

Western Bulldogs Past Players



January 2026 Newsletter

2026 Recruits Dinner

All Past Players, Officials and their partners are invited to attend.

Date: Tuesday 10th February 2026
Venue: Western Grounds – Mission Whitten Oval
Time: 6pm arrival for 6.30pm start, ends 9pm
Tickets: \$70 per person
Package: Includes two course dinner
Access to a cash bar
Co Hosts: Kevin Hillier and Tom Boyd
Guests:

- Sam Power
- Connor Budarick
- Lachlan Carmichael
- Louis Emmett
- Will Darcy

Recognition Jumpers will be presented to two players from 2010-2020

[Register Your Attendance](#)

Annual Lunch, Altona Bowls 9th November 2025



Host Kevin Hillier interviewed Kelvin Templeton (pictured right) about his novel acclaimed novel *Collision*.

He also spoke to WBFC Board member Andrew Westacott about his family connection to the Bulldogs and his 13 years as CEO of the Melbourne Grand Prix.



Len Cumming was presented with his Recognition Jumper by Graeme Cook

Back: Len Cumming, Ron McGowan, Bernie Lee, Graeme Cook, Barry Bennett
Front: Les Bartlett, Laurie Sandilands, Ian Bryant, Owen Madigan



Graeme Cook # 595 from Drouin 1971-73 and Graeme Cook #540 from Hopetoun 1966-70

Past Players & Life Members Event on 11 December

A great chance to catch-up with a lot of great people



Top: Ian Morrison, Brian Cordy, Craig Knox, Mark Komp and Michael McKenna

Bottom: Stephen Smith, Allan Stoneham, Stuart Magee, Stephen Power, Gordon Casey, Ron McGowan and Graeme Cook

Cordy dynasty set to grow

Brian Cordy's Playing Profile:
D.O.B 14/1/1961
Clubs: Western Bulldogs (1981-1988)
Games: 124
Goals: 18
.....

By Ross Brundrett



Left: Steve Wallis presenting a recognition jumper to Brian with his wife, Karen by his side. Right: The three Bulldog Cordy brothers at training Graeme (left), Brian and Neil.

Plucked out of the fertile footy breeding ground of the Latrobe Valley, Brian Cordy was already a member of a footballing dynasty before he even set foot on Whitten Oval.

“The dynasty started with my grandfather Joe who was a premiership player with the Traralgon Maroons in 1925,” he said. “And then my uncles Ian and Ray played in premierships there although my dad Max missed out, playing in two losing grand finals, but won four premierships at Rosedale when we moved there...”

“My brother Neil played seniors for Traralgon before he went to Footscray in 1976 and I also played seniors , in 77-78 – in the country if you’re going OK as a kid they give you a chance in the seniors – and I played in a premiership before I arrived at the Bulldogs and my two younger brothers Graeme and Roger also played footy there.”

But then of course the family dynasty took on a whole new look. The Maroons made way for the red, white and blue.

Brother Neil had already established himself at the Dogs, both as a key defender and athletic wingman, when Brian arrived, followed by a third brother in Graeme a few years later. Although Graeme only managed a handful of senior matches at the Dogs, the three brothers joined a select group when they all played in the seniors together (Graeme later joining Neil at the Sydney Swans).

More recently, Brian’s two sons, Ayce and Zaine, have also played at the club, Ayce being a first-round selection in 2009 and Zaine creating a special place in Bulldog folklore as an integral part of the Bulldogs’ heroic 2016 premiership team.

But enough of the family’s history, this is supposed to be about Brian’s journey!

A natural progression

“The year I was recruited, the captain of the Bulldogs was Geoff Jennings, who was also a Traralgon boy, as was a fellow called Kelvin Templeton and a few others, including Peter Munro ... so it was a natural progression, I think John Dodd was the recruiting man at the time, and he came down and watched me and got me signed.

“I was a wingman, half forward but when I got down to the Dogs, we had some pretty good wingmen and half forwards ...”

“I had a year in the under 19s and a year in the reserves where I was runner-up in the best and fairest, so I was lucky because they say if you win the seconds’ b&f you are pretty much done.

“And the following year I played 17 games in the seniors, mainly in defence, did my knee with about four or five weeks to go and came fourth in the b&f.”

