

Western Bulldogs Past Players



March 2023 Newsletter

High Hopes for Season 2023

The new footy season will see a new-look Bulldogs line-up with the most exciting group of talls up forward in decades, backed up by an invigorated, multi-pronged defence. How far it will take us, who knows. But it promises to be a fantastic ride.

Past Players' Room at Marvel Stadium:

- For the first half of the season the Past Players will be using the Victory Room on the ground level. The Victory Room is the room we used in 2022 and is on the Harbour Esplanade wing. Enter the stadium via gates 8 or 9.
- Our 150 reserved seats are in front of the room. Collect your allocated seat from Graeme Joslin at the front desk in the Victory Room.
- Kevin Hillier will host the pre-match functions. They will commence 90 minutes before
 the first bounce and will feature interviews with former players, as well as presentations
 of Recognition Jumpers. There will also be time to socialise with mates.
- We plan to run joint functions with the Lions Past Players (Round 3) and the Geelong Past Players (Round 12).





Recruits Dinner

A great night had by all at the Past Players Recruits Dinner. Over 100 guests enjoyed hearing from special guest Easton Wood and newest Dogs Rory Lobb, Harvey Gallagher, Oskar Baker, Jedd Busslinger and Charlie Clarke. A highlight was Gordon Casey's Recognition Jumper presentation to Terry Wallace.



The Two Dogs Podcast



Season 4 Episode 1: Easton Wood & Tom Boyd



https://omny.fm/shows/the-two-dogs-podcast/twodogs-ep401

Website

Our website includes:

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

The address is:

www.westernbulldogs.com.au/pastplayers.







Sue Clark: Star recruit kicking goals off the field

The Bulldogs can boast of many successful recruiting coups in recent years but perhaps the most significant of all might turn out to be snaring Sue Cook.

field, she has been prolific off it.

Since she was lured from her job as chief financial officer at Geelong Football Club five years ago, Sue has been a driving force at the Bulldogs in her role as Chief Operating Officer, overseeing some of the biggest projects in the club's history, most notably the \$78 million redevelopment of the Whitten Oval, grandstand and training precinct, and retransitioning the club's investments away from gaming establishments.

For while Sue has not won a stat on the footy



And, of course, along the way she has also had to deal with the many other responsibilities that come with the job, from strategizing new financial opportunities to shoring up the club's stake in Ballarat, risk management with all that entails and keeping a close eye on the soft cap for training staff as well as the total player payments.

"Added to all that was the problems that Covid bought to the table when we lost the income stream of gate receipts," she said.

"But I've enjoyed the challenge and I am very lucky to be working with such a great team of people here. There is something about working at clubs such as the Bulldogs. You know, each club is different, they each have their own story, their own history, but one thing that is constant is how much footy means to the supporters and to the fabric of the communities they represent, and I just love that connection you get from working for organisations like this."

As a child, Sue was a mad footy fan in a family of split allegiances. Mum barracked for Collingwood and dad was a Demons fan, but Sue's affection swung to Geelong when the family moved to the seaside city when she was 11. She grew up idolising the Abletts and going to as many games as she could and even when her academic results were steering her in another direction, she dreamed of one day returning to her first love.

"I always thought working for a footy club would be the ultimate," she said.



After graduating from uni though, she soon found her way to global accounting firm KPMG where she worked for five years as an auditor. From there she found herself working as commercial accounts manager for Elle Macpherson's fashion label for eight years before she achieved her aim of working in footy with her beloved Cats.

"I just love footy, everything about the game, and it felt right working in that environment." The move to Whitten Oval came after impressing Bulldogs CEO Ameet Bains who offered her the challenge of moving up the rungs of management. "I guess many of the roles are the same as I had (at Geelong), but there are more responsibilities with my position now ...

