

DOCKERS



OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF
THE FREMANTLE DOCKERS

SEPTEMBER 2015 VOLUME 11.3
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A TOAST TO
MATTHEW
PAVLICH

THE RISE OF
ALEX
PEARCE

2015
SEASON
REVIEW

MICHAEL WALTERS AND OUR DOCKERS DADS

 PROGRAMMED

 woodside

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FOREVER FREO



When we take to the field each and every week, we play for the jumper, we play for the club... but most importantly we play for our members.

The way you get behind every player, every game does not go unnoticed.

The new and creative chants, the old and spine-tingling ones... they are a great motivator for us out on the field.

We have fans like no other.

We have members who are with us all the way.

And together, we are Forever Freo.

Matthew Pavlich



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DOCKERS**

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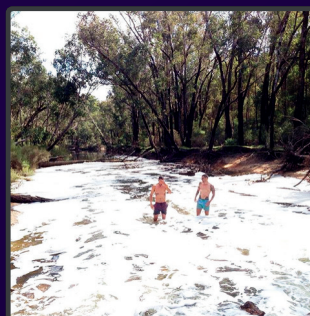
The boys and our new home 🏠👉👈 @eddylangdon @lachsweller



Jack Hannath

@jackhannath

Hit the rink for Hannobro's last night in town! 🎉🍻



Alex Silvagni

@alexsilvagni

Natures ice bath
#Naventure

insta-space + twitter-sphere #foreverfreo

A look at what's been happening in the #foreverfreo world.



Max Duffy

@max_duffy

A proud moment lifting the pin! #backhanders 🎳



Hayden Crozier @haydenCrozier

Bunch of legends! Happy birthday @jackhannath 🎂🍻



Patrick Moore

@mrpatrickmoore

Come on #freo
#foreverfreo



Tendai Mzungu

@tmzungu

Had a great time supporting the @redkitecharity



Bonnie Knott

@_bonnierose_

#Sunshine and #football with total #babes... ❤️



Simon Reeve

@simonreeve

Keep the finals faith Dockers fans. At 17 plus hands Reuben is ready Sandi to help you out. He can kick too! #foreverfreo #sun7 #forthefinals



Tommy Sheridan

@tommy_sheridan

Pav's Testimonial! 🚢



Caitlin Christina

@caitlin_christina

Derby date #foreverfreo #prouddoyalpassionate



Rain Anglim

@whatisrain

Good to meet you today @mjbarlow21



Fremantle Dockers

@freedockers

We've got the best of the west #foreverfreo



Hayden Ballantyne

@hballas

Uno and coffee with the lads... @cmayne23 is losing...

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DADDY DAWSON

The baby boom at Freo continues with Zac Dawson and his wife Sheena expecting a baby girl in December. It will be the first child for the happy couple and it seems they will be well prepared after a visit to the 'Pregnancy, Baby and Children Expo'. Congratulations guys, we're looking forward to seeing a little Dawson running around soon!



PROUD AS PUNCH

Players' parents play an enormous role in their careers and it's always great to see them in the changerooms after their son's debut. Lachie Weller's parents, Jude and Daryn, flew from Melbourne, along with his girlfriend Nicola, to watch his first AFL game in round 18 against GWS. It was touching to see how proud they were of him after the win. Lachie posted his thoughts on social media afterwards saying, "Was great to share it with the ones you love!"

PURPLE POCKET

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE FREMANTLE DOCKERS



LOVE IS IN THE AIR

It's not just babies that are making news at Freo Oval. There is also another wedding to add to the upcoming Suban and Walters nuptials. Hayden Ballantyne proposed in July to Alyssa, his lovely girlfriend and mother to daughters Avarna, 6, and Aviary who is turning two in December. If Michael Barlow was hoping for a gig in the bridal party, he can probably think again after this post on Instagram congratulating the couple.

GAME, SET... BEFORE THE MATCH!