Coach Royce Hart had just taken the reins and the club got off to terrible start. “I think we lost to every other club – 11 straight losses... so it was a trial by fire.”

Brian has clear memories of his first match, for a couple of reasons. “For one thing, we were playing at Victoria Park and someone, Stephen Power I think, warned me to avoid being near the front when we came down the race and to be careful of any missiles being launched from the other side of the fence.

“And we had a very young team that day and Collingwood was going pretty well at the time. I was one of four first gamers (Alistair Ford amongst them) and Royce told me he was putting me at fullback and I had never played in that position before and I’m barely 6ft tall, a Collingwood six footer ironically.

“We got smashed by 80 or 90 points and I played on a South Australian recruit, a blond fella with a beard called David Young. I literally played on him all day and he didn’t get a goal and I got a nice pat on the back for that, but the only reason he didn’t get a goal was because they kept bombing the footy over our heads all day.”

Grim prognosis

“It was a pretty satisfying introduction to the seniors, and I was really happy how that season panned out until I think the third last round of the year and my knee went.”

Although it wasn’t an ACL, it was serious enough to derail the following season. “It was damage to the end of the femur and a few other things, and I had a few pins inserted and most of the cartilage also got smashed up as well,” he recalled, prompting a meeting with club president Dr Tony Capes.

“I was trying to get on a contract – we didn’t have managers back then – but Tony said he’d spoken to my surgeon who doubted whether I would be able to play much footy going forward so he would be keeping me on match payments.”

Despite the grim prognosis, Brian returned after a year’s absence and had “a ripper year” under the coaching of Bluey Hampshire. “I was runner-up in the b&f to Brian Royal, but I still think my best year was in 1985, when we made it to the preliminary final under Malthouse. I didn’t miss a game that season and I had developed more of a running game.

It probably helped that I would try and play on the same side of the ground as Dougie Hawkins – he was such a magnificent player – and run past for a handball because he would win the ball nine times out of 10.

“And our whole defence was going well that year. Brad Hardie won the Brownlow and was a beautiful kick as well and Rick Kennedy was fullback, and he was as intimidating player... I mean he was even intimidating to me, and I was on his side.”

But then he injured his “good” knee (medial ligament) and later smashed his thumb and spent another season out of the game and continued to have his other knee scraped at the end of each season.

The end came in 1988 when the club was crippled by financial problems and couldn’t offer him a contract. “It was a combination of things. I was starting to get a lot of swelling in my knee and stuff and I just thought it was good time to go.”

In charge

A year at West Adelaide followed, which he enjoyed, but an offer to return to Chanel College in Geelong (it closed in 1999) in charge of its senior school was too good to refuse and “we ended up in Ocean Grove”

And the rest, as they say, is history. Two sons who made it to the big league, although as Brian says, credit goes to his wife Karen, whom he met when they were both studying phys ed at Footscray Institute of Technology. “She was a bit of a tennis player and a netballer... and as they say in racehorse breeding, progeny always throws to the dam.”

“We’re proud of all our kids. Our eldest, Reece, who also loved football, is more intelligent than all of us, and chose a career in the medical field. He became an anaesthetist and works in Cambridge in the UK now.”

These days Brian enjoys nothing more than a round of golf in his retirement, but he also has an eye on the future. “I’ve got five grandchildren, one girl and four boys.”
Who knows? Just maybe the Cordy football dynasty might have another chapter or three...

Super's desire to make a difference

By Neil Cordy

Stephen Macpherson's
Playing Profile:
D.O.B 28/12/1961
Clubs: Western
Bulldogs (1982-95)
Games: 188
Goals: 152



The son of a Glasgow merchant seaman, Stephen "Super" Macpherson (in action above) understood from an early age about the impact disadvantaged backgrounds could have on families and their lives.

His 15 years at the Bulldogs was also a highly educational experience when it came to health and wellbeing. When he and his older brother Rod arrived at the Whitten Oval in 1981 Stephen was only 16 and Rod was just a year older. With their parents still in Hobart it was a steep learning curve for the pair. Those life lessons would ultimately lead him to his current job as a youth counsellor at Whittlesea Secondary College, a job he loves and was made for.

