



WESTERN BULLDOGS PAST PLAYERS

Newsletter August/September 2021



The Two Dogs Podcast

Episode 13, Kevin Hillier interviews

Clay Smith and Jack Redpath

<https://omny.fm/shows/the-two-dogs-podcast/twodogs-ep204>

Website

Our website includes:

- previous editions of the newsletter
- podcasts
- match day information



The address is: www.westernbulldogs.com.au/pastplayers.

Pre-match Functions

Round 22 v Hawthorn in Launceston

The function has been cancelled due to travel restrictions and the uncertainty around COVID. We would like to thank Robert Groenewegen (1978–86) for his generous offer and hope we can arrange a similar event in the future.

Round 23 v Port Adelaide at Marvel Stadium

We plan to have a pre-match function before the last home game, against Port Adelaide, subject to the Victorian Government Health Department requirements. The Danvers Room will be open 90 minutes before the game. The Kevin Hillier interviews will start 60 minutes before the game. Food available: Chef-served hot roast beef with salad or on a crusty roll with coleslaw and gravy; or vegetable pasties.

R12 v Fremantle

The Pre-match Function was at The Inglewood Hotel in Perth. Brian Cordy presented Andrew Purser with his Recognition Jumper.



R16 v North Melbourne

Kevin Hillier interviewed Will Minson and Daniel Cross.



Rick Kennedy presented Simon Beasley with his Recognition Jumper.



R17 v Sydney

Kevin Hillier interviewed Clay Smith and Brian Cordy. Clay is pictured with his wife Sarah, and Brian is pictured with his wife Karen.



Scott West presented Simon Atkins with his Recognition Jumper.



R18 v Gold Coast

Forty-five people attended the pre-match function at Emerald Lakes Golf Club before walking 10 minutes to Metricon Stadium to watch the Bulldogs play the Gold Coast Suns. The function was organised by Neil Cordy (1979–86).

Laurie Sandilands (1966–77) interviewed Wayne Foreman (1977–79) and Ron Fenton (1970–71).

Attendees included Bob Barr (1964–65), Robert Bloom (1990–92), Bruce Burgoyne (Reserves coach 1981–83), Brian Cordy (1981–88), Clare Delaney (1999–2002), Danny Del-Re (1990–94), Narelle Lloyd (1997–2001), Clint McRae (1977–79), Barry Standfield (1990–96), Walter Vecchiet (1965–67) and Geoff Jennings (1974–83; shown with his family).



Geoff Jennings was presented with his Recognition Jumper by Ross Abbey. (Photo Brian Cordy, Geoff Jennings and Ross Abbey)



Peter Foster

163 Games (1983–93); guernsey number 32

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.

When Peter Foster first walked into the Western Oval back in 1983 the expectations weren't all that high.

In three seasons at struggling Fitzroy the young centre half-forward had managed just seven games and two goals, hardly the sort of statistics that would lead anyone to think he could fill the substantial hole left by the departure (to Melbourne) of club icon and out-and-out champion Kelvin Templeton.

'I don't know exactly what it was,' recalls Foster, 'but there was something about the place that appealed to me and I knew I was going to give it a decent go.'



Peter Foster and Ron Simmons

Sometimes in footy, the pieces just click together, as if they were meant to be – and that proved to be the case with Foster and Footscray, even if centre half-forward wouldn't be the position in which he would make his mark.

With hindsight, Foster believes he had been given a solid preparation and was ready to fire up when he arrived at the Bulldogs.

'I was very fortunate with the coaches I had, right from my start at Colac. Barry Gill (the former Carlton player) was my coach at Coragulac in the Hampden League and then at Fitzroy I had Bill Stephens, who was a great man, and Robert Walls, who also taught me a

lot. . . Then at Footscray, Don McKenzie, another very knowledgeable football man, was the seconds coach and then there was 'Bluey' Hampshire as the senior coach, who was just a fantastic bloke.'

At Fitzroy, Foster believes he was too skinny and under-prepared, although he does remember delivering one bone-shattering bump on a young Hawthorn prospect (which may or may not have been a shirtfront). 'Yeah, I pretty much knocked out Terry Wallace . . . I still remind him now and then,' he says.

Initially tried up forward at 'Sgray, Foster had almost instant success when moved to defence and, when Mick Malthouse was appointed coach, Malthouse quickly recognised Foster as an important cog in the new-look Bulldog team he was developing.

