

Western Bulldogs Past Players



July 2025 Newsletter

**CATCH UP
WITH
YOUR
MATES**



Join us in Round 23 as the Western Bulldogs take on the West Coast Eagles at Marvel Stadium for a celebration of our Club's rich legacy.

This exclusive event welcomes all past players and officials to catch up, reminisce, and relive the glory days.

Round 23 – Western Bulldogs vs West Coast Eagles



Date: Sunday 17 August



Venue: Rogers Room (Level D - Aisle 46), Marvel Stadium



Time: 3:00pm – 7:00pm

Cost: Complementary for Past Players and Officials plus one guest each

Registration and tickets: Will be emailed by the Club

Your Experience Includes:

- Premium Level 2 Seating
- Access to the Rogers Room function space throughout the day
- Food & drinks available for purchase from a private bar
- Traditional half-time footy fare – party pies, sausage rolls, scones, tea & coffee
- Catch up with teammates
- Reunion of Players from 2000-2016

We look forward to welcoming you back to where it all began



PRE-MATCH FUNCTIONS



ROUND 10 v ESSENDON

Will Minson was presented with his Recognition Jumper by Kieran McGuinness, supported by a group of their mates. Laurie Sandilands was interviewed by Danny McGinlay



(pictured from left to right) Kieran McGuinness Will Minson & Tim Walsh, Tim Walsh Ben Harrison & Cameron Faulkner, Danny McGinlay & Laurie Sandilands, John Keast Laurie Sandilands Colin Dell Gary Steel & Ian Morrison



(pictured from left to right) Simon Beasley, Clay Smith, Paul Dimattina, Clay Smith & Mark Hunter



(pictured from left to right) Caleb Daniel, Player Sponsor, Jason Sneddon, Shane Biggs, Luke Dahlhaus & Lucas Webb, Kevin Hillier, Shane Biggs & Luke Dalhaus, Shane Biggs and Caleb Daniel, Lucas Webb, Tom Boyd & Shane Biggs, Caleb Daniel & Clare Delaney, Simon Minton-Connell

ROUND 15 v RICHMOND

Shane Biggs received his Recognition Jumper from Luke Dahlhaus supported by a bunch of their mates.

Cam's Dream start

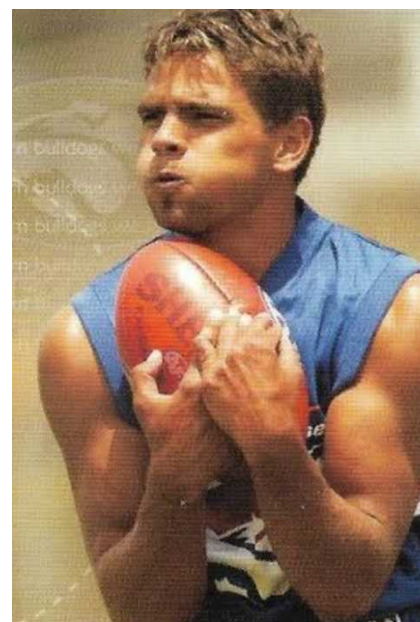
Cameron Faulkner
Playing Profile:
D.O.B 22/05/1984
Height: 179cm
Weight: 81kg
Club: Western Bulldogs (2004-07)
Games: 18
Goals: 9

By Ross Brundrett

When it comes to AFL debuts, Cameron Faulkner had the sort of introduction to big time football that most aspiring players can only dream of.

Not only did the lightly-framed indigenous small forward pick from South Australia score a goal with his first kick, he doubled up with another major with his second kick, finishing with 3.1 for the match and topping it all off by winning an important one-on-one contest which enabled Brad Johnson to scramble the winning goal with just seconds left on the clock.

"I think it probably helped that we were playing at Manuka Oval in Canberra in front a pretty small crowd (just over 7000) so I wasn't overwhelmed, it was like a suburban game — I think I'd have been more nervous at the MCG or another big ground — but yeah it was pretty special with friends and family there and everything," recalled Cameron.



"It was memorable also because we came back from a long way behind (the Dogs trailed North Melbourne by 32 points at the last change before kicking seven goals straight in the last term) and wins were pretty scarce for the Bulldogs that year."