"I've always wanted to help people," Stephen said.
"Subconsciously, people learn from their parents. I want to make sure people get opportunities even if they come from disadvantaged backgrounds."

In 1981 Stephen was a highly prized recruit for the Bulldogs.

Playing for the Tasmanian under 15 side he was awarded the best player at the National Carnival in Darwin.

He and Rod were also the sons of Tasmanian footy royalty, their mother Kay was the daughter of Joe Brereton (no relation to Dermott), a New Town legend.

Geelong and the Bulldogs both expressed strong interest in signing the brothers, but Footscray had the edge coach Royce Hart also hailed from Tasmania and in fact attended the same school (Clarence High) as both Macpherson boys.

After spending his first season in the under 19s and reserves, the following year Stephen was picked for round one against Essendon at Windy Hill.

Unforgettable experience

“I was 17 and not really ready but it was an unforgettable experience,” Stephen said.
“Jimmy Edmond caught Merv Neagle with a ‘drive by’ and when Merv looked around he saw me smiling and said you’ll do.”

He survived his tangle with Merv and went on to play 15 games in 1982, all at the age of 17. 1983 produced only three senior appearances due to injury and suspension but by the age of 23 (1988) he had already chalked up 100 games.

The following year (1989) would be pivotal in Stephen’s life and the Bulldogs. As an employee in the club’s marketing department, he was in the thick of the ‘Fightback.’ “At the end of it the club realised we needed to put something back into the community,” Stephen said.

“When we started to get into schools it opened my eyes to the lack of male role models in these kids’ lives and the abuse, neglect and trauma many are subjected to.”

By the time he retired at the end of the 1995 season he was 30 years old and had spent almost half his life at the Bulldogs. He’d also earned life membership to go with his 188 senior games.

When he left the club he trained as a counsellor and started working with the long-term unemployed, people with mental health problems and those who had grown up in families who were generational social security recipients.

After hearing the stories of people’s backgrounds and how they had led to their present circumstances he decided to look into his father’s upbringing in Glasgow and visited the famous Scottish Port town. Matthew ‘Mac’ Macpherson grew up in a large working-class family where life was about as tough as it gets.

“His mum died when he was eight and left him and his brothers and sisters in the care of an alcoholic dad,” Stephen said.

Sliding door

“It made me think about people’s circumstances and the sliding door moments that change their lives. After fighting in the Second World War he went back to Glasgow to finish his apprenticeship. Then he worked on Merchant Ships and ended up in Tassie. It was as far away from Glasgow as he could get. He never went back.”

The trip gave Stephen a new perspective on his father’s life and his.

“It made me think about the courage and determination he had to make a better life,” Stephen said. “I think about this in relation to my work as a councillor. No matter what your parents have done, try to understand where they came from. You can appreciate why they are like they are. It’s important to be able to make sense of it and grow.”

Old dog has quite a Storey to tell

By Michael Stevens

Jack Storey's Playing Profile:
D.O.B 01/07/1929
Bulldog career (1948-49)
Games: 11
Goals: 6



Jack Storey (pictured left showing an old footy injury) played with the Bulldogs in an era where it wasn't just survival of the fittest, it was much more brutal than that.

At the ripe old age of 96, he remains as sharp of mind and quick-witted as he was when he made his debut in the red, white and blue 77 years ago.

When Jack was asked recently at a gathering by one of the side's star players whether the hard men of his time were "bashers" he replied: "No, they were kickers," to his amusement, because he always has a laugh when he recounts those stories.

Jack played 11 games with the Bulldogs in 1948 and 1949, and his most treasured moment of those games was running on to the ground with his boyhood hero Harry Hickey, who wore No 7.

According to club historian Darren Arthur, Hickey was ranked in the top four players of the Footscray stars of that era alongside Allan Hopkins, Norm Ware and Arthur Olliver and was runner-up to Collingwood's Marcus Whelan in the 1939 Brownlow Medal.

Jack's memories of his 11 games might be slightly clouded, but he had one word to describe running on to the ground with Hickey -- "Wow".

And he remembers vividly Hickey's liking for a "sip of wine" before taking the field and how Charlie Sutton used to kick a wall with both feet before running out.