'It was a different place under Mick, there was this real buzz and Mick put a lot of responsibility on my shoulders.'

Foster soon became a crowd favourite with his soaring marking skills and raking left-foot kicks, but Malthouse ensured that he continued to work hard on the track. 'Oh, he pushed me all right, he kept telling me I was the number one marking man and he made me do extra marking practice on blokes like Emmett Dunne and Jim Edmond. I'd come home from training and my hands would be swollen every night. And it wasn't just the physical training, Mick would want me mentally tough as well, he sent me to Rudi Webster (sports psychologist) and everything, and I would be so revved up I would approach every game as if it was my last . . . he really knew how to push my buttons.'

It certainly worked! Foster quickly became one of the game's most dashing defenders taking on some of the biggest stars of his time, including Ross Glendenning, Terry Daniher, Barry Stoneham and, later in his career, Stuart Loewe and Wayne Carey.

'It was bloody hard work, but I really enjoyed the one-on-one tussles . . . I must have played on Dermott Brereton about seven or eight times and he always goes on about how I'd clip him over the ears, but I did all right on him most times I reckon.'

When he wasn't defending, Foster was being thrown forward, often to good effect (he kicked 56 goals for the Dogs). 'I remember kicking four goals at Windy Hill one day and I think I took 16 marks on Chris Mew . . . The following week I think I grabbed another 14 playing forward, so yeah I enjoyed getting up there,' Foster recalls.

Indeed, Foster likes to tell people that he played for the big V at both ends of the ground, which is a fact. 'What I don't tell them is that I was part of the Victorian team that got beaten in Tassie!' Foster grins.

An often fiery competitor, Foster was suspended, he thinks, three times, for a total of 12 weeks but he says he never held a grudge against a rival on the field, despite copping plenty himself – including a broken leg (Paul Dear was suspended for 4 weeks for tripping) and a broken jaw courtesy of former Bulldog Brian Wilson.

When coach Terry Wheeler suggested in 1993 that it may be time to give the game away, Foster reluctantly agreed. 'I'd had injury issues, mainly with a knee and Achilles, and I couldn't get off the ground like I used to,' he conceded.

In his 14 years at the top level, he had played a total of 170 games won a club best and fairest, finished fifth in the 1988 Brownlow (behind Gerard Healy, Jason Dunstall, Simon Madden and Tony Hall), won state selection several times and had represented Australia in promotional games in both Ireland and New York.



*Rick Kennedy, **Peter Foster**, Doug Hawkins, Jake Landsberger and Kevin Hillier at the 2019 End of Year Function, celebrating the contribution made to the club by Jake Landsberger and Dale Morris*

'I would have loved to have got to 200 games, but it wasn't to be . . . I mean I look at my mate Dougie Hawkins and how many games he managed, but he was a bloody champion of the game wasn't he? So, I'm proud of what I was able to achieve in the end.'

After a few coaching stints in the country, Foster put an end to his footy involvement, although he is still paying the price with his wonky knees. 'I think David Young [the surgeon] has operated 11 or 12 times but I'm pretty lucky really,' he says.

Foster still lives locally, in Essendon, and runs his own business, dealing with industrial cleaning chemicals.

Danny Del-Re

62 Games (1990–94); 139 goals; guernsey number 26

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 of ABC Grandstand's AFL broadcast team.

Danny Del-Re was always destined to pull on the red, white and blue. His fate was decided decades before he arrived at the Bulldogs when his uncle Nick saw a bus full of footy supporters driving through Ascot Vale. He thought he'd follow the bus to see where it was going and ended up at the Western Oval.

'Uncle Nick thought he was going to a soccer game,' recalls Del-Re. 'He had no idea he was going to watch the Bulldogs. It was a game against Carlton and he said he'd barrack for the side which ran out first – and it was the Bulldogs.'

Uncle Nick and his older brother Tony were the first of the Del-Re's to come to Australia in the early 1960s when they moved from the Abruzzo region of Italy. Danny's dad Aldo, brothers Rigo and Joe and their sister Rosa all followed, along with their parents (Danny's grandparents) Vincenzo and Carmella.

'It would have been very tough for them coming to Australia,' Del-Re says. 'Not being able to speak English and not knowing what's going on. Leaving their families behind and going to another country. When my old man told me their story I couldn't believe how it all happened.'