After such a dream start it was perhaps inevitable that it would be followed by a dip in form, which saw him back in the twos after a couple more games.

What followed though was a frustrating stop-start career at the Dogs, punctuated by nagging injuries and mixed messages from coaches.

"I was pretty lean when I started so (then coach) Peter Rhode wanted me to build up my body so I spent two years working hard in the gym and bulking up ... but then "Rocket" (Rodney Eade) came in and he wanted me to lose some weight, trim up a bit, and get fitter," he said.

"And so he turned us into a running team, and at the time Dale Morris was on the rookie list at Werribee (the Dogs 'feeder club at the time) so he paired me up with Dale to get my aerobic fitness up because Dale was just a super fitness machine and that was a bit of a shock to me.

"I look back and think that 2005 was the season I could have established myself in the seniors.," he said.

"I got picked for the first game of the season, facing Collingwood at the MCG in front of a huge crowd (more than 50,000) and we won and I did alright and I thought to myself that I'd taken another big step in my footy career."

But in the round 4 in Perth, he copped a hit from Paul Haselby which fractured his collarbone and stalled his momentum once more.

"It really couldn't have come at a worse time out for 12: games after surgery ...and it was hard to get back in the seniors.

Over the next two seasons, injury and a drop in confidence took their toll and Cameron found himself at the crossroads of his AFL career at the end of the 2007 season. "I got to run against some of the biggest names Hirdy, Judd — I joke with my kids that it was blokes like me who made those players great ...but they tried to make me into a lockdown type of player.



"Anyway, we were up against Sydney and (assistant coach) Chris Bond told me before the game that I had to shut out Jude Bolton or my time with the club was over and I think Bolton got something like 20 disposals by halftime and that was me done."

Indeed, that turned out to be the last of his 18 games with the Dogs. His AFL dream was over just five days after his 23rd birthday. For someone who had been a first-round draft pick it must have been a bitter pill to swallow, but looking back, Faulkner is remarkably pragmatic about how his AFL adventure finished up.

"I just respected the honesty and you knew where you stood. I loved my time in the AFL even though it was short and tough, but that's footy for you.

"I remember when I first arrived at the Bulldogs Scott West told me that there would be more downs than ups in AFL footy and he was absolutely right

"I could play well at VFL level, but I really struggled to make that next step up with the pace and intensity of the AFL."

And of course, the injuries didn't help. "All up I had eight surgeries in five years."

But that wasn't the end of the story. Cam returned to South Australia, married his high school sweetheart Louise (former Bulldog Wade Skipper was his best man) and played the first 10 rounds of the 2008 season with Central Districts before making a life-changing decision and making the move to the remote mining town of Roxby Downs, 500km north of Adelaide, where he coached a local footy club and worked at his dad's concreting business.

"I came back from my time in the AFL with no skills having only worked washing cars for Steve Wallis at City Mazda," he said.

"So I moved up to Roxby Downs and then about 10: years ago BHP offered me a mature apprenticeship as an electrician ... and then later they said I was no good as an electrician so we'll make you a supervisor," he laughed. cam helps look after a team of electricians in the complicated mine system. "We look after six electric trains that operate one kilometre underground and we're lucky to work for company that really look after their employees," he said.

He works one week on, one week off, when he drives for four and a half hours to his home at Wallaroo, a coastal town on the Yorke Peninsula (“it’s beautiful”) with his wife and three children, Tracey, Archie and Halle.

He still loves his footy, playing about 100 games in the local league (he’s a fit 40: year old) and now he and his wife ferry 16-year-old Archie to training just like his parents did for him. “He is in the Crows ’academy although he’s now zoned to Port Adelaide’s academy so he will have to switch.”

He caught up with some last Bulldogs during Gather Round and was chuffed to receive a commemorative guernsey with his number 18, especially as it was presented to him by one of the great no.18s, Leon Cameron.

“It meant a lot to me,” said Cameron, “I didn’t achieve a lot at the club or play 100 games or anything but I valued my time there.”

THIS OLD HEART OF MINE

By Neil Cordy

Daniel Bandy Playing Profile:

D.O.B 18/11/1975

Club: Fremantle (1995-2001)

Western Bulldogs (2002-05)

Games: 150

Goals: 126

Daniel Bandy turns 50 later this year and has picked up more than his fair share of scar tissue. If it wasn't bad enough enduring more than a dozen operations on his feet, ankles, shoulders and groin when he played, he was hit with an even bigger shock to the system seven years ago when he had open heart surgery.