One of Jack's recollections of his first match against Hawthorn (in round 14, 1948), was that he had limited time on the ground because Olliver only came off in the last quarter.

Amongst his proudest possessions is the team photo taken of the players in round 2, 1949, against Geelong. It's a star-studded line-up, including 1954 premierships captain-coach Charlie Sutton and other premierships players Wally Donald and Dave Bryden, and there's a cheeky 19-year-old Jack sitting next to Sutton with a mischievous grin.

Jack can still identify everyone in that photo, but sadly only two are still with us today.

Form guide

One of Jack's other distinct memories from that era is how players used to keep a form guide in their socks so they could check on the race results, which were a feature of scoreboards in those days. He took over the No.14 guernsey from Jim Miller in his first season and then was given No. 20 in his second season.

A lifetime legacy of his limited career at the Whitten Oval is a bent finger (illustrated in the above photo), caused innocuously when he attempted to grab an opponent's jumper.

"I was told it would come good, but 72 years later it's still trying," he said with another laugh.

Jack started his junior career with West Footscray at age 16 in the under 18s and recalls kicking 5.21 against Parkside in one game. "I was played on the wing the next week," he reminisced.

His Bulldogs' reserves coach was Joe Ryan and that's who he went to ask about his senior prospects when he was approached to switch allegiance to Port Melbourne at the behest of workmate, Norm Goss senior.

"I worked with Norm Goss at ICI (as a draftsman) and he offered me five pounds a game to cross to Port with a guarantee of six games to start off," Jack recalled. "The average wage back then was 15 pounds a week, so it was too good to pass up."

Jack's football career flourished at Port, playing 126 games in six seasons, winning the club's best and fairest in 1950 and also playing in one premiership.

Costly 'Mopsy' Fraser

But he still laments the fact that former Richmond tough nut Don 'Mopsy' Fraser cost the club another two premierships because he was reported and suspended in the preliminary final in two other years.

Jack also made the VFA representative side to play against South Australia, where he was matched against dual Magarey Medallist Bob Hank. "It was a good lesson," he said. "They were an elite side, and we were beaten easily."

There was a time when Jack considered trying his luck with Melbourne in the VFL, but another 20 pounds in his back pocket from Port put an end to that prospect.

The youngest of five boys, Jack's older brother Merv also played two games with Essendon in 1934.

After he finished at Port, Jack's career continued at Sunshine, where he coached the club to a premiership, playing in the Metropolitan League, and then was also involved when the club made the VFA.

His final football involvement was as coach of the Sunshine under 16s for a couple of seasons as a way of putting something back into the game.

Jack and his wife Marjorie have lived at the same Maidstone address for the past 72 years and he still plays golf at Medway Golf Club.

He is still a keen Bulldogs supporter and goes to all home games with his grandson Jason, who he says knows all the players' numbers.

"My role is to take the hot dogs and donuts to the footy," he said, with another laugh.

2026 Events Calendar



Date + Time	Location	Function	Contact
Tuesday 10 February	Whitten Oval	Recruits Dinner	
Saturday 7 March	Norman Hotel, Woolloongabba	Opening Round Vs Brisbane Pre-Match	Geoff Jennings 0408 770 659
Saturday 14 March	View Bar, Marvel Stadium TBC	R1 vs GWS Informal Past Player Catch-up	
Friday 20 March	Strathmore Hotel North Terrace Adelaide	R2 vs Adelaide Pre- Match	Darren Grant 0431 679 596
Friday 17 April	Geelong, venue TBC	R6 vs Geelong Pre- Match	Brian Cordy 0423 166 473
Thursday 23 April	TBC	2016 AFL Premiership Reunion	
Sunday 24 May	Rogers Room Marvel Stadium	R11 vs Melbourne Past Player Day	
July/August	Rogers Room Marvel Stadium	R18, R20, R22 Second Past Player Day	

Thank you, and farewell to long-time team members

Jack Slattery

Jack Slattery has retired from the Past Players committee after 18 years of service.

Jack played 32 games from 1959-62 including 1961 Preliminary Final when he kicked four goals and the 1961 Grand Final.

He is a Life Member of the Past Players

Well done Jack and thank you.



Linda Peachey

Linda Peachey has decided to pursue a career in the Department of Education as Koorie Engagement Support Officer, where she will work with families, communities, education and service providers to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners to participate fully in education.

