



WESTERN BULLDOGS PAST PLAYERS

Newsletter October 2022

End of Year Lunch on Sunday 6th November



All Past Players and Officials and their partners are invited to attend the End of Year Lunch.

Special Guests: A panel of 2016 Premiership players
Rodney Eade
MC: Kevin Hillier
Time: 12noon (AGM Starts 11am)

Venue: Altona Bowling Club 113 Civic Pde Altona
Tickets: \$60 per person
Package: Includes buffet lunch
There will be a Cash Bar
RSVP: Book by Monday 31st October



Payment Details:
By Bank Transfer:
Footscray Western Bulldogs Past Players
BSB 063 893
ACC 10 100 208
Please use your surname as payment identification
By Cheque:
Footscray Western Bulldogs Past Players
To Owen Madigan
2/153 Bluff Rd St Leonards 322

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 6th November starting at 11am at Altona Bowls Club before the End of Year Lunch which starts at 12 noon.

If you wish to be nominated for the committee, please download the nomination form [here](#) and email it to Owen Madigan at belpas1@bigpond.com.

If you can't make the meeting but wish to vote, please download the proxy form [here](#).

Contact Owen Madigan 0408 105151 or Ross Abbey 0412 073092 if you have any questions regarding the meeting.

President's Report 2022

Season 2022 has been very challenging due to the pandemic, digital ticketing relocation from the Danvers Room to the Victory Room and the floating Fixture

Our highlight has been the number of past players and officials who have attended functions during the year. **Thank you for your support.**

Thank you also to:

- Kevin Hillier: Host of the pre-match functions and the producer of the Two Dogs podcasts
- Newsletter contributors: Ross Brundrett, Neil Cordy, Michael Stevens, Scharlaine Cairns & Jamie Sanderson
- Western Bulldogs staff members, Linda West, Sarah Drew, Alison Manser and Alyson Pym
- Our sponsors: Dave Boxshall of Midway Concrete, Dave Marsh of Flash Fabrication, Justin Whitford of PFG Australia and Noel Pearce and Sons of The Australian Luggage Co

Ross Abbey

President on behalf of the Committee

Pre-match Functions

R19 v Melbourne



Paul Dimattina presented Paul Hudson with his Recognition Jumper. Adam Contessa and Jose Romero were interviewed by Kevin Hillier.

Photo: Gary McGorlick, Adam Contessa, Paul Hudson, Scott West, Lindsay Gilbee & Paul Dimittina

R21 v Fremantle

Todd Curley, Daniel Cross and Michael McKenna were interviewed and Les Bartlett (right) was presented his Recognition Jumper by his great mate Laurie Rippon.



R22 v GWS

Guest MC, Garry Baker came from Hobart, interviewed ex-teammates Gary Merrington and Allan Stoneham and caught up with a lot of old friends. Stephen Power was presented Stuart Magee with his Recognition Jumper.



Photo: Len Cumming, Ray Walker, Stephen Power, Bernie Quinlan, Garry Baker, Gary Merrington, Ron McGowan & Murray Zeuschner

R23 v Hawthorn in Launceston



Robert Groenewegen hosted 26 Western Bulldog Past Players and Officials in style in a corporate box at Yorke Park. Thank you Robert.

Photo: Lifelong friends Robert Groenewegen and Doug Hawkins

Elimination Final v Fremantle in Perth

Peter Quill presented Brad Wira with his Recognition Jumper at the Inglewood Hotel on the night before the final. The function was also attended by Dennis Blair, Gordon Polson, Andrew Purser, Gary McGorlick, Ross Abbey, Andrew Howlett, Paul O'Connor and Noel Kinniburgh



The Two Dogs Podcast

Episode 21: Jim Edmond & Bruce Reid

<https://omny.fm/shows/the-two-dogs-podcast/twodogs-ep306>

Website

Our website includes:

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

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



2023 Membership form

Join Up Now - Click here to download the 2023 Membership Form

The Bulldog who sat next to the Queen

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.

The recent passing of Queen Elizabeth was the catalyst for the recounting of endless tales of close encounters with Great Britain's (and Australia's) longest-serving monarch, but perhaps the greatest tale of them all involves a revered old Bulldog.