The Del-Re family members were a tight unit already but, when it came to following the Dogs, they were even closer. The whole family barracked for the Bulldogs so, when Danny was drafted in 1989 the emotions flowed. 'My dad started crying when I was drafted,' Del-Re recalls. 'I said, "Hang on, I haven't played a game yet." I knew the story about Uncle Nick following the bus and how my dad and his brothers had loved the club for 50 years. To get drafted to the Bulldogs was exciting for me but it was even more exciting for dad and my uncles. They were rapt!'

While Danny's drafting to the Bulldogs was a match made in heaven, it wasn't a straightforward process. It was 1989 and the club was in crisis. At 22 years of age, Danny was a mature age recruit and a lot of things had to go right for him to end up at the Kennel. Enter Terry Wheeler!

'Terry coached me in '87 and '88 [at Williamstown] and went to the Bulldogs in '89 to coach the reserves,' Del-Re said.

'Willi played in the '88 grand final against Coburg at Windy Hill. We lost by a few goals and "Wheels" came into the rooms after to say, "Bad luck about the game." ' Terry Wheeler told Danny he should consider training with the Bulldogs where he was to be the 1989 reserves coach.

The next season was the year of the Fightback. The club was under threat, but they held the Fightback rally and the club survived. Wheeler got the senior coaching job and rang Del-Re straight away. 'If Terry didn't get the job, I don't play AFL,' Del-Re remembers.

'Wheels' had taken a punt on Danny and reminded him about the gamble he was taking saying, 'It's my head on the chopping block, so you need to be committed,' Del-Re remembers.

'I loved playing for Wheels, he gave me confidence and believed in me. I played 14 games in my first year, the first nine were in the back pocket. I went forward after that and kicked a few, so I stayed there.'

Del-Re topped the club goalkicking in 1992 and 1993. The stand-out year was 1992, when he booted 70 goals for the season, thirteen of them coming in a massive finals series which included a club record 8 goals in a losing qualifying final against Geelong. 'It was my first AFL final and to play at the MCG was amazing,' he said.

'We were leading by about five goals and then Gary Ablett kicked a goal from outside 50 on his left which gave them momentum. They killed us after that. Billy Brownless kicked 9.'



Mark Hunter Danny Del-Re and Nigel Kellett at the 2016 End of Year Lunch

While Del-Re's relationship with Terry Wheeler was a strong one, the friendship was tested when Wheeler asked the team to jump out of a plane over Port Phillip Bay as part of pre-season training.

'I get goose bumps talking about it now,' Del-Re said. 'On the way to Watsonia to get the briefing we drove past a church and went in to pray! The plane was a four seater with no door and very noisy. I was with Barry Standfield, Simon Atkins and Michael Mansfield. I looked out the door and said to myself you are f . . . ing kidding!! We jumped at 2500 feet. The first three or four seconds, you free fall. It was the scariest thing I've done in my life.'

Danny and the boys survived the drop and lived to see the 2016 premiership.

'Dad passed away the year after the premiership,' Del-Re said. 'We were talking to him on the phone at home [during the game]. It was a special moment. '[For him] to have that moment with his grandson and me was something I'll never forget.'

Danny and his family have lived on the Gold Coast for the last 6 years where he runs Del-Re National Food Group with his cousins Mark and Rick Del-Re and Robbie DiMartino.

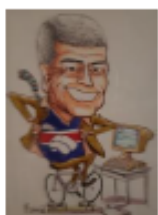


Barry Standfield and Danny Del-Re at the pre-match function on the Gold Coast, July 2021

Gary Dempsey: Legend of football and the bush

207 games (1967–78); guernsey number 24

By MICHAEL STEVENS



After a short stint playing Under-19s and reserves with Footscray in the 1960s, Michael Stevens completed a cadetship at the Footscray Mail before starting a long career in sports journalism, which ended in 2007 after 27 years at the Herald Sun.

Bulldog Brownlow Medallist Gary Dempsey, now rising 73, says he was milking cows when he was six years old. That was back in the day (pre-1969) when his father Jeremiah ran a dairy farm at Truganina before it was virtually wiped out in a savage bushfire from which Dempsey suffered horrific burns and spent eight weeks in hospital.

After that fire Dempsey's father switched to beef cattle, which might help to explain why Dempsey is now immersed in producing the only Australian herd of Parthenaise cattle at his 500-acre property in Victoria's Western District.