Linda joined the Bulldogs as a casual in the membership team in December 2010 and quickly rose to the role of Team Leader.

She has most recently held the position of Premium Membership and Group Relationships Lead. She is a Life Member of the club and has been a great supporter of the Past Players and a great help. We wish her well in her new role. Well done, Linda and thank you.

Welcome Rhys

Rhys Contessa will take over Linda's role in relation to the Past Players.

Rhys can be contacted on 0405 066 899 or rhys.contessa@westernbulldogs.com.au

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

80th Birthday

Ian Robertson

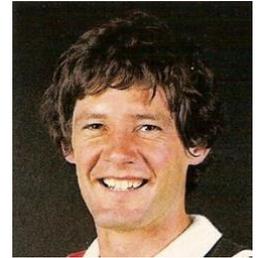
D.O.B: 25/01/46
Years at Bulldogs:
1966
Games Played: 4
Goals: 1
Jumper number: #24
Debut number: 636



70th Birthday

Max Crow

D.O.B: 07/01/56
Years at Bulldogs:
1986
Games Played: 12
Goals: 18
Jumper number: 6
Debut number: 761



70th Birthday

Stephen Lunn

D.O.B: 12/03/56
Years at Bulldogs:
1983-1984
Games Played: 21
Goals: 5
Jumper number: #15
Debut number: 731



60th Birthday

Tony Evans

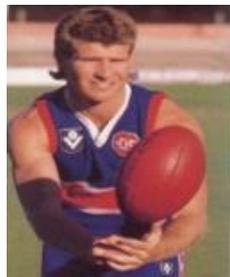
D.O.B: 30/01/66
Years at Bulldogs:
1989
Games Played: 3
Goals: 1
Jumper number: #29
Debut number: 804



60th Birthday

John Georgiades

D.O.B: 31/01/66
Years at Bulldogs:
1989-91
Games Played: 15
Goals: 27
Jumper number: #9
Debut number: 801



60th Birthday

Tony Liberatore

D.O.B: 11/02/66
Years at Bulldogs:
1986-2002
Games Played: 283
Goals: 95
Jumper number: #39
Debut number: 771



50th Birthday

Daniel Hargraves

D.O.B: 24/01/76
Years at
Bulldogs: 1994-97
Games Played: 38
Goals: 62
Jumper number:
#37



50th Birthday

Daryl Griffin

D.O.B: 23/01/76
Years at
Bulldogs: 1995-96
Games Played: 18
Jumper number:
#29
Debut number: 855



Website

Our website includes:

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

The address is:

www.westernbulldogs.com.au/pastplayers



2026 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

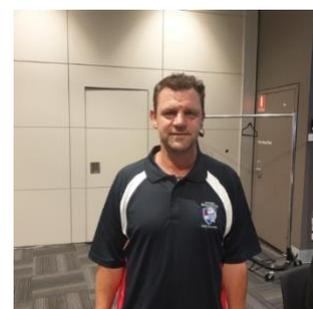
Name

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 for a one-off joining fee of \$50.

Benefits now include:

- up to \$700 refund on excess payments when in hospital, if you are in a private health fund
- up to \$10000 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.
- Severe injury and dependency benefits

For more information contact Chris Smith at AFLPA on 0400 019 391 or csmith@aflplayers.com.au.

Tim Harrington (WB #805, 1989–90 pictured) is the AFL Players' Association Football Operations Manager and Head of Alumni.

2026 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	Adam Contessa	0416 081 259
	Brian Cordy	0423 166 473
	Gary McGorlick	0409 804 057
	Michael McKenna	0432 757 859
	Len Cumming	0418 374 079
AFLCPP Delegate	Les Bartlett	0416 485 652
Social media / IT support	Clare Delaney	0427 137 377

Area Representatives (Co-ordinators of Pre-match Functions)

Adelaide	Darren Grant	0431 679 596
Perth	Andrew Purser	0411 876 441
Brisbane	Geoff Jennings	0408 770 659
Gold Coast	Neil Cordy	0419 116 315
Geelong	Brian Cordy	0423 166 473
Ballarat	Jamie Grant	0434 357 882

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