Footscray's 1960 Brownlow medallist and 5-time club best and fairest John Schultz spent half an hour sitting just centimetres apart from the Queen when the Royal family visited the MCG on April 5, 1970, to watch big league footy's first Sunday match between Richmond and Fitzroy.

"I'm not sure why I got the job, but the VFL asked myself and Ross Smith (the St Kilda rover) and Ross Dillon (star forward for Melbourne) to help the royal family understand the finer points of Australian Rules football," said Schultz, who was recognised as one of the game's true gentlemen.



"I was speaking to Ross Smith recently at the Brownlow count and he said he could hardly remember anything about the Royal visit, but I remember it very distinctly," said the genial big man.

For the start of the third quarter, he found himself in a Royal sandwich with Prince Philip seated on his left and the Queen on his right. "The Queen seemed quite involved in the match and was intrigued by the oval shape of the ball which she assumed made it very hard to control," he said.



"Because of security she only arrived at halftime and the players lined up to be presented to her... I remember many of the players ducked back to the changing rooms beforehand to put their false teeth back in. And I also recall that Princess Anne asked Richmond star Billy Barrot if there was any likelihood of another brawl during the game."

"What impressed me the most was how the Queen made the people who met her feel so relaxed. I just tried to explain what was going on in the game and she really seemed to enjoy the experience.

“What I know for sure is that it was one of the great experiences of my life,” said Gentleman John.

Stewart Crameri

42 Games (2014-17); 70 Goals; guernsey number 8. Also 57 Games for Essendon (2010-13) & 4 Games for Geelong (2018)

By **ROSS BRUNDRETT**

Every footballer’s journey is different, and Stewart Crameri’s route to the big league was interrupted with a few detours and unscheduled pitstops that might have caused a less determined individual to just give up.

The first setback came when Crameri was a promising junior came but missed selection for TAC Cup club, North Ballarat Rebels. Injuries had slowed his progress and he was also dealing with the grind of travelling from his hometown of Maryborough to Ballarat Grammar (a round trip of 135km), which, he now admits, all added up to him “not trying as hard as I should have” on the footy field.

“Afterwards I worked a bit harder on my personal fitness, in the gyms and stuff, and on track and field and actually ran fourth in the statewide year 12 400m final,” he said.

That got him motivated for footy again although a persistent shoulder injury took away one of his strengths – his overhead marking – but he still managed to win a place on the roster of VFL side Bendigo Bombers which re-ignited his dreams of an AFL career.

“I got to play against some AFL listed players and did all right so that gave me the confidence to aim higher and I was lucky to get the opportunity to do a three month pre-season training block with Essendon where I got noticed by a few people including James Hird,” he said.

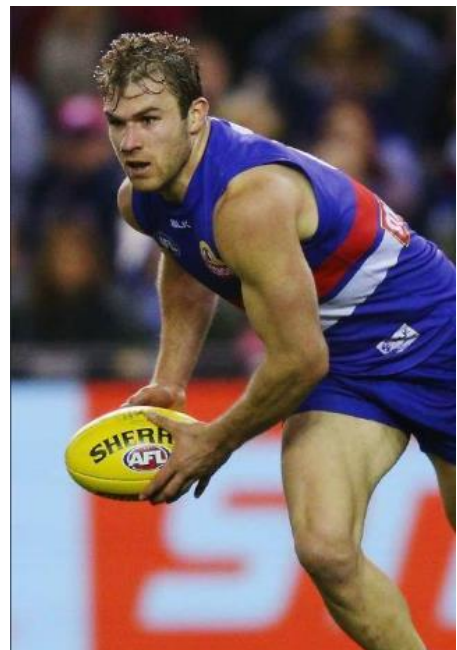
After being picked up in the rookie draft of 2009 he made his AFL debut late in the 2010 season, the only surprise being that all his gametime was in the midfield!

“Actually the man who identified me more as a forward at Essendon was Brendan McCartney (who was the Bomber’s forward line coach in 2010),” he said,

“He was really encouraging and helped my game a lot.”