If the players get some down time when travelling interstate, their competitive edge comes out. It doesn't matter whether they are travelling to Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney or Tasmania, there will always be a table tennis table set up and ready to go at the team hotel. Chris Mayne holds the current title for the table tennis champ according to Tommy Sheridan. "He's the best by far at the moment, but I'm not too far off," Tommy said. 🏓



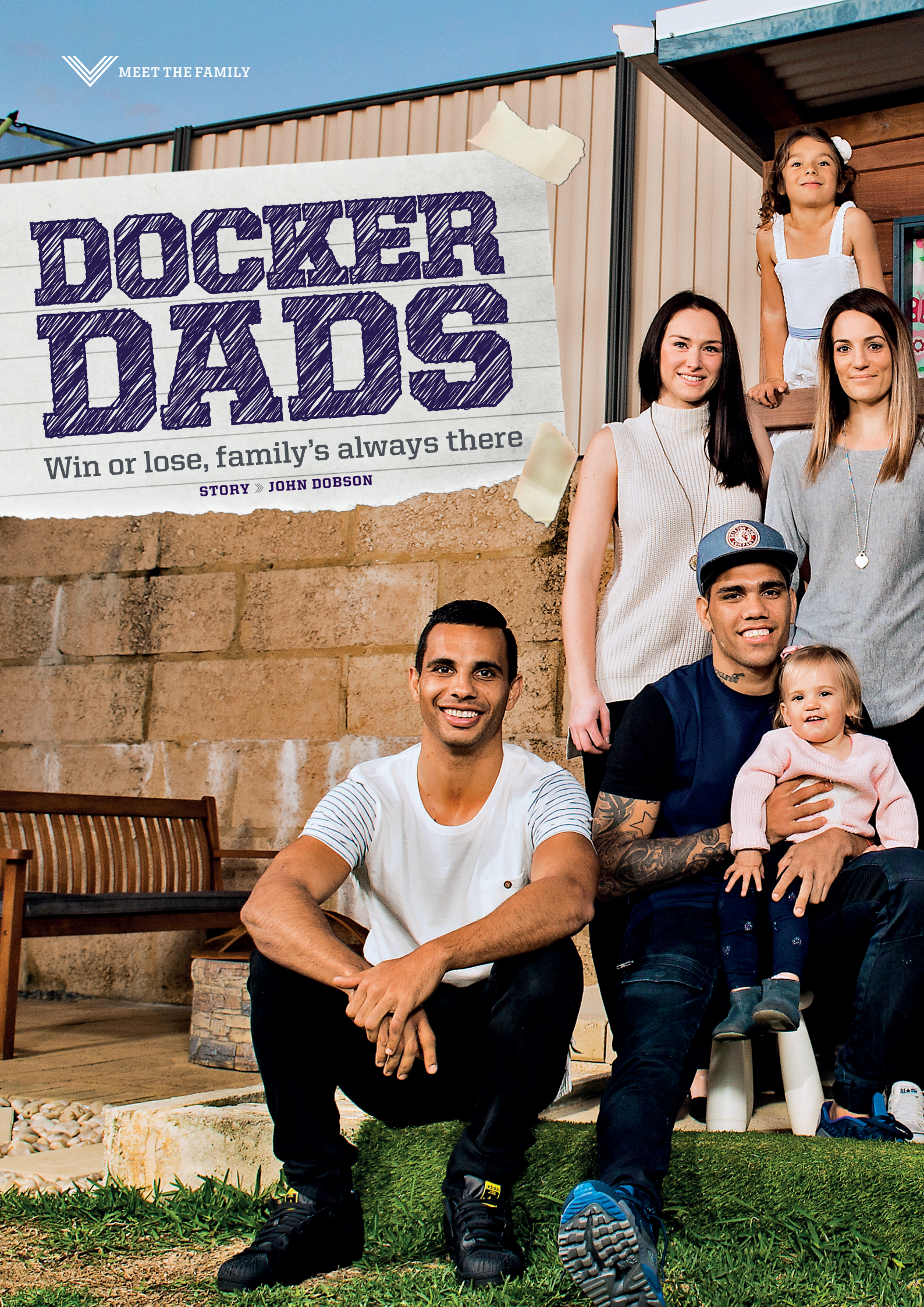


MEET THE FAMILY

DOCKYER DADS

Win or lose, family's always there

STORY » JOHN DOBSON





**NEVER A DULL
MOMENT:** There's plenty
of fun to be had when
the Johnsons, Walters and
Pearce clans get together

It is a typical Monday night in suburban Perth. The kitchen is bustling with noise and movement, as the final preparations for dinner are made.