When Dempsey's father died in 2005, it became too hard to manage the Truganina farm and, when property developers came calling, it was a no-brainer to sell up and find somewhere else to continue his love affair with the land.

The Parthenaise breed is unique because these cattle average around 77–78 per cent meat on the carcass compared with 68 per cent from most other breeds found here. Dempsey hopes that one day the herd will be developed sufficiently to become a commercial proposition, but that could be five years down the track.

So how did this current venture come about? Dempsey says it was the result of a 'pub crawl' through Ireland, where he was ostensibly looking at whiskey distilleries. Along the way he became a member of the Royal Dublin Society and subsequently established the connections to bring five bulls and a heifer to Australia, and then continue the lengthy (and costly) embryo process of establishing his unique herd of cattle.

Dempsey now lives on his new property with his wife of 33 years, Leni. He describes the Parthenaise venture as like a hobby, which gives him an outlet to occupy his time.



Going to AFL matches and other functions is not high on his list of priorities, but he did find time to attend a recent recruits' night at the Whitten Oval -- and enjoyed the opportunity of catching up with many other Bulldog legends as a guest of the past players.

His ties with the Bulldogs (where he played 207 games [1967–78], before switching to North Melbourne) remain very strong.

It was to former club doctor Jake Landsberger that Dempsey turned when stricken with a brain haemorrhage in 2007. 'I was staying at our holiday house in Lorne when I developed a massive headache and fell over when I got of bed,' he recalls. He managed to drive himself back to Melbourne (albeit it took five and a half hours), and it was only at Dr Landsberger's intervention that he was transferred to hospital, where he spent three weeks recovering.

'My blood pressure was very high, but I was one of the lucky three to four people out of 10 who didn't die from the condition I had,' he said, adding that he'd always had higher than normal blood pressure. Whether that has anything to do with the many head knocks he suffered throughout his career, including being knocked out on three successive Saturdays, is uncertain.

The other defining aspect of his glittering football career, if one could call it that, is his rasping voice, caused by a round-arm hit to the throat in a match against Richmond in 1981 when he was playing for the Kangaroos. But, pressed to name the culprit, Dempsey point-blank refused to divulge his name, even with the assurance of anonymity.

A six-time best and fairest winner at the Bulldogs (1970, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976 and 1977) and once at North (1979), Dempsey won his Brownlow in 1975, but always polled highly in the game's most prestigious award. In fact, his total of 246 career Brownlow votes is surpassed only by Gary Ablett junior with 262.

A member of both the Bulldogs and North Melbourne Teams of the Century, Dempsey says the only award he cherishes is his Brownlow Medal and the fact that the Bulldogs' award for third in their best and fairest is named after him.



His career at Whitten Oval ended, he says, because he wanted to play in a more successful team. 'I don't think the players cared that much (that he was leaving),' he said. 'Charlie Sutton and I were virtually running the club and it was in a state of disarray. There was even talk of a players' strike. I was friendly with David Dench and Wayne Schimmelbusch, and knew Ron Barassi well, so it was a no brainer [to leave].'

For all that, Dempsey returned to the Bulldogs as a ruck coach when his time at North finished in 1984 after 122 games. He lasted 13 years at Whitten Oval as the ruck coach before captain Scott Wynd retired, and then president David Smorgon decreed that Wynd would take over.

However, the then Hawthorn coach Peter Schwab asked him to act as a ruck mentor to a young Peter Everitt, before that two-year stint at the Hawks ended with the appointment of Alistair Clarkson as Schwab's successor.

A catch-up coffee with Denis Pagan (whom Dempsey knew through state football) saw him join Terry Daniher at the Blues before Pagan was also sacked, after which Dempsey severed all coaching ties at AFL level.

He has no hesitation in nominating Collingwood's Len Thompson as the hardest ruckman he played against. 'He was big, tall, fast and strong, but I was a better mark and had more stamina,' he said, matter-of-factly. 'I could run all day and he couldn't, and I was more physical.' Dempsey says that physicality came from boxing sparring sessions, and also years of carting hay on the Truganina farm.

He also took me to task for an article I had written in the old *Herald* newspaper, in which I had suggested that he would never make it in the big time, after I had spent training sessions running laps with him in the late 1960s. The reason for his apparent sluggishness, Dempsey said, was that he used to spend Tuesdays and Thursdays shovelling five tons of coal before coming to training.