"Your mindset changes that's for sure," Daniel said of his scare.

"My uncle passed away recently and I'll chalk up the half century this year. Fortunately, I'm a happy go lucky person by nature and I look forward rather than back."

The former Bulldog and Fremantle Docker noticed a shortness of breath and discussed it with his doctor. Despite having normal levels of calcium and cholesterol, scans showed an 85 percent blockage in his aorta. A stent was put in but he was one of the three per cent of the population that rejects stents, so open heart surgery was the only solution.

Unfortunately the problems didn't end there for Daniel. The surgeons nicked an artery when they were closing him up and the operation had to be repeated. Finally after a six-month convalescence the ruckman made a full recovery.

"My doctors tell me I've had the Rolls Royce of heart surgeries," Daniel said.

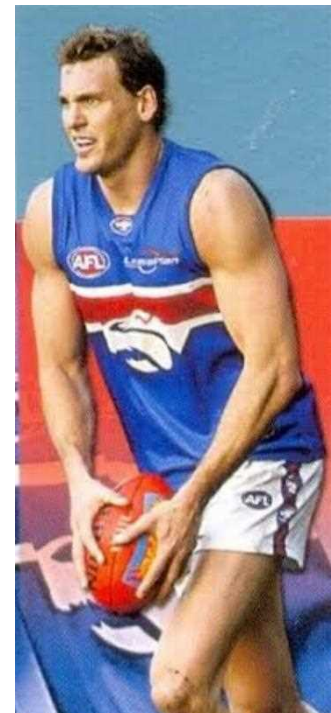
"It's not like a triple by-pass where they take an artery from your leg, they take it from your chest. They said don't stress because once you get your weight back you've got a new engine compared to everyone else."

Nowadays Daniel is still involved in footy as the General Manager of Commercial Operations at the Peel Thunder which continues his association with the Fremantle Dockers. The Dockers was Daniel's first AFL club. He made his start in their inaugural season (1995) and played 105 games over seven seasons before moving to the Bulldogs in 2002 where he played 45 games in his four years there.

One of my most vivid memories of his time at the Bulldogs was an army training camp in 2003 under new coach Peter Rohde.

"I hated it," Daniel said.

"It was one of the worst experiences of my life. It was horrendously tough.



“We started at St Kilda Beach doing push ups in the water and nearly drowning and then getting on a bus and going up into the hills. I was new to Melbourne, so I didn’t have a clue where we were going.”

Adding to the tension was Daniel’s then wife Alice was heavily pregnant with their first son Jessie. The footy club had promised to helicopter Daniel out should she go into labour.

“That was my great hope. I was praying she would go into labour so I could get the f... out of there,” Daniel confided.

“They made us sleep alongside creeks so we would wake up with leeches all over us. They would deprive us of sleep and then set off a fake bomb to scare the shit out of us, which it did. They would kidnap us and we would have to find each other, it was a horror show.”

Unfortunately there was no helicopter flight out and Daniel had to tough it out with the leeches, bombs and kidnappings.

The season proper provided little relief with the Bulldogs winning just three games in 2003 and five the following year. “The timing of my career could have been better,” Daniel said.



“I started out when Fremantle was just making their way in the AFL and were struggling. They were terribly under-resourced with poor training and administration facilities. Then I went to the Bulldogs who were in a low period themselves. I played 11 seasons in the AFL and the highest I finished was 10th on the ladder.

But I made great friends over the years and still keep in contact with a lot of my old Bulldogs team mates on social media.”

Rick Kennedy, a club stalwart on and off the field

By Michael Stevens

Rick Kennedy Playing Profile:

D.O.B 11/12/1960

Club: Footscray (1981-91)

Games: 158

Goals: 34

Rick Kennedy earned a reputation as one of the toughest, meanest full-backs in VFL/AFL history during his 158 games with the Bulldogs between 1981-91.

That perception is hard to reconcile with the happy-go-lucky, always smiling individual that the 64-year-old Kennedy is today.