"Which is probably why, when I go to a game of footy now, I'm not just there to watch the game; the first thing I do is look at the size of the crowd and start wondering whether it will hit the 40,000 mark that I might have budgeted for. But that's not to say that it's all business for me, I still love the game and I think that is important, knowing that I'm working for an organisation that brings so much enjoyment to so many people."

Long working days come with the job of course, and there's also the drive back to her home in Geelong, but she's grateful she's got a husband who can help get their two boys to school and sports training. "Also, we now have a system in the workplace at the Bulldogs where we can work from home a couple of days a week, so that helps as well."

One of the unfortunate by-products of Covid was the separation, by necessity, of the playing group from the office staff members at the Western Bulldogs.

"For large chunks of the past three seasons we were separated from each other, but we are gradually getting back to normal, although the players training at Skinner Reserve for some months ahead will mean we won't be seeing quite as much of them here at Whitten Oval.

"I did however catch up with them while they were at Portsea pre-season, and I got the chance to have a dinner with the playing group and that was great."

With football becoming big business, money naturally becomes more and more important in the day-to-day business of the sport, both in ensuring the salary caps are kept under control and also in shaping the future direction of the club.

"I'm mindful of how important my role is and also how important it is to have good people around you," said Sue, who admits that she has aspirations to go a step or two further and become CEO of an AFL club.

But first things first. After more than a decade in the AFL system she has seen many more women find roles in clubland but for some reason, they are still under-represented in the financial sector. "I find there are very few women in leadership roles in finance – it's probably about 90 per cent male so that's one thing I'd like to see change."





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. Neil now resides in the Gold Coast, working as a contributor to Code Sports and occasionally commentates on ABC and SEN radio.

Lukas Webb: Prepared for what's next

Lukas Webb hasn't let one of the scariest injuries in football hold him back.

The 26-year-old has hung up his boots to concentrate on his career in the hotel industry, but four years ago it looked like he wouldn't have any choice in the matter when a surgeon told him he'd never play footy again.

In a 2018 match against Casey in the VFL he copped a crunching hit in the second quarter which caused a pain in his chest but was able to run off the ground under his own steam. A few weeks earlier he had broken his thumb in an AFL match against Port in Adelaide but he'd also taken a very hard hit to his head late in the match.

He hadn't thought much about either knocks because he could still run OK and he may have played again the following week if not for the intervention of Bulldog's doc Gary Zimmerman who suggested scans.

The results could barely have been more shocking. Lukas had chipped his C6 vertebrae, snapped his C7 in half and dented his T1. His ligaments between the vertebrae were also ruptured.



Height: 186 cm (6'1)

Weight: 80 kg

Career Highlights: VFL premiership player (2016)

"When I'm a bit older I might look back and think that was crazy," Lukas said.

"But at the time it didn't feel too bad. I had a broken neck but I didn't feel too much pain so it didn't bother me too much. I was pretty young and didn't quite grasp the concept. I was told I would never play again, but surgeons wonder why anybody plays footy."

Lukas was given a very difficult choice but one that was straight forward in his mind.

"It was if I get fusion surgery and I never play again or try to recover with rest," Lukas said.



"What we did was go into a brace for six months. After three it started to heal and get better and after six it was fully healed. In the long term there's nothing to stress about day to day. I don't complain and rather get on with life. The way I take it is I was lucky it wasn't more serious, it's only a few broken bones in my neck."

The 2018 match against Port Adelaide where he broke his thumb would be Lukas's last senior match. He finished up at the Bulldogs at the end of the 2019 and played on with Southport in Queensland before Covid interrupted that year, with the Sharks and Footscray level on top. In 2022 he enjoyed his time playing with Wangaratta Rovers in the Ovens and Murray League but on reflection the scare with his neck had changed his perspective on life.

"As soon as I was told I wouldn't play again my mentality changed to life after footy," Lukas said.