Children are busily drawing and playing while the parents chat.

It is a scene oozing in normality, but for football families it is precious time to savour, squeezed into a busy and demanding work schedule.

Fremantle players Danyle Pearce, Michael Walters and Michael Johnson regularly get together with their families for a meal or play-date.

It has become a vital part of the routine for the family focused trio.

This particular week, Fremantle assistant coach Roger Hayden and his family joined them.

"We spend every second weekend away from the family, which is tough, so these moments are precious," Pearce said.

"Sonny (Walters) and I catch up once a week because he literally lives over my back fence."

The bond between the families is crucial for the partners too, who are left to hold the fort while the players travel for interstate fixtures.

"Our partners are really close, they look after the kids while we're at training and travelling away," Johnson said.

"It's good because they get around each other and support each other."

This season alone, Fremantle players have spent about 30 nights interstate.

Johnson said it was difficult to miss out on moments many dads may take for granted, like children's birthdays.

"There have been times I've been away, I've missed children's birthdays or birthday parties," he said.

"It is a bit tough but it's part of the job."

All three players agreed that family offered a refuge and sense of normality to the rigid football life.

At 24, Michael Walters is the youngest dad of the trio.

His family has been the driving force behind his rise through the AFL ranks to become arguably one of the best small forwards in the competition.

Walters was famously sent back to play with WAFL club Swan Districts in 2012 for not meeting the club's requirements.

No one doubted his talent but he needed to improve his off-field work.

From there, Walters had to fight his way back and the spark that ignited that burning desire was simple – to provide for his young family.

"My partner puts up with me, that's hard enough," he said.

"She looks after two young kids when I'm away or at training.

"Marnie does the hard yards.

"She does an amazing job, my sole goal is to provide for her and my daughters because that's my job as a father."

His family is the first thing that comes to mind, when he needs extra inspiration to lift a heavy weight or run that little bit harder to chase down an opponent.

"They are always in my thoughts," he said.

"I run out each week through the banner knowing it's my job to provide for them.

"Every time I kick a goal and celebrate, I think of them."

Walters said the club, in particular senior coach Ross Lyon, was extremely supportive.

"Ross is really supportive," he said.

"He has his own kids, so knows the important of that balance.

"He really drives it amongst the boys, that family is crucial."

Despite his hard-nosed perception, Walters said Lyon was very understanding of players with families.

"Ross really pushes us to be good family men," Walters said.

"There has been a real focus on families at the club since Ross has come here.



BON APPÉTIT: The Pearces put on a feast at their home in Aubin Grove.

"If I need to help out at home, I can leave earlier or come in later and do what I have to do.

"It's really supportive."

That is a sentiment echoed by Pearce and Johnson, too.

"We're becoming a much more family orientated club, as more players are having kids," Johnson said.

"It's great how the club has embraced families."

Heading into Fremantle's change rooms after a game, you might be mistaken for thinking it is a crèche.

Children nearly outnumber players.

"Ross has supported having kids in the rooms after the game," Walters said.

"The other boys, who aren't dads, love it too."

Walters said one team mate, in particular, was a favourite among the children.

"Mayney (Chris Mayne) is a big kid really," he said.

"He is always the first to come say hello to the kids and have a joke with them.

"They love having him around and messing about in the rooms."

Johnson said when he first started playing there were hardly any children around the club.

"I remember my first child, nine years ago, there weren't too many kids around then," he said.

"There are a lot of players, especially the older guys, with young kids.

"They really enjoy coming into the change rooms after the games. "It's a great initiative."

