **Mystery Guest**

#### **Presentations:**

Rick Kennedy (WB# 712) to Simon Beasley (WB# 715)  
Stephen MacPherson (WB# 718) to Doug Hawkins (WB# 664)

**RSVP: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March**

**Owen Madigan** (Secretary)

Phone: 0408 105 151

Email: [belpas1@bigpond.com](mailto:belpas1@bigpond.com)

#### **Payment options:**

##### **Direct Debit:**

*Footscray Western Bulldogs Past Players*

**BSB:** 063 893

**Account:** 10 100 208

Use **surname** as payment identification.

##### **Credit Card:**

Andrew Howlett (Treasurer) 0418510635

**Cheque:** *Footscray Western Bulldogs Past Players*

c/o Owen Madigan

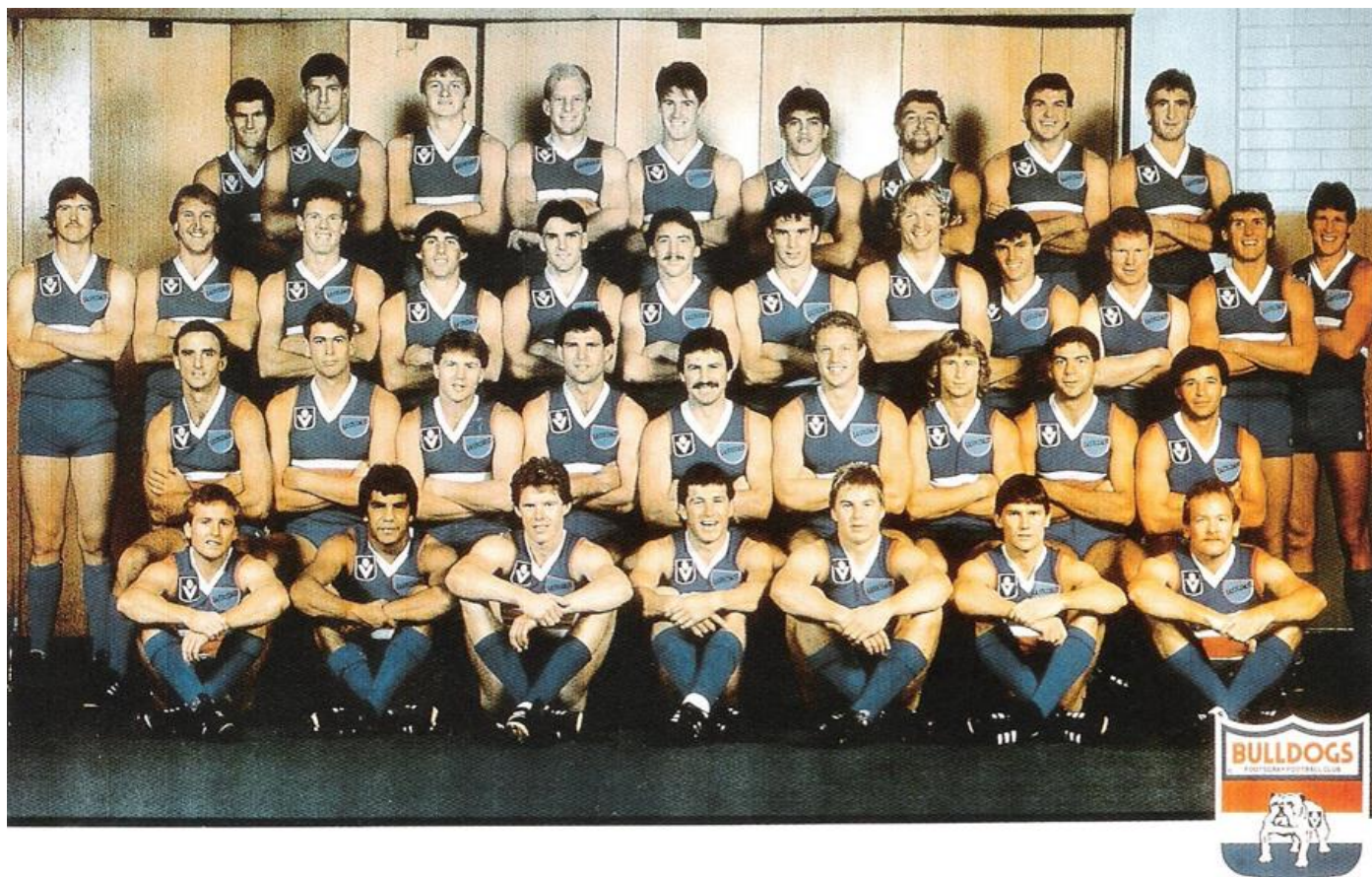
8 Bellevue Court

Boronia 3155





## 1985 FOOTSCRAY TEAM



Back row: Ian Williams, Andrew Purser, Alister Ford, Simon Beasley, Neil Cordy, Michael McLean, Doug Hawkins, Mark Kellett, Peter Foster

Third row: Michael Ford, John Bennett, Brian Cordy, Michael Egan, Robert Anderson, Rod MacPherson, Stephen Wallis, Andrew Taylor, Darren Saunders, Brad Hardie, Darren Baxter, Jim Sewell

Second row: Allen Daniels, Robert Groenewegen, Stephen MacPherson, Jim Edmond (captain), Mick Malthouse (coach), Rick Kennedy, Jim Stevenson, Zeno Tzatzaris, Tony Buhagiar

Front row: Des Hicks, Les Bamblett, Graeme Cordy, Brian Royal, Wayne Shand, Peter Baxter, Phil Maylin.

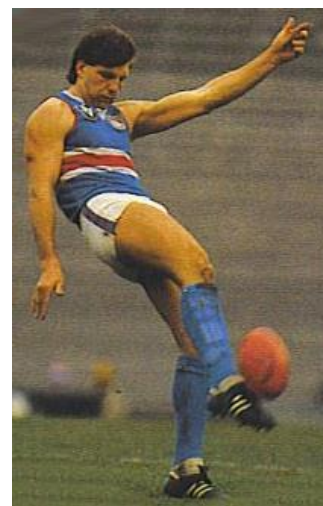
### 1985 PROFILES written by *Ross Brundrett*

#### **ANDREW PURSER** (112 games, 1983 - 87)

In the mid-80s, Andrew Purser was the rock on which the Bulldogs built their tilt at premiership glory during the Malthouse years, but all too soon he had returned to his native Western Australia. Retired a month before turning 29 to pursue a career in the finance industry.

He still runs his own finance business in Subiaco today. His grown children, Emma and Ben, barrack for the West Coast Eagles and for a while Andrew helped out with the state's under 16 and under 18 schoolboy teams, taking them to national titles.

But ask the former champion ruckman which team he barracks for today and he spits out the answer in a nano-second: "Oh the Bulldogs, me and (wife) Jenny ... it will always be the Bulldogs."



That loyalty and huge work ethic made him a fan favourite during his time at the Bulldogs, earning him the coveted Charlie Sutton trophy for best and fairest in his second year, a brilliant effort considering that, at 193cm (6ft 4”), he was outsized most weeks.



“There were some big blokes to contend with – the Madden brothers of course, and Mark Lee and John Mossop at Geelong, John Ironmonger too,” recalls Purser.

“But the bloke who probably caused me the most bother was Jeff Sarau at St Kilda. It was always very physical against him.”

Part of the Western Australia invasion of Western Oval (as it was known then) was Purser, who was plucked from East Perth by Shane O’Sullivan, who had left Carlton to become general manager of the Bulldogs in 1982.

“Shane was great for the club. He was a huge fan of Kenny Hunter who had been recruited from WA so he just reckoned that WA was a goldmine of talent and grabbed as many of us as he could,” Purser said with a laugh.