"I thought, 'What's the point of footy if I can't walk?' I'm looking forward to going to whatever footy
I want to and not having to spend so much time training and using a whole day on footy on Saturday.
I'll enjoy spending more time with family and having an Easter break like everyone else and have a
weekend and do all the stuff I haven't been able to do since I was 12."

While he's no longer playing footy in red, white and blue, the Bulldogs have had a big influence on the next part of his life.

He was introduced to the pub industry by his first player sponsor, Jason Sneddon, who owns the Doggies-endorsed watering hole The Railway Hotel in Yarraville. The famous institution is also where he met his partner of six years, Karli, who is one of the hotel's managers.

Lukas helped out at another of Jason Sneddon's pubs, the Ascot Vale Hotel, after it was renovated in 2020. His main focus now is the Mona Castle Hotel in Seddon which re-opened last year. The pub has a very Bulldog flavour with Tom Liberatore and former player Jack Redpath both having equity in the venture. Originally from Lakes Entrance (home of Ian 'Chops' Rickman) in East Gippsland, Lukas hasn't forgotten his roots and has a couple of his mates from Sale, Brad Olsen and Taylor Tatterson, involved in the Mona Castle.

"I had an amazing opportunity at the Bulldogs and I'm very grateful for that," Lukas said.

"Now I'm looking forward to the next chapter in my life."





By Mick Stevens

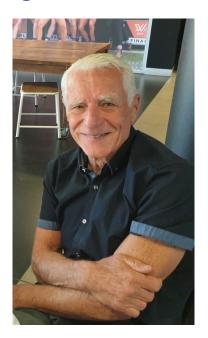
After a short stint playing Under-19s and reserves with Footscray in the 1960s, Michael Stevens completed a cadetship at the Footscray Mail before starting a long career in sports journalism, which ended in 2007 after 27 years at the Herald Sun.

Stuart Magee: The Belfast Boy who became a Bulldog

Fitness always played an integral role in Stuart Magee's impressive VFL career, which included 84 games with South Melbourne between 1962-68 and 132 games with Footscray between 1968-75.

Even now in his 80th year, he says he runs between five and six kilometres each morning before doing 1000 sit-ups, then walking his two dogs for 30 minutes before going for a 300m swim.

Inadvertently however, his views on fitness were perhaps the reason he was sacked by the Swans after five rounds into the 1968 season, and why the Bulldogs' 1974 elimination final against Collingwood proved such a disaster (the Bulldogs lost 6.19, 51 to Collingwood's 19.10, 124). In 1968, after five winless games, then Swans captain Bob Skilton called a players' meeting to discuss the club's plight. Magee says when asked his views, he simply told the truth. "Allan Miller was my coach in the under 19s and that's the way he is coaching us now," he said bluntly.



"Next morning, I got a call from Charlie Sutton, who told me I had been sacked and because I lived in Altona would I like to come and play with Footscray and the club would pick up all my things from the Swans.

"I was stunned, but it was the best thing that ever happened to me."

With a fitness edge, Magee played in the centre for the Bulldogs and quickly made his mark, as opposed to playing second rover to Skilton, and was even elevated to the captaincy in 1970 when Ted Whitten retired after breaking Dick Reynolds' 320-game VFL record.

But that tenure was short-lived after a players' meeting with then club president Jack Collins about the committee acquiring money that had been put aside for the players' end of year trip.

"I asked Collo if this was true, and he said it was and the club was taking the money because it needed it," Magee recalled. "I told him that if the club did that, the players would not turn up to play Fitzroy on the Saturday.

"The committee deliberated for an hour and had second thoughts, but Collo said to me, 'I'll fix you'.

"Then before the start of the next season I found out that I had been replaced as captain by Gary Dempsey, but only when they read out the playing list for the new year."

The Bulldogs finished fifth in 1974 (it was a final five in those days), with 13 wins for the season, 10 points clear of sixth-placed Geelong, but proved no match for Collingwood in the elimination final -- and Magee says there was a very good reason for the side's disastrous display.