But statistics don't lie. Kennedy was suspended six times in six seasons during his career for various misdemeanours and was even fined by coach Mick Malthouse and lost match payments after one of those reports.

His playing mantra, even from a young age was to run straight at the ball, and that held him in good stead, playing against some of the best full-forwards of his era, including St Kilda's Tony Lockett and Hawthorn's Jason Dunstall.

Kennedy was appointed Bulldogs captain in 1986 after the departure of Jim Edmond to Sydney and his first game in that role, against St Kilda at the Whitten Oval, was unforgettable.

That was the game in which Lockett was reported for striking Kennedy about 12 times to the head as Kennedy lay on the ground trying to protect himself, as the accompanying picture on the back page of The Sun newspaper shows.

Lockett received a two-match suspension for that incident, and Kennedy now jokes that was because two of his punches missed.

Kennedy was working as an engineer with Telstra at the time and the intense feelings between the clerks, techs and engineers in the office saw a photocopy of the back page posted on the noticeboard with the words, "That's for the clerks and the techs".

For all that, and there are countless other stories of Kennedy's interaction with full-forwards, including a famous Dunstall "Footbridge" incident in the 1985 preliminary final, Kennedy's career got off to a shaky start after he arrived at the kennel from Traralgon.



In fact, he was given his marching orders (that is, he was no longer required) before he played his first game, and but for the intervention of superstar Kelvin Templeton, an illness to senior coach Royce Hart, and the faith of reserves coach Franke Goode might have been lost to the Bulldogs.

It was through Templeton, who had taken Kennedy under his wing and helped with his training and body strengthening, that Kennedy won a reprieve.

Goode played Kennedy at centre half-back in his first game against Melbourne, where he was opposed to Tony 'Spud' Dullard and acquitted himself well, and also against Carlton's Mark Maclure in his second.

Kennedy has two recollections of that debut game. The first was charging at the ball four or five times in the first quarter and slamming the ball on to his boot, prompting Edmond to admonish him at quarter-time, suggesting he look up before he kicked.

The second was the specky that Robert Flower took over teammate Doug Hawkins, and the resultant goal in the dying moments that gave the Demons a one-point win.

Kennedy's career really blossomed when Malthouse was appointed coach in 1984, replacing Ian 'Bluey' Hampshire, and he rates Malthouse as his best coach "by the length of the Flemington straight", comparable only to his first junior coach Alan "Brusher" Anton at Traralgon.



Rick Kennedy and Simon Atkins

A broken right leg saw Kennedy sidelined for eight weeks in 1985, costing him a spot in the Victorian team, but he was back in time for the finals, including that 10-point preliminary final loss to Hawthorn, which still rankles.

He feels all the players should have gone to the MCG for the following week's Grand Final, which the Hawks lost to Essendon. "It would have shown us the opportunity we missed and maybe motivated us more for the following season," he said.

As it was, Edmond moved to Sydney, Hawkins was injured, Tony Buhagiar went back to Western Australia and the club finished only eighth in 1986, although Kennedy played for Victoria that year.

After another eighth finish in 1988, Kennedy was replaced as captain by Steven Wallis in 1989 and demoted to vice-captain, a move which he says was embarrassing, but he did not hold grievances about. "I was excited for Wally to be captain," he said.

That year the club finished 13th and it was mooted by the VFL that it merge with Fitzroy, a move Kennedy got wind of after being summoned to VFL House by club president Nick Columb.

That prompted Kennedy to enlist the help of prominent Footscray supporter and solicitor Peter Gordon, which led to the famous Fightback campaign which saved the club.

Kennedy played his 150th game on June 29, 1991, but says he wasn't enjoying the game like he once had. "Physically I was still okay, but I would wake up on a Saturday and think, 'Do I really have to go and play today'. I had made my mind up to retire well before the end of the end of the season."

Kennedy says that was the reason he had no compunction about getting stuck into Brisbane's Roger Merrett in his final game because he knew it wouldn't matter if he was suspended.

Kennedy's involvement with the Bulldogs continued with a one-year stint as chairman of selectors and then climaxed in 1996 when he was part of the group, which included David Smorgon, Allan Johnstone and the late Ray Baxter, that initiated the name change from Footscray to the Western Bulldogs.

Kennedy says it was felt the change was necessary so that more people throughout the west could associate with the club and it resulted in membership rising from 9000 to 20,000 within two years.