Before Purser came Simon Beasley, and others to be lured across the Nullarbor included Murray Rance, Jim Sewell, Ian Williams, Allen Daniels and Brad Hardie.

“The Bulldogs were rock bottom when I got there but there was a bit of a buzz about the place with a new coach in Mick Malthouse and everyone got on well and there was a real sense of purpose,” said Purser.

But with Bluey Hampshire retired there was a real void in the ruck department, and it all fell on the new bloke. Just to add to the pressure, Purser was given the number 1 guernsey.

To help him out, the club got the legendary Sam Newman (who lived close by Purser in Prahran) to teach him some ruck skills. “We would go over tapes together and he virtually just told me that Polly Farmer was the greatest ruckman of all time and to try and learn from him, which was fine by me because Polly was a hero of mine growing up.

“I would have to virtually ruck all game in those early years, but we worked out a pretty good system with the clever players like Brian Royal at the drop of the ball. And with kick-outs I’d always be the second link man... the ball would go to the Doug Hawkins wing and more often than not he’d win it and kick it to me. He didn’t get beaten one on one very often,” he said.

“There was a club rule, which I found very frustrating, was that I couldn’t enter the forward 50... if I even looked like doing it, Ronnie Simmons (the runner) would bark out at me to get back a kick behind play.”

He rues the fact that the club just failed to make the grand final in 1985, losing by 10 points to Hawthorn in the preliminary final. “We had the wood on (premiers) Essendon that year, so it would have been interesting,” he says, wistfully.

While at Footscray, Andrew got a job at a stockbroking firm in the city, working in the same building as his teammate Simon Beasley. “He used to tell the guys he was two floors above me.”

But by the end of 1987, Andrew felt he was “running out of steam”, and sensed the club was in need of some new blood.

“I didn’t want to get to the stage that blokes were jumping over me, I wanted to go out while I was still to the top of my game,” he said.

Not that the club was willing to let him go. “Mick Malthouse and Shane both wanted me to hang on, maybe for insurance in case someone got injured and they kept me on the list for a while, but I knew I was done,” he said.

These days he still catches the odd game and keeps in touch with some of his old teammates, especially Brian Cordy. “We catch up whenever he is in town to watch Zaine play,” he said.

“And I think there’s a reunion coming up, so I’m hoping to get along to that as well.”



## TONY BUHAGIAR (25 games, 36 goals, 1985)

THESE days everyone knows that Caleb Daniels is the shortest player in the AFL, but back in 1985 there were short stacks in just about every VFL team vying for the title. Tony Buhagiar, who crossed over to the Bulldogs from reigning premiers Essendon at the end of 1984, was a contender at just 166cm (5ft 5in or one inch shorter than Daniels).

“But I don’t think I was shortest though; there was Paul Callery at St Kilda and Brad Gotch at Fitzroy,” Buhagiar recalled. (According to VFL records, Callery was 165cm and Gotch 166cm).

Tony knew though that his size was an issue in the eyes of some. The East Fremantle premiership player was signed up at the end of 1980 by Bomber coach Barry Davis, but soon after Kevin Sheedy replaced him.

“I rang up Kevin to tell him I was coming over and I asked him whether he had a problem with that and he told me that he thought I was too small and that I would struggle to get a game.”

As it was little Budgie, as he was dubbed by Lou Richards, would play 83 games in four seasons at Essendon before narrowly missing out on a spot in the premiership side of 84, after struggling late in the year with a stress fracture of the foot before another, more serious injury threatened to end his career.

“My (left) knee was stuffed so I packed my bags and headed home (to WA). In fact, I was already back home when (Bulldog general manager) Shane O’Sullivan called and tried to talk me into having one more crack with the Bulldogs,” he said.

The only trouble was that Mick Malthouse was the coach. And the two did not get along.