"Bob Rose was our coach and after our last game of the season he organised a bus trip to Phillip Island to prepare for our final the following week," Magee said.

"A few of the players got on the drink and a few (no names, no pack-drill) even stayed down there for a couple of days.

"How can you play a good game on the Saturday if you are pissed on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday beforehand? How is your body going to survive?

"That's the reason Collingwood gave us a decent hiding at Waverley."

For all that, Magee really enjoyed his time at the Bulldogs and made life-long friends, including Alan Mannix, Ian Bryant, Ron McGowan and Gary Merrington, to name a few, and he is also a regular at the past players' breakfasts, on the first Thursday of every month.

In the 1960s and 70s, opposition players would regularly stay back and enjoy a drink with the home team, and Magee also developed a very good friendship with his half-back tagger at Essendon, Alec Epis. It was Epis who introduced Magee to his bride-to-be Vicki McKenzie and who was best man at their wedding in 1976.

Magee retired from the Bulldogs at the end of the 1975 season at the age of 32 and had a stint as captain-coach of Swan Districts in Western Australia before moving to East Fremantle, where he won the club's reserves best and fairest.



Graeme Cook with Stuart Magee

He and Vicki then moved back to Victoria where Magee played at Yarraville for a season under former teammate David Thorpe, and then was enticed back for another year by Denis Pagan, but that proved a "disaster" to use Magee's own words.

No story on Magee's illustrious football career would be complete without reference to his meagre beginnings when his family migrated from Northern Ireland when he was eight and spent four and a half years living in a hostel in Williamstown before his father Alec paid cash for their first house in Altona.

Magee still considers himself a "Belfast boy" and recalls the time on a trip back to his homeland when travelling through Dublin when a complete stranger threatened to shoot him and his family if they didn't "go back where they belonged".

In his retirement years (after a very successful business career which started as an electrical fitter apprentice with McKenzie Holland in Newport when he was 14), Magee has enjoyed surfing with his children, Victoria and James in various parts of the world, including Bali, the UK and Ireland. And he hopes to continue travelling overseas on holiday when the threat of Covid has dissipated.



Guard of Honour

Would you like your children to be in the Guard of Honour as the Bulldogs run on to Marvel Stadium? Last season the children of Daniel Cross, Adam Contessa, Todd Curley, Dale Morris and Brian Lake were part of a Guard of Honour. Boys and girls of past players need to be under 15. If you are interested email westernbulldogspastplayers@gmail.com or contact Adam Contessa 0416081259

2023 Events Calendar

Round	Date	Opponent	Time	Function	Contact	
3	Thursday 30th March	Brisbane	6pm	Combined Bulldogs & Lions Past Players		
5	Saturday 15th April	Port Adelaide	5pm	Pre-match at Strathmore Hotel North Terrace Adelaide	Darren Grant	0431 679 596
6	Thursday 20th April	Fremantle	6pm	Pre-match at the Inglewood Hotel 803 Beaufort St Perth the day before the game	Darren Joseph	0417 775 954
	Sunday 23rd April		10am	AFLCPP Bowls Day at Essendon Bowls Club	Len Cumming	0418 374 079
	Friday 28th April		10am	AFLCPP Golf Day at Settlers Run	Jack Slattery	0425 746 148
8	Saturday 6th May	GWS	5pm	Pre-match at Eastlake Football Club which is near Manuka Oval Canberra	Kevin Delmenico	0438 505 046
12	Saturday 3rd June	Geelong	6pm	Combined Bulldogs & Geelong Past Players		
	Friday 22nd September		12pm	AFLCPP Medallist Lunch at Hyatt on the Park	Jack Slattery	0425 746 148
	Sunday 12th November		11am	AGM venue TBC		
			12pm	End of Year Lunch following the AGM		
	Sunday 19th November		10am	AFLCPP Bowls Day at Essendon Bowls Club	Len Cumming	0418 374 079



THANK YOU! THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PAST PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

This list of financial members is as of 28th February 2023. The asterisk (*) indicates people who have a partner pass.