Johnson has had to balance fatherhood with football for the majority of his career after the birth of Ameliah in 2006 when he was 22.

Nothing is a better reward after a long slog on the track than coming home to his family.

"Every time I come home in the afternoon it's a real relief," he said.

"There is always something to do with the kids.

"It's a nice change from the footy lifestyle."

Johnson said family was invaluable when times were tough on the field.

"My family keep me focused," he said.

"Especially after a loss, it's always a nice change."

Johnson said he was like any other father and doted on his children.

"Saturday is netball, Sunday is Auskick," he said.



EVERYTIME I KICK A GOAL AND CELEBRATE, I THINK OF THEM.
MICHAEL WALTERS



"Dancing pops up here and there too which I can't help with if I'm away."

Johnson said working most weekends each year, gave him time mid-week to spend with his children.

"On my day off, I like to drop them off and pick them up from school," he said.

"Then we get home and it's time for homework or giving them a hand with whatever they are up to."

Pearce, often the chef at the family get-togethers, said the families have created a support group for each other.

It is a particularly vital network for Pearce, who brought his family from South Australia to WA, when he left Port Adelaide in 2012.

"All the kids are close friends, they do crèche together and are all similar ages," he said.

"One of us cooks each week, we all come together and catch up."

During away trips, the Pearces often have a sleep over at the Walters' place.


"The kids are all the same age, so they get on really well and have a great time playing and mucking around together," he said.

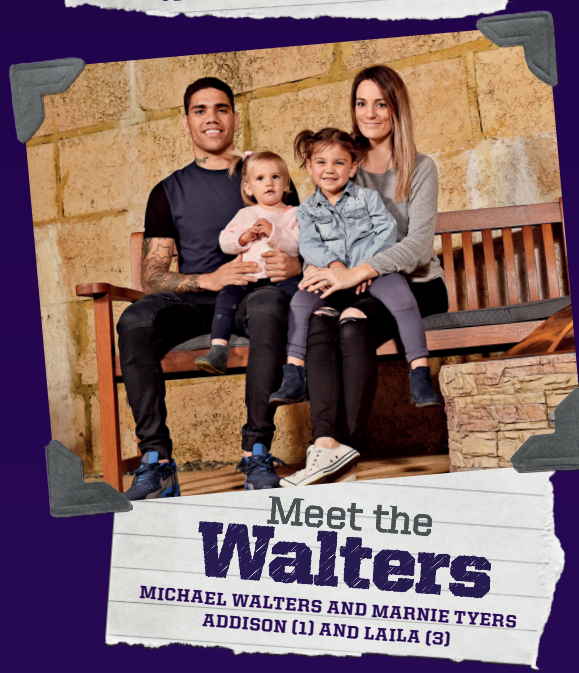
It is hard not to bring disappointment home after a loss, according to Pearce, but a smile from one of his children soon lifts his mood.

"When we lose, it's hard not to take it home," he said.

"But the family is a great focus away from footy.

"If the results aren't going our way, it's nice to come home.

"Family is always there, win or lose." 



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RECRUIT. DEPLOY. MANAGE. MAINTAIN.



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): Freo Footy Skills at Domain Stadium; Premier Colin Barnett, City of Cockburn mayor Logan Howlett, Fremantle president Steve Harris and Sport and Recreation Minister Mia Davies breaking ground at Cockburn Central West; A young participant in Freo Footy Skills; Site works have begun at the elite training and administration facility.



UP AND RUNNING



The Fremantle Dockers Foundation was established in June, 2015 to support the important on and off field work of the Fremantle Football Club.

The four key pillars that are supported by the foundation are:

- » Community engagement and social inclusion
- » Elite performance and sustained on field success
- » Pathway and development programs for aspiring athletes
- » Securing the club's future

Already this year we have seen the foundation support the club's Freo Footy Skills program involving thousands of young participants.

The program is delivered to thousands of students in primary schools across the State each year and involves three different football skill competitions: Freo Kwik Kick, Freo Long Bomb and Freo Fast Ball.