With his hard running and ability overhead, Crameri soon made a name for himself at Essendon, leading the club’s goalkicking three years in succession before he was lured to the Whitten Oval by McCartney, who by now was coaching the Bulldogs.

“After all the drama of the drug saga and the constant attention of the media a lot of the players at Essendon just wanted to get away from it all and Macca had been such a positive influence on me that I thought the move would be good for me.”



And so it proved, with Crameri leading the goalkicking with the Bulldogs in his first year. "I fitted in pretty well at the club, there was a good bunch there. The Bont had just arrived and there were some good kids like Lachie Hunter ... but then of course Macca went."

Despite all the turmoil of the time, Stewart said that new coach Bevo had an immediate impact. Unfortunately for Crameri the aftershock of the Essendon drug saga soon returned and he, along with his ex-teammates were banned for the entire 2016 season, which was not a good year for a Bulldog to be sitting out.

He also created a mini-controversy by getting married the day before the Grand Final. "That didn't go down too well in some circles but who knew that was going to unfold the way it did....anyway I least I got to watch the game with family and friends on the wedding recovery day," he said.

"It's also worth noting that I wasn't allowed to attend the changing rooms on Grand Final day as part of my ban," he added.

Unfortunately, after his long absence from the game, Stewart never got back to his previous heights, with a persistent hip injury hindering both his running ability and kicking skills.

He was cleared to Geelong where he played a handful of games before playing one last season of footy at his old club Maryborough after which he retired to devote his time to the family business, namely the town's Mitre 10 hardware store.

These days, the family have taken over a second Mitre 10 store in South Melbourne, and Stewart floats between the two stores from his home base at Ballarat.

"I hoping to get to a couple of games but it probably won't be 'til next year. We just had twins in February which means we've now got four children under four so there's not a lot of free time at the moment," he laughed.

Phil Cronan

26 Games (1987-88); guernsey number 17.

Also 49 Games for St Kilda 1984-86

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.

When Phil Cronan copped the triple whammy of a heart attack, prostate cancer and knee replacement he knew he had to make some changes.

Retirement and the outback have proven to be the perfect answer.

"I've always enjoyed my life and I've got a second chance," Cronan said.

“The outback is a different world. There’s a lot of work involved in planning, getting your clothes and food right and preparing for different weather in different states. I love getting away and when you are in that nomad mode it’s just so much fun. I’ve met some amazing people along the way and everyone has got a story to tell.

People love to share their stories and you get together and have a couple of drinks and it’s always fun. It also gives you something to look forward to and in retirement you have to have that.”

As this edition of the Bulldogs Newsletter hits the send button Phil is 200 kilometres from Coober Pedy in South Australia and in the middle of a medical emergency.

This time it’s one of his travelling buddies who’s having heart troubles and he’s had to call for help.



“The Flying Doctor is amazing, we have to drive somewhere to drop him off,” Cronan said.

“If he gets the all clear we’re on our way to the Flinders Ranges and then on to Melbourne and Phillip Island for MotoGP. One of my mates is a big bike fan and was close to riding professionally himself.”

Phil’s heart scare 14 years ago, at the age of 49 was more acute than his mates. He was out swimming and made it to the hospital with only minutes to spare.

“I’m scared of my own shadow these days,” Phil said.

“I’m fit as a fiddle and I swim three times a week, but I’ve had a few issues along the way but I’m pretty good.”

It’s not surprising that Phil is enjoying his nomadic getaways with his wife Bridget and friends. His footy career was very similar. After starting at South Fremantle in 1979 he then went to West Perth in 1983 and teamed up with a host of former Bulldogs in Phil Bradmore, Wayne Foreman and Gordon Polson.

It was then on to St Kilda in 1984 (49 games) and the Bulldogs in 1987 (26 games).

“Through Murray Rance I got across to Dogs,” Cronan said

“I played most of the games in 87’ then did my shoulder and came back too early in 88’. I struggled and so the club started to play the kids. Curly Austin was great and we won the reserves flag. My time there was awesome and their attitude was great. I loved it. When you move back to Perth 30 years ago you lose touch with people but I loved my time there. Mick Malthouse taught me a lot about footy.”