“In my first year in the VFL I was always getting smacked in the head – I reckon I must have had a combined total of 60 stitches put in my head and the toughest of all the back pocket players I faced was Mick Malthouse. I’d never heard of him while I was playing in WA, but he was always jumper punching and making life difficult. He was relentless to the point where the only thing I could do to make him stop was boot him the shins.

“Well, he didn’t like that. He told me: ‘You can’t do that’ and I just said I had to do something, but he was very upset. He was still going crook in the rooms, back in the days when the rival teams used to have a beer after the game and it kept going from there,” explained Buhagiar.

He told O’Sullivan that there was “no way” that he and Malthouse could work together. “Anyway, next day Mick rang me up and said that feud was all over and he wanted me to be part of the Bulldogs.”

For the little Budgie, it meant another surprising tilt at a premiership, although he also found it immensely satisfying to knock over his old team Essendon in an early round.

“It was quite an exciting place to be, there were six or seven West Australians in the team and all the boys gelled very well together and it all happened so quickly.

“Mick was very good to me, often I would miss training on Tuesdays to protect the knee and I got through the season.”

So well was Buhagiar managed that he played in every Bulldog game that season, but by the season’s end he knew his time was up.

“The knee just wouldn’t let me play my best footy so that was that,” he said, before adding. “You know I finally got a full knee replacement two years ago and it’s fantastic.

Oh well, better late than never

After returning to his birthplace at Freo he immersed himself in the hospitality industry, starting off with a liquor shop before moving onto bistros and bars, culminating a few years ago with an interest in The Camfield, billed as “Australia’s largest pub” (it can hold 3000), perched in the shadows Perth’s brilliant new Optus Stadium.



From his days at the Bulldogs, Buhagiar says he keeps in touch with his good mate Brian Royal and still sees Jim Sewell. "He used to have a bookstore, but he sold that and now he's semi-retired I suppose."

Unfortunately, Tony says he's unlikely to be able to attend the reunion of the 1985 side later this year, but if anyone finds themselves in Perth they know where to find him.... just look for the biggest pub in Australia.

## TEAM OF THE CENTURY: JIM GALLAGHER

Jim played for the Footscray Football Club during a very successful period for the club since joining the VFL from the VFA in 1925.

His passion for the game saw him not only playing League football but gaining recognition at interstate level and being named in the Team of the Century.

He was recruited as a boundary umpire at the Tallangatta club when age 13 and his interest in the game began as he watched his brother play in the local team.

He attended Wodonga High School and later Kilmore Assumption College where he became captain in 1948 age 17.

It was at this time he started Engineering studies at Melbourne University and at the same time tried out with Essendon in their practice games. Training for football was difficult with the time required to complete the study program and the time at Essendon came to an end.

It was a disappointment for Jim at the time but was in fact a great gift to the Footscray club over the next decade.

At the time he played on Sundays at the St Monica's YCW and from there took up an opportunity to try out at Footscray where he played for the thirds and on to the second eighteen before becoming a member of the senior team in 1951.



Footscray had great players such as Sutton, Collins, Ryan, Whitten, not only as footballers but as inspiring members of a rising club which led to the first premiership the club in 1954 of which Jim was a key part.

He was known to be very effective in shutting down key opposition players as he perfected the art of defensive play as a half back flanker where he spent most of his career. The game has changed a great deal since as evidence shows he never kicked a goal, remaining in the back half protecting the goals.

Jim is known to be somewhat disappointed in the way the game is now played sensing that it is losing its unique appeal with constant packs in the middle of the ground.

After 9 years and 151 games with Footscray Jim retired from playing in 1960 but went on to coach the local teams of East Malvern and Assumption College and the Papuan Police team when his employment in the technical communication industry took him to New Guinea.

Jim is very proud of the fact that when his son Ross played for Footscray he became one of the father and son pair that contributed a great deal to the club.