On Sunday 2 August, 2015 the program culminated in a Grand Final on the turf at Domain Stadium as a curtain raiser to

the round 18 win over Greater Western Sydney.

One of the foundation's primary focuses is funding the construction of the club's new elite training and administration facility (ETAF) at Cockburn Central West.

The ETAF project took a significant step on Wednesday 21 July when Premier Colin Barnett, Fremantle president Steve Harris, City of Cockburn mayor Logan Howlett and Minister for Sport and Recreation Mia Davies officially

broke ground at the site that will become the club's base from 2017.

The facility will provide current and future Fremantle players with world-class training facilities and at the same time create a genuine link with the community.

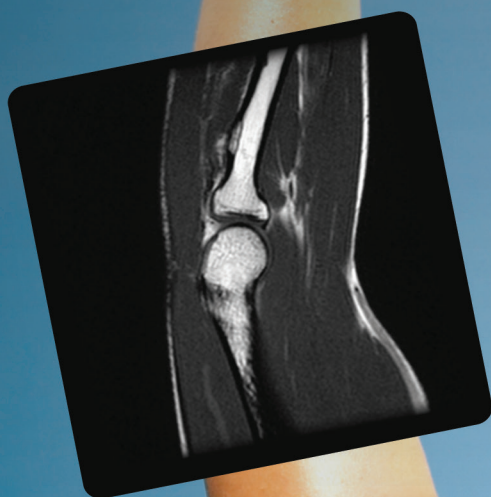
Fremantle Dockers members and supporters have already got on-board to support the foundation. We encourage fans to continue to help us build a football club that current and future generations will always be proud of by donating to the Fremantle Dockers Foundation. 



SECURING OUR FUTURE
fremantlefc.com.au/foundation

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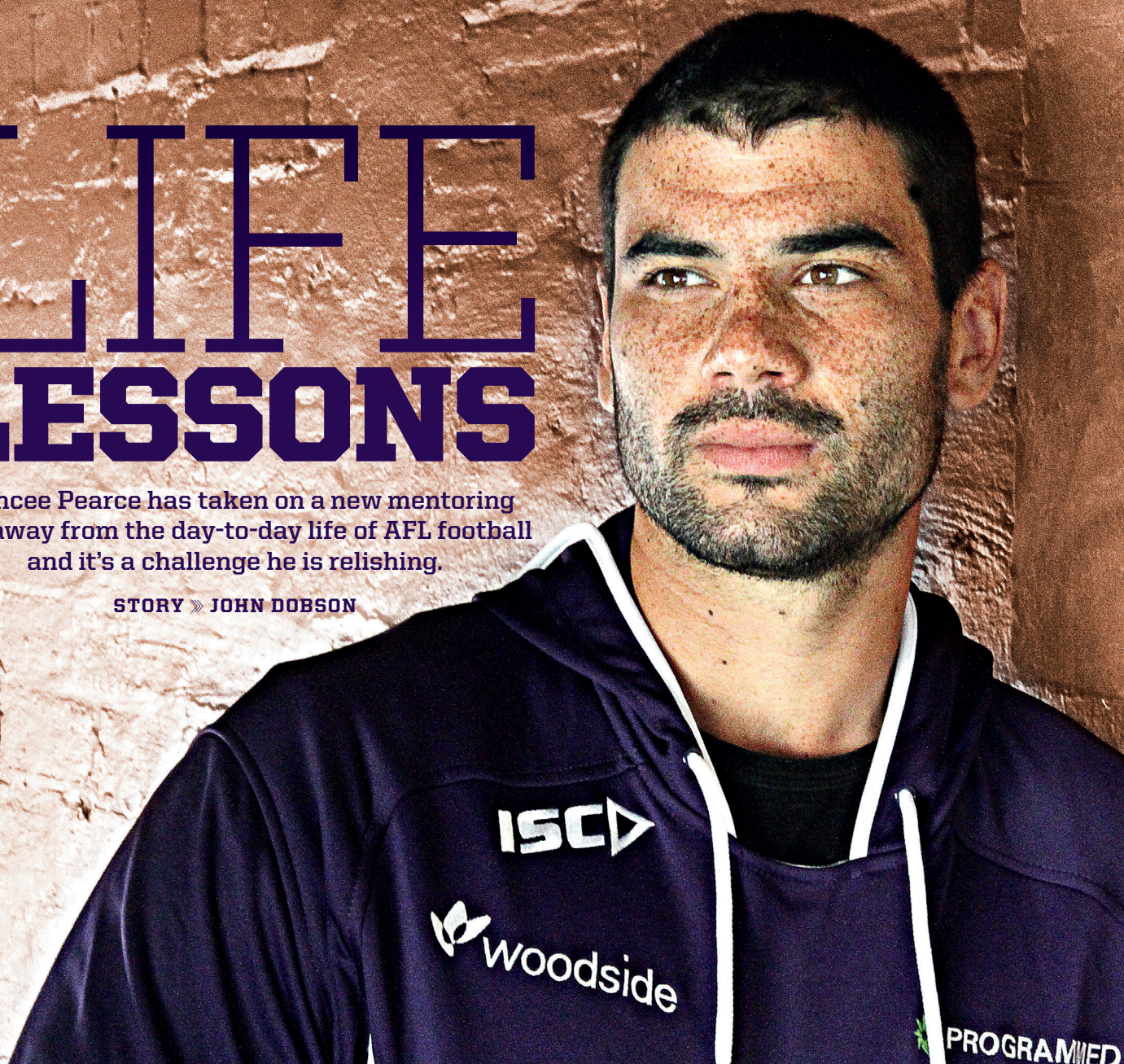