South Australia was the next stop on the Cronan footballing tour, playing a season at Woodville (1989) and then back to South Fremantle for the last two years of his career.

Coaching beckoned and a premiership in his first year at Amateur team Mount Lawley got him off to a flyer. His return to the WAFL followed and started a lifelong friendship with another former Bulldog in Jeff Gieschen.

"I still speak to Jeff weekly," Cronan said.



"We teamed up in 92' and stayed life-long friends. There is none better, he's a genius. Jeff changed the culture of West Perth, he turned it around. The club is still strong because of what he left behind. West Perth is a great club, and it's what he did off the field making it a family club."

He landed his first senior coaching job at Swan Districts in 1997 and took them from the wooden spoon to fifth but a fractured relationship with the President and Board made his position impossible to continue.

He coached South Fremantle colts (Under 19) in 1998 and the WA State under 18 teams in 2002. From 2011 to 2012 he coached the East Fremantle colts team.

After 20 years coaching he'd had enough.

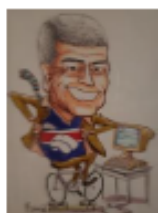
"I just want another 20 years and I can enjoy those years," Cronan said.

"The funny thing was when they did my knee replacement the surgeons found fragments of leather. I had too many kicks."

Graeme Chalmers – from VFL speedster to RAAF pilot

75 Games (1962-68) guernsey number 27

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.

Graeme (Pud) Chalmers played 75 games with the Bulldogs between 1962 and 1968 before embarking on a very successful career with the RAAF as a helicopter pilot.

But that illustrious career, where he rose to the rank of wing commander, might never have eventuated after a heavy clash with two Carlton opponents which left him in agony and in fear of losing his spleen.

"The end result was heavy bruising and a massive blood clot, but no damage to my spleen or liver, which was just as well because I would never have been selected for the RAAF," he recalled.

Chalmers was always destined to play for the Bulldogs after a brilliant junior career with Spotswood in the Footscray District League, where he won best and fairest awards in 1959 and 1960, and in that year also took out the league's Under 16 best and fairest.

One of his teammates in an almost unbeatable Spotswood team, as my good mate Len Ballem (who played against them at Parkside) remembered, was Bob Kingston, who first played with South Melbourne as a 16-year-old in 1961, and featured in 91 games before seeking a transfer to South Australia at the end of 1968.

Kingston was 191cm and 89.5kg, a man mountain compared with Pud's 178cm and 72kg, but Pud's asset was brilliant pace, which served him very well on the vast wing expanses of the Western (Whitten) Oval.

That asset enabled him to win the 1967 Daylesford Gift and 100m Lancefield sprint in 1967, as well as placing in many other events as a professional athlete during the off seasons, in order to keep up his fitness.

Pud made his debut with the Bulldogs in round four, 1962, against South Melbourne at the age of 17 years and 317 days and his 15 games in his debut season netted him the club's Best First Year Player trophy.



Before that debut, Pud played 10 under 19 games and 10 reserves matches in 1961 and also represented Victoria in the Under 19 state team.

The 1962 season was also significant because Pud played in nine winning games for the year, the most of any season in which he played.

His total of 75 games in seven seasons included only 24 wins, despite the Bulldogs featuring a star-studded line-up, including Ted Whitten, John Schultz, Ian Bryant, Don McKenzie, John Jillard, Ken Greenwood, Ray Walker, David Thorpe, Graeme Cook and George Bisset to name but a few.

Pud was named Most Improved in 1965 and was an established member of the side by 1967, when he finished equal second in the club's best and fairest behind John Jillard and also toured Ireland and the United States with the Galahs Gaelic football party, under the auspices of Harry Beitzel.

"I worked in public relations for Harry Beitzel and that helped get me the gig," said Chalmers modestly.

"I remember playing the New York Irish team, which featured mainly New York policemen, and the newspaper headline afterwards was: 'Galahs thrashed, Barassi smashed.'"

Pud has fond memories of his time at the Bulldogs and particularly of the great EJ, who would go to great lengths to protect him whenever there was a skirmish.