Comparing past and present players is always fraught with danger, but Dempsey said Footscray's Bernie Quinlan and Collingwood's Peter Moore would still be superstars in today's game – and he nominated our own Ted Whitten as the 'best player of all time'. 'When Bob Skilton, who is a triple Brownlow Medallist himself, is asked to name his best side of all time, he always nominates Whitten at centre half-back **and** centre half-forward,' Dempsey said.

It might be a stretch to make similar comparisons between Dempsey and other Australian bush billionaires such as Andrew 'Twiggy' Forrest, who operates a beef cattle business across about 1.5 million hectares of Western Australia, and Gina Rinehart, who oversees about 10 million hectares of land with the capacity to run more than 340,000 cattle – but, if his Parthenaise venture takes off, who knows?

The Long Walk

Described as One of the Brisbane Lions' most unassuming, genuine champions Michael McLean led 300 fans on the Long Walk to the Gabba on Saturday 29 May to celebrate the Sir Doug Nicholls Round.

Michael 'Magic' McLean addressed the enthusiastic throng of Lions' faithful before they departed South Bank on a walk of solidarity designed to celebrate the contribution to the game of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players and keep the plight of Indigenous peoples firmly on the national agenda.

The walkers – young and old, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, and from all walks of life – hung on every word as McLean remembered how there were only ‘six or seven’ Aboriginal players in the old VFL when he began his career at Footscray in 1983.

He went on to say that it gave him great satisfaction to see more than 100 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players in the modern AFL today. As much as he would shrug, McLean can take a chunk of credit for that.

McLean joined the Brisbane Bears in 1991 after 95 games in seven seasons at the old Footscray (now Western Bulldogs) having fought a constant battle with injury.

The lithe wingman/half-back/midfielder won the best and fairest award in his first season in

Brisbane and repeated the effort in 1993, narrowly beating a young Nathan Buckley for the top prize.

The Bears won just three games in 1991, four in 1992, and four in 1993, receiving some horrible drubbings in the process.

McLean was a shining light, however, showing tremendous courage, skill and determination against the odds. He carried those traits off the field, playing a strong support role alongside Essendon champion Michael Long to introduce the racial vilification code to the AFL.

Long, whose walk from his suburban home in Melbourne to Canberra to push for the fair treatment of Indigenous peoples to be on the national agenda in November 2004, was unable to attend the Gabba Long Walk as had originally been planned due to the COVID lockdown in Victoria.

McLean’s leadership was, and remains, unquestioned.

He was loved, admired and respected by his fellow Aboriginal players, especially those from his home in the Northern Territory, and McLean played a significant part in guiding a young Darryl White and the mercurial Gilbert McAdam, among others, during his time at the Gabba which ended through injury after the Brisbane Lions’ very first game in 1997. ‘Mago’ later became a sounding board and confidante for the likes of Chris Johnson as an assistant coach under Leigh Matthews, coincidentally being chosen alongside White and Johnson in the AFL’s Indigenous Team of the Century.

McLean was joined in addressing the procession of walkers by Queensland sprint champion of the early 2000s Patrick Johnson, who remains the only Australian male to have broken the 10-second barrier for the 100-metre sprint.

Trisha Squires, AFL Queensland CEO, also spoke about how junior and senior clubs around the state would celebrate the Sir Doug Nicholls Round in a similar manner to that of the elite players.

Once the walkers had wound their way alongside the river through South Bank and onto Vulture Street, a succession of car horns beeped in support as Lions flags fluttered high in the cool late autumn breeze.

The walkers had a chance to catch their breath before taking their seats in the Gabba for the clash against Greater Western Sydney, observing a powerful welcome to country ceremony before Charlie Cameron, Callum Ah Chee and Keidean Coleman danced out onto the ground ahead of their inspired teammates.



Rhan Hooper (ex-Brisbane and Hawthorn) and Michael McLean at the end of the Long Walk

2021 Events Calendar

Weekend of 14 August, v Hawthorn in
Launceston

Cancelled due to COVID

Sunday 7 November

11:00am

AGM at Barkers Café

Sunday 14 November

12:00noon

End of Year Lunch at Barkers Café

9:30am

AFLCPP Bowls Day at Altona Bowls Club

Contact Len Cumming: 0418 374 079

Get Well Wishes

Cade Watts

Cade, the 14-year-old son of Jason and Anita Watts, has been diagnosed with a serious illness. We wish Cade all the best with his treatment.

His dad Jason played for the Bulldogs (1994–98).