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LIFE LESSONS

Clancee Pearce has taken on a new mentoring role away from the day-to-day life of AFL football and it's a challenge he is relishing.

STORY » JOHN DOBSON



It is a long way from the bright lights of AFL football, but for Clancee Pearce, listening to the stories of residents at Wandoo Reintegration Facility has been illuminating.

Pearce spends nearly every Monday at the Murdoch centre, talking with residents who are in the final stages of their prison sentences.

"We talk about their relationships with family and how they are going at the centre," he said.

"I sit in on the programs on how they want to improve aspects of their life and learn new skills."

More than 70 male residents aged 18 to 28 are housed at the centre, where they can further their education and training, learn life skills and gain employment opportunities.

It is the first centre in WA that caters specifically for young men.

Through the AFL Sports Ready Program, Pearce is offering a compassionate ear to the residents while gaining valuable work experience.

"I wanted to do this because last year I did my diploma in youth work and I wanted to get some work experience and do some more hands on stuff," he said.

Pearce said he was a little apprehensive about how the residents would react to him when he first visited.

"It was a bit of an eye opener at first but the residents have been good," he said.

"I expected them to be a little bit more stand-off-ish but they are open and happy to have a chat about football and life.

"They are really open for people to come in and listen to their stories.

"Of course, they love talking football, too."

“

IT WAS A BIT OF AN EYE OPENER AT FIRST BUT THE RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN GOOD

CLANCEE PEARCE



The passion for counselling work was sparked by his uncle, who works as a prison officer in WA.

"He has told me some stories about prisoners and how he's helped them," he said.

"It's a good feeling for him when they appreciate what he does with them," he said.

"I'm just following in his footsteps."

It is not just the residents who are learning from Pearce but he is also finding out how a handful of bad life choices can lead into a debilitating cycle.

"The residents are focused on getting on the right track," he said.

"I've learned about the life decisions they've made.

"They may not be bad people but just made a few wrong decisions.

"They are trying to refocus and stay on the right track.

"It's an important message for everyone, when times get tough to refocus and make the right decision."

STORY TIME: Shaun McManus and Paul Hasleby share some humorous stories about their former teammate.



TOASTING A CHAMPION

Fremantle captain and games record holder Matthew Pavlich was given a night to remember.

STORY » JOHN DOBSON



It was a night fit for the club's greatest player. Nearly 1000 people attended the Matthew Pavlich Testimonial at Crown Perth on Friday 26 June to honour the club captain and six-time All Australian.