That same protectiveness was evident one day in 1964 at Windy Hill when Pud rushed in to remonstrate with Bomber Kevin Egan, whom he thought had pushed a skinny 15-year-old playing in his first game into the fence.

That wasn't quite right, and neither was the six-week suspension Egan copped for allegedly slinging Pud into the fence, something that never happened. Pud, incidentally, has no recollection of that incident, but I do because I was the skinny 15-year-old kid involved.

After only two games in 1968 (rounds three and four), Pud ended his career with the Bulldogs at the age of 23 and 31 days to pursue his dream of joining the RAAF, even though some committeemen tried to talk him out of it.

And what a fabulous career he had over 21 years before joining Aviation Australia in 1989.

He was commanding officer at the Amberley RAAF base in Queensland and recalled one of his most significant achievements was when he flew a Chinook chopper across Australia to Port Hedland, to help salvage an iron ore shipment after a ship had run aground 30 nautical miles off the coast.

Pud was also the only VFL senior player to go to Vietnam to fly helicopters during the age of conscription.

Nowadays, Pud (a nickname his father Jimmy bestowed on him at an early age) and his wife Heather live on the Sunshine Coast, where he can sit on his back deck and admire the beauty of Mt Coolom.



2022 Events Calendar

Sunday 6 November	11:00am	AGM venue Altona Bowls Club
	12:00noon	End of Year Lunch Altona Bowls Club

Sunday 20 November	9:30am	AFLCPP Bowls Day at venue TBC (Contact Len Cumming: 0418 374 079)
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Congratulations!

WBPP 2022 Most Improved Award:

Ed Richards

Ed Richards has been awarded the WBPP 2022 Most Improved Player. Ed had an outstanding season. The Most Improved Award is selected by Ron McGowan (1965–72), Graeme Joslin (1969-71 and Gordon Casey (1969-75)



80th birthday

Terry O'Brien

Footscray Under 19 player - 1961
Life Member of the Western Bulldogs Past
Players & Officials Assoc.
Life Member of the Western Bulldogs Football
Club
Life Member of the AFLCPP&OA having served as
both President and Vice President



Photo: Terry O'Brien & Jason Akermanis at the Pre-match prior to the Brisbane match at the Gabba

70th birthday

Gary Cowton

WB #677

40 games 1979-80.

Also 151 games for North Melbourne 1971-78 & 1983-84 and 8
games for South Melbourne 1981





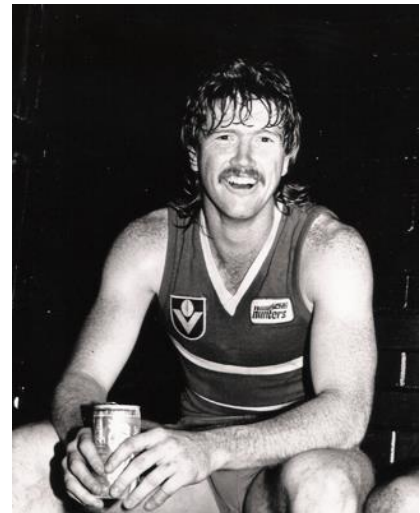
Mick Kelly
WB #652
57 games 1976-80



Ian Salmon (right)
WB #588
113 games 1970-76

60th birthday

Michael Ford (right)
WB #754
96 games 1985-91 & 2 games with St Kilda in 1992



Bruce West
WB #728
1 game 1982

Brad Hardie
WB #755
47 games 1985-86. Also 101 games with Brisbane Bears 1987-91 & 2 games with Collingwood 1992
Brownlow Medal 1985
Charles Sutton Medal 1986
All-Australian 1986





Graeme Cordy

WB #757

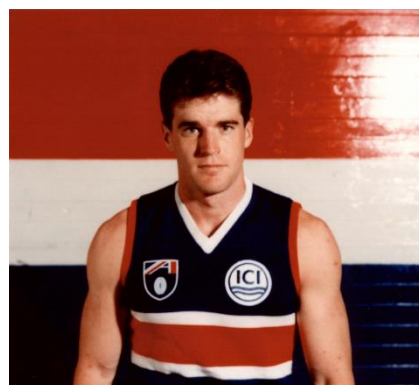
6 games 1985-86. Also 21 games with Sydney 1987-98