20 23

*Abbey, Angus	Cook, Graeme	Groves, Anissa	Lundberg, Kenneth	Pearce, Clinton R.	Synd, Scott
*Abbey, Ross	Corcoran, Shannon	Hansen, Chris	Macdonald, Barry	Pearce, Wayne	*Thornton, Barry
*Anderson, Robert G.	Cordy, Brian	Hargreaves Anthony	*Madigan, Owen	Powell, Tom	Trainor, Lynne
*Atkinson, Kevin	*Coutts, Rod	Harrington, Tim	*Malesa, Roger	Power, Stephen	Turton, Stephen
Atkinson, Kevin	Crameri, Stewart	*Harvey, Brian	Mandics, Steven	*Prior, Doug	*Wagland, Jason
Avery, Diane	*Cullen, Mark	Hector, William R.	*Mannix, Alan		Walker, David
Azzopardi, Joe	Cumming, Len	Hill, Donald	Mansfield, Matthew	Procter, Brendan	*Walker, Ray
Baird, Pamela	Curley, Todd	*Hill, Tony	Martin, Cecil Edward	*Randall, Desmond H.	Warden, Justin
Baker, Robert	Dalipis, Lonnie	*Hoffmann, Steven	McAllion, Mark	Raunik, Louis	*Welsh, Peter
Baker, Stephen	Delmenico, Kevin	*Howlett, Andrew	McGorlick, Gary	Rhodes, Glenice	*West, Scott
*Bartlett, Les	Di Natale, Jack	Ion, Graham	McGowan, Ron	Richardson, Cameron	Wheeler, Terry
*Baxter, Ray	Duggan, Damian	*Jackman, Kevin	McGregor, Robert	*Rickman, Ian	White, Grant
Beasley, Darren	Duggan, Gayle	James, Haydn	McKenna, Michael	Roberts, Gayle	White, Kevin
*Bennett, Barry	Duggan, Vincent	*Jennings, Geoff	*McKimm, Russell	Roberts, Sue	Whiting, Wayne
Berry, Geoff	*Evans, Robert G.	Johnson, Matt	McVey, Marie	Roberts, Vernon	Whitten, Ted
Bishop, Peter	Fitzpatrick, Adrian	Johnson, Matthew	Mercaldi, Joe	Ross, Dean	Williams, Peter
Blackman, Peter	Fitzpatrick, Jason	*Jones, Jenny	Merrington, Gary E.	Roughead, Paul	
Blair, Dennis R.	Fitzpatrick, Lynton	*Joslin, Graeme	Mitchell, Malcolm	*Salmon, Ian D.	
*Bourke, Kevin	*Fletcher, Justin	Kenny, Jeffrey	*Mitchell, Norm	Sanders, Michelle	
Bowman, Max	*Ford, Alister	Kenny, Scott	Mitchell, Steve	*Sandilands, Laurie	
Broadway, Lindsay	Ford, Michael	Kent, Gary	*Moloney, Brendan	Schultz, John	
Brown, George	*Foster, Peter	Kent, Gary	Moodie, Bob	Sherry, Graham	
Bryant, lan	Fraser, Ronald	Kerr, Debbie	Moore, Gale	Shorthouse, Mark	
*Burgoyne, Clayton J.	*Frost, Kristian	*Kinniburgh, Noel	*Nichols, David	Simmons, Larry	
Burgoyne, Grant	Frost, Richard	*Knox, Craig	Norris, Oscar	*Slattery, Jack	
*Buttacavoli, John	Frost, Richard	*Komp, Andrew J.	O'Brien, Terry	*Slaven, Peter	
*Calvert, Glenn	Geischen, Jeff	Komp, Mark	O'Connor, Neville G.	*Smith, Stephen	
Carroll, Ted	*Gilham, Grant E.	Kretiuk, Steven	*O'Connor, Paul D.	Smith, Stephen	
*Casey, Gordon	Gilham, Scott A.	Landsberger, Jaker	O'Connor, Rodney	Standfield, Barry	
Clemmens, Michael	Glab, Andrew	Lewis, Neil M.	*O'Keeffe, Philip	Stevens, Michael	
Closter, William	Gordon, Peter	Liberatore, Tony	*O'Neill, Kevin	Stock, David	
Clutterbuck, Narelle	Grant, Darren	*Lineham- Cunningham, Mark	O'Sullivan, Shane	Stockman, Ron	
*Connor, Wayne	Gration, Robert	*Linehan, Max	Palmer, Roger	Summers, Barry	
*Contessa, Adam	Grgic, Ilija	Linehan, Shelley	Pattie, Neal		