Throughout the night, past and present team mates, his father Steve Pavlich and senior coach Ross Lyon spoke about Matthew's remarkable career.

The one sentiment shared by all was that the captain is not only universally respected and admired on field but off the field too.

Fremantle chief executive Steve Rosich said the club was immensely proud of its games-record holder and six-time Doig Medallist.

"We are very proud that Matthew is much more than a footballer," he said.

The CEO said he was a father, student, businessman and role model to many.

Matthew then delivered a stirring speech to the Fremantle faithful.


He said the club had come a remarkably long way since he arrived in 1999 and while the spotlight was on him that night, it was also on the team that made him the player he has become.

"I'm extremely humbled by this whole experience."

Matthew gave special thanks to his family, team mates, coaching staff and the club's administration and board for their ongoing support.

While football had become his job, he still adored the game that he fell in love with as a young child.

"The game has tested my resolve, driven me mad but it remains my love, my passion."

"It's been a privilege to do what I've always wanted to do, play AFL and live my dream." 

PURPLE ROOM: Crown Perth's ballroom turned purple for the Matthew Pavlich Testimonial.



“
IT'S BEEN A
PRIVILEGE
TO DO WHAT
I'VE ALWAYS
WANTED TO DO,
PLAY AFL AND
LIVE MY DREAM
MATTHEW PAVLICH



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KICKING GOALS FOR LITERACY

dsf
Dyslexia - SPELD Foundation
LITERACY & CLINICAL
SERVICES

Fremantle has been kicking goals on and off the field this season. Thanks to the Harcourts Foundation more than \$13,000 has been raised to help support children with Dyslexia this season through the 'Kick a Goal for Literacy' campaign.

As part of the campaign, the Harcourts Foundation has donated \$50 to the Dyslexia-Speld Foundation (DSF) and The Mo, Evie and Otis Maslin Foundation for every goal booted by Freo this year.

The Maslin Foundation was formed to honour the memories of the three Maslin children who tragically died in the Malaysian Airlines disaster over Ukraine.

Otis had only just been diagnosed with dyslexia at the time of the tragedy.

DSF chief executive Mandy Nayton said the funds raised would be used to support disadvantaged children with literacy difficulties.

"The Dyslexia-SPELD Foundation is delighted with the Fremantle Dockers' performance this season," Nayton said.

"Students leaving school with low levels of literacy are less likely to find employment or proceed to further education.

"They are more likely to have mental health problems, drug-related issues or become involved in anti-social behaviour.

"The funds raised through the 'Kick a Goal for Literacy' campaign will be used to prevent this occurring for some of the students currently struggling to learn to read and write."



BIG REWARDS:
\$50 from every Freo goal this year has been donated to DSF.

LITTLE FREO HEARTS

As part of the HeartKids WA 'Cuppa Campaign' the club hosted some special guests for morning tea in August.

Twelve HeartKids and their families watched a training session at Freo Oval and spent time with Max Duffy, who is an ambassador for the foundation.

Duffy, who commenced his ambassador role at the start of the year, said it was a really fulfilling morning.

"It was great to see the kids down here enjoying the morning," Duffy said.

"Sometimes you can get caught up in it all, and then you meet these kids and you're reminded of how lucky you are."

Ross Lyon also spoke about the importance of the foundation and acknowledged it was a worthy cause to support.

"There are eight babies born everyday with a heart condition," Lyon said.



DUFFY'S GUESTS: HeartKids WA held a special morning tea at Fremantle Oval in August

"It is really worthwhile, trying to find solutions for young babies and children with heart conditions.

"Having the kids down here watching training helps you keep things in perspective."

HeartKids WA is encouraging people to host their own Cuppa for

HeartKids event with family, friends, school or workmates throughout the month of September.