50th birthday

Ben Sexton

WB #819

39 games 1991-95 Also 4 games with Carlton 1996



Chris Grant

WB #809

341 games, 554 goals, 1990-2007

Charles Sutton Medal 1994, 1996

All-Australian 1997-1999

Western Bulldogs captain 2000-2004

Australian Football Hall of Fame inducted 2012



40th birthday



Dale Morris

WB #916

253 games 2005-2019

Premiership Player 2016

All-Australian 2008

Photo: Dale Morris and son Charlie at the Gabba. Dale had earlier been interviewed at the Pre-match Function and Charlie had been in the Guard of Honour

Vale - Herb Henderson

Herb passed away on Sunday 31st July aged 91. He joined the Bulldogs from Mildura Imperials in 1950 and played 134 games over nine seasons. He played in five finals and was a key member of the 1954 Premiership side. He was named full back in the Western Bulldogs Team of the Century. Herb left the Bulldogs to captain coach Millicent in South Australia and settled there permanently. Our sincere condolences go to his wife, Ruth and their family and friends.



Vale – Lionel Ryan



Lionel died on Tuesday 6th September aged 87. He played 32 games for the Bulldogs between 1954-57 and was an emergency for the 1954 Grand Final team. Lionel was a Life Member of the Western Bulldogs Past Players and Officials. Our sincere condolences go to Lionel's family and friends.

Polo Shirts

Western Bulldogs Polo shirts are available for \$65 (including GST, postage and handling). Shirts for former senior players will include their player number on the shirt at no extra charge
Photo: Mark Komp

To order, [Click here to download the Polo Shirt Order Form](#)



Neil Sachse Centre Spinal Cord Research

The Western Bulldogs Past Players and the Western Bulldogs Football Club have jointly donated \$3000 to the Neil Sachse Centre for Spinal Cord Research. After an on-field collision in 1975 left Neil Sachse a quadriplegic, he became determined to find a cure for spinal cord injury to help 15000 Australians living with spinal cord injury.

Colin Boyd (WB# 621) will ride in the Discovery Ride Classic #7 to raise funds for Spinal Cord Research. The 3-day ride from Adelaide to Yorke Peninsula will be from November 3rd-5th

Club champions at the 2022 Grand Final

Scott West, Leon Cameron, Robert Murphy and Brad Johnson



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.

2022 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

Thank you to our Sponsors

The logo for PFG Australia, featuring the letters 'PFG' in red and 'AUSTRALIA' in white, set against a solid blue rectangular background.

PFG Australia is a family owned, fully independent group of companies who have a three-generation history of serving the New Zealand and Australia tractor and machinery markets. Justin Whitford is the Chief Executive Officer.

The logo for Midway Concrete & Garden Supplies, featuring the word 'Midway' in a large, bold, white sans-serif font, with 'CONCRETE & GARDEN SUPPLIES' in a smaller, bold, black sans-serif font below it, all on an orange background.

Midway Concrete and Garden and Building Supplies services the northern and western suburbs of Melbourne with centres at Melton, South Marang, Laverton North and Craigieburn. It is a family-owned business run by Dave Boxshall. It was established in 1984.

The logo for Flash Fabrications, featuring the word 'FLASH' in a large, bold, white sans-serif font with a red outline, and 'FABRICATIONS' in a smaller, bold, white sans-serif font below it, all on a black background with a grey geometric pattern.

Flash Fabrications specialise in customised architectural metal fabrication in the construction industry. It is a family-owned business run by Dave Marsh. It was established in 2004 and is in Hoppers Crossing. (Dave is the son of Ivan Marsh who represented the Bulldogs with distinction in 77 games between 1963-67)

The logo for The Australian Luggage Co., featuring the words 'The Australian Luggage Co.' in a black serif font, with 'The' in a smaller size above 'Australian'.

Australian Luggage Company have a wide range of products including hard and soft sided trolley cases, suitcases, wheels bags, cooler bags, wallets, backpacks, business bags, accessories and much more. It is a family-owned business run by Noel Pearce and his sons. It was established in 1996 and has a factory outlet in East Keilor.