Obviously, Kennedy's legacy lives on, although he is no longer associated with the club in any board capacity.

Footnote: Every AFL player has a nickname and this tribute wouldn't be complete without divulging that Kennedy's nickname throughout his playing career was "Tits". He explains: "I was doing weights with Terry DeKoning (father of Tom, Carlton and Sam, Geelong) and he said, 'Your tits are bigger than your missus', and the nickname stuck."

2025 Events Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Function</u>	<u>Contact</u>	
Friday 19th September	12pm	AFLCPP Medallist Lunch at Hyatt on the Park	Jack Slattery	0425 746 148
Sunday 26th October	10am	AFLCPP Bowls Day at Essendon Bowls Club	Len Cumming	0418 374 079
Sunday 16th November	11am	Annual General Meeting venue TBC	Owen Madigan	0408 105 151
	12pm	Annual Lunch following the AGM	Owen Madigan	0408 105 151



Vale



Rob Evans died on 20 June aged 82.

Rob was recruited from Cohuna and played reserve grade football for the Bulldogs in 1960-61, including a semi-final against St Kilda.

Pictured are Roy Evans, Rob Evans (centre) and Charlie Evans. Although all three players played for the Bulldogs in 1961, they were not related.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

90th Birthday

Lindsay Ellis

D.O.B: 27/7/35

Year(s) at Bulldogs:

1954

Games Played: 1

Jumper number: #14

Debut number: 410



80th Birthday

Bob Barr

D.O.B: 9/7/45

Year(s) at Bulldogs:

1964-65

Games Played: 7

Goals: 1

Jumper number: #35

Debut number: 527



90th Birthday

Ike Whittaker

D.O.B: 13/8/35

Year(s) at Bulldogs:

1958-59

Games Played: 8

Goals: 1

Jumper number: #17

Debut number: 455



70th Birthday

Ted Carroll

D.O.B: 11/7/55

Year(s) at Bulldogs:

1973

Games Played: 1

Jumper number: #35

Debut number: 626



80th Birthday

Johnny Miles

D.O.B: 23/8/45

Year(s) at Bulldogs:

1964

Games Played: 6

Jumper number: #44

Debut number: 525

70th Birthday

Alan Stoneham

D.O.B: 20/8/55

Year(s) at Bulldogs:

1972-79

Games Played: 128

Goals: 42

Jumper number: #3

Debut number: 614



60th Birthday**Andrew Taylor**

D.O.B: 2/7/65
 Year(s) at Bulldogs:
 1983
 Games Played: 1
 Jumper number: #53
 Debut number: 742

**60th Birthday****Nicky Winmar**

D.O.B: 25/9/65
 Year(s) at Bulldogs:
 1999
 Games Played: 21
 Goals: 34
 Jumper number: #1
 Debut number: 876

**60th Birthday****Darren Saunders**

D.O.B: 16/8/65
 Year(s) at Bulldogs:
 1986
 Games Played: 6
 Jumper number: #39
 Debut number: 767

**60th Birthday****Darren Davies**

D.O.B: 14/10/65
 Year(s) at Bulldogs:
 1988-1990
 Games Played: 37
 Goals: 35
 Jumper number: #4
 Debut number: 793

**70th Birthday****Gary Irvine**

D.O.B: 17/8/65
 Year(s) at Bulldogs:
 1988
 Games Played: 7
 Jumper number: #47
 Debut number: 797

**50th Birthday****Luke Darcy**

D.O.B: 12/7/75
 Year(s) at Bulldogs:
 1994-2005, 2007
 Games Played: 226
 Goals: 183
 Jumper number: #14
 Debut number: 847



2025 Membership

- 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

How to Pay:

By EFT to: 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

Past Player Jacket & Polo Shirts

Jacket \$95

Polo Shirt \$65

Prices include GST, postage and handling. Polo 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 contact Andrew Howlett on 0418510635

Name

Postal address

Mobile

Shirt size - M L XL XXL XXXL

See above for **How to Pay**



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.

2025 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
AFLCPP Delegate	Gary McGorlick	0409 804 057
	Len Cumming	0418 374 079
	Jack Slattery	0425 746 148

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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 by 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)



Tosca 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.