2023 Membership subscriptions

- Former Player or Official \$50
- Partner \$50

Please forward any changes to your address, mobile or email to Owen Madigan 0408 105 151 or belplas1@bigpond.com

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

To order - send the following information to westernbulldogspastplayers@gmail.com or 0418510635

Name

Postal address

Mobile

Shirt size - M L XL XXL XXXL



How to Pay:

By EFT to: Footscray Western Bulldogs Past Players

BSB: 633 000 **Account**: 199 932 344

Please use your surname as payment identification.

By credit card: Contact Treasurer Andrew Howlett on 0418 510 635



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.

2023 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
	Len Cumming	0418 374 079
AFLCPP Delegate	Jack Slattery	0425 746 148





80th Birthday

George Bisset

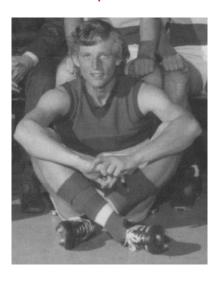
D.O.B 10/03/1943

WB #504

166 games (288 goals) 1963-1972



70th Birthday



Don Brown

D.O.B 23/03/1953

WB #594

29 games (15 goals) 1971-1974

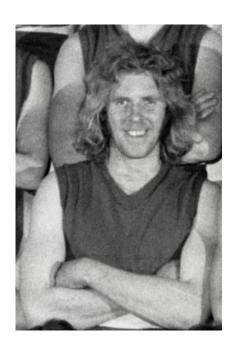


Garry Baker

D.O.B 24/03/1953

WB #604

14 games (9 goals) 1972-1973





Bob Fox

D.O.B 19/04/1953

WB #612

l game (2 goals) 1972

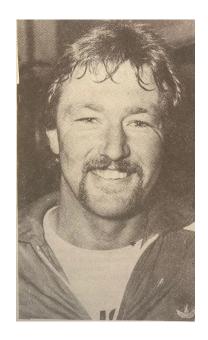


Ian Rickman

D.O.B 24/03/1963

WB #726

11 games (10 goals) 1982-1984





50th Birthday

Mark West

D.O.B 03/04/1973

WB #862

16 games (3 goals) 1996-1998



40th Birthday



Shane Birss

D.O.B 11/03/1983

WB #896

51 games (20 goals) 2002-2006



D.O.B 30/03/1983

WB #898

210 games (33 goals) 2002-2013







40th Birthday

Wayde Skipper

D.O.B 01/03/1983

WB #903

45 games (19 goals) 2003-2008



Ron died on 29th January aged 83. He played 30 games for the Bulldogs between 1958-60.





Vale - Bernie Laffey

Bernie Laffey died on 15th February aged 94. He represented the Bulldogs in 1949, playing four senior games and winning the Second's Best & Fairest. He had a successful career at Port Melbourne where he played 128 games and in 1953, he was a member of the Premiership side and won the Best & Fairest. His brother Merv represented the Bulldogs from 1945-52.





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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 be Dave Boxshall. It was established in 1984.



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)



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.