Congratulations



50th Birthday

Jose Romero

WB #849, 122 games (1995–2001)

Also 89 games for North Melbourne (1988-94)

(left to right) Gary McGorlick, **Jose Romero** and Mark Hunter



60th Birthday

Brian Wilson

WB #669, 9 games (1978–79)

Also 39 games for North Melbourne (1980–81), 154 games for Melbourne (1982–1990; 1982 Brownlow Medallist), and 7 games for St Kilda (1991)



Con Gorozidis

WB #743, 5 games (1983)

Also 29 games for St Kilda (1980–82)

70th Birthday

Robert McGhie

WB #579, 49 games (1969–72, 1979)

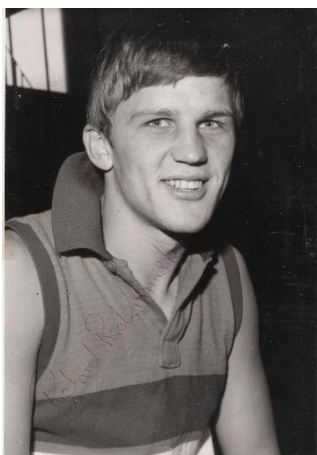
Also 81 games for Richmond (1973–78) and 16 for South Melbourne (1981–81)



Dennis Blair

WB #651, 41 games (1976–78)

(left to right) Stephen Power,
Allan Stonham, Peter Welsh,
Dennis Blair and Ross Abbey.



Richard Radziminski (left)

WB #571, 14 games (1969–71)

Steve Hoffman (right)

WB #678, 11 games (1979)

Also 149 games for South Melbourne (1969–78)



80th Birthday

Bob Ware

WB #463, 65 games (1959–63)

The photo is of Bob Ware when he was 17 years old.



Vale Glen McGorlick



Glen, the son of Gary McGorlick, passed away on Monday 26 July after a long illness. Our sincere condolences are extended to Glen's wife Marian, his son Lachlan and the rest of his family and friends.

LOSTDOGS

We would like to send our newsletter to all Past Players and Officials.

Keeping the database current is an ongoing challenge as people change email addresses. If you know the email address and/or mobile number of any of the following, please forward them to ross.abbey30@gmail.com.

*David Allday
Michael Rolfe
Brennan Stack*

*Michael Kelly
Harry Skreja
Andrew Wills*

*Angelo Petraglia
Lindsay Sneddon*

2021 Committee

President	Ross Abbey	0412 073 092
Vice President	Phil O'Keeffe	0402 007 270
Secretary	Owen Madigan	0408 105 151
Treasurer	Andrew Howlett	0418 510 635
Committee	Les Bartlett	0416 485 652
	Adam Contessa	0416 081 259
	Graeme Joslin	0412 771 235

	Gary McGorlick	0409 804 057
	Ilija Grgic	0413 677 736
AFLCPP Delegate	Jack Slattery	0425 746 148

Player Welfare

We strongly recommend past players join the AFLPA Alumni.

Benefits include:

- 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.

The one-off joining fee is \$50. To join, contact Chris Smith at AFLPA on 0400 019 391 or csmith@aflplayers.com.au.

Tim Harrington (WB #805, 1989–90), pictured with Mitch Hannan at the 2021 Recruits Dinner. is the AFL Players' Association Football Operations Manager and Head of Alumni.



Western Bulldogs Past Players Facebook

We will be using Facebook more to communicate information to former players and officials. It is a closed group. If you are not a member, please go to Western Bulldogs Past Players on Facebook and request to 'Join Group'.

Western Bulldogs Community Foundation

More than just a football club, the Western Bulldogs have a long and proud history as the community club of the AFL; delivering community programs with real outcomes.

The Community Foundation works closely with the club and utilises the Bulldogs brand as a platform to engage with a wide range of participants, helping them reach their full potential and ensuring they are accepted regardless of their gender, race or faith. The foundation celebrates diversity as an integral part of a united and cohesive community and aims to engage with multicultural, Indigenous and all-abilities communities via innovative programs.

While, like our players, our community can be courageous, strong and resilient, some members of the community do find the need for support to guide them towards finding the strength they need to face life's challenges. The club is proud that the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation is able to offer this support.

Find out more about the Community Foundation www.westernbulldogs.com.au/Foundation or via social media @WBFCFoundation. If you are interested in donating to the Community Foundation please email fundraising@westernbulldogs.com.au.