Jim found that one of the greatest outcomes from playing at this level was the lifelong friends he made during his playing career. Jim and his wife Cheryl live at Mornington.

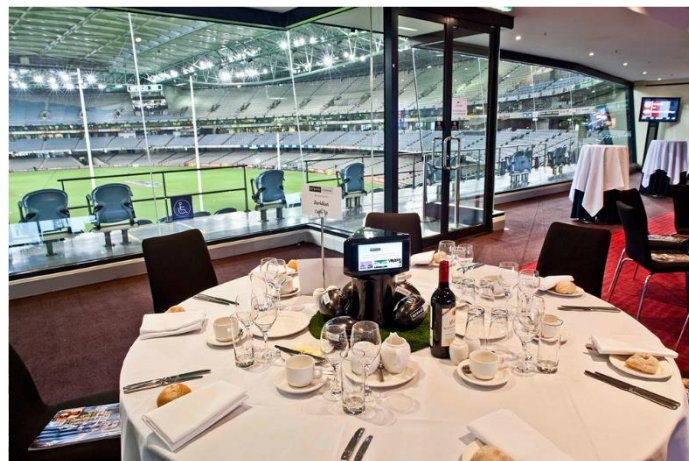
The long version of Jim Gallagher's story can be found in "**The Bulldog Heritage**" **Volume 1** by past players of the Footscray / Western Bulldogs Football Club. The book was inspired by John Schultz and is available at the Bulldogs Shop.

## MATCH DAY ROOM

In 2020 members of the Western Bulldogs Past Players will again have exclusive use of the Danvers Room on Level 2 and is accessed via Gate 6. There are 150 reserved seats in the stands in front of the room.

Pay your membership of the Western Bulldogs Past Players **NOW** to make full use of the facilities and the organised functions scheduled for this year.

[Click here to download membership form](#)



## 2020 EVENTS CALENDAR

(The list includes Home Games in Melbourne & functions)

Day and Date	Time	Match	Event
Tuesday Feb 11	6.30 pm		2020 Recruits Dinner at Barkers Café
Sunday March 15	9.30 am		AFLCPP Bowls Day at Altona Bowls Club
<b>Friday March 20</b>	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>v Collingwood</b>	<b>Season Launch Dinner including 1985 List Reunion</b>
Friday April 17	8.15 am		AFLCPP Golf Day at Settlers Run Golf Course
Saturday April 18	7.25 pm	v Brisbane	Guests: Fitzroy/Brisbane Ex-Players
Saturday April 25	<b>tba</b>	v Port Adelaide	Pre-Game Function in <b>Adelaide</b>
Saturday May 2	7.25 pm	v Hawthorn	Appreciation Round for Past Players & Life Members
Sunday May 17	<b>tba</b>	v Fremantle	Pre-Game Function in <b>Perth</b>
Saturday May 30	7.25 pm	v Carlton	
Saturday June 13	7.25 pm	v GWS	
Friday June 26	7.50 pm	v Essendon	
Saturday July 11	7.25 pm	v Fremantle	
Sunday August 9	3.20 pm	v North Melb	
Round 23	<b>tba</b>	v West Coast	
<b>Sunday Nov 8</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>		<b>AGM at Barkers Café followed by ...</b>
	<b>12.00 pm</b>		<b>Western Bulldogs Past Players End of Year Lunch</b>
Sunday Nov 15	9.30 am		AFLCPP Bowls Day at Altona Bowls Club

## CONGRATULATIONS

Barry Round (WB# 572) on his 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday with son David (WB# 869) and grandson Nate.



## 2020 COMMITTEE

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Vice President	Phil O'Keeffe	0402 007 270
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Treasurer	Andrew Howlett	0418 510 635
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	Adam Contessa	0416 081 259
	Graeme Joslin	0412 771 235
	Matthew Mansfield	0439 336 939
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ALFCPP Delegate	Jack Slattery	0425 746 148