Whether it's an elaborate high tea or a simple coffee date, those interested can register to be involved at www.cuppaforheartkids.org.au

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LACHIE
NEALE



25

BORN: 24 May 1993

DRAFTED: Freo's 4th pick (58 overall) in 2011

DEBUT: Round 4, 2012 v St Kilda

HEIGHT: 176cm **WEIGHT:** 79kg



DANIEL HECHTER
PARIS

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Dresses the same.*

Michael Barlow
DANIEL HECHTER
brand ambassador



Fremantle Dockers members receive a **20 per cent discount** when presenting their membership card at Brookfield Place, St Georges Terrace, Perth



WHERE HAVE THEY DOCKED? TROY COOK

“
IT'S GREAT THAT
NOW I CAN DEVOTE
A FAIR BIT OF TIME
TO MY FAMILY

TROY COOK

After he was taken at pick 26 in the 1996 AFL Draft by the Sydney Swans, Troy Cook spent time under Rodney Eade before he was picked up by Fremantle in 1999. Cook played 150 games for Fremantle and his toughness and determination made him popular with fans.

FAMILY MAN: Troy and his wife Tamara married in Bali in June, with their two children Lola and Xavier as their witnesses.

What does life after football involve for you?

I'm working with the Wirrpanda Foundation. I've been there since I retired. I do a health and leadership program in primary and high schools. Also a bit on the corporate side too. We have programs focusing on employment, education, health, leadership and cultural awareness. It keeps me busy and I get to travel a bit. It's a great organisation.

How is your family?

I have two little ones, Xavier, 6, and Lola, 5. Xavier enjoyed coming to have a kick on the oval where dad used to play during the past-players curtain raiser in round 16, that was a great experience. Lola was too shy and didn't want a bar of it.

Away from work, what are your hobbies?

It's great that now I can devote a fair bit of time to my family. I also try to get in some golf. My young bloke has started Auskick, so I like to get down and support him through that.

Are you involved with football anymore?

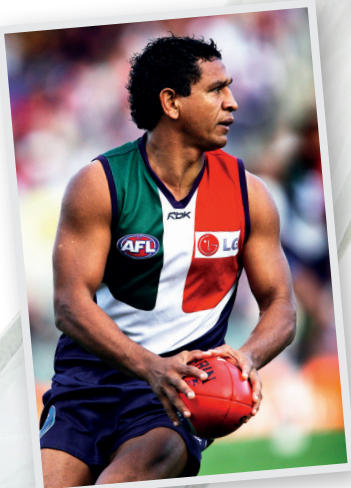
My only involvement is through my son's team. I watch the young bloke enjoying his footy.

Do you follow Fremantle?

I'm still a passionate Freo supporter. I try and pop down to a game every now and then. It's been exciting times over the past couple of years. Hopefully, the boys can gain some momentum in the finals.

Who's your favourite Freo player?

'Son Son' (Michael Walters) is great to watch, he's pretty exciting and I still like watching the old stager Matthew Pavlich, who's still got a bit of life left in the legs.



“
IT WAS CLEAR
THAT FOOTY
WAS GOING
TO BE THE
OPPORTUNITY
TO GO A BIT
FURTHER
ALEX PEARCE

Swing Man

The rise of Alex Pearce

STORY » JOHN DOBSON

At 198cm Alex Pearce would not have been out of place in many sporting arenas. The handy golfer and cricketer has been a revelation for Fremantle in 2015.

But surprisingly, the Tasmanian product originally set his sights on a career in cricket and, if not for a fateful opportunity when he was 16, may never have played AFL.

"At one stage I chose cricket as a potential career when I was in under-16 level," he said.

The emerging tall said he even missed the highly competitive try-outs for the under-16 Tasmanian State football team because he wanted to play a cricket game for his local club.

"On one of the try-out days for footy, I had a local game of cricket," he said.

"It was cricket season, so I thought, no I'm not going, I'm playing cricket."

It would be more than 12 months later that Pearce's trajectory swung back to football.

"I wasn't asked to try-out for State footy the following year," he said.

"It was later in the season, after playing senior footy for my local club, that I was asked to play for Tassie in the under-16s.

"That was when I thought it could become a career.

"I probably could have made it a bit easier for myself by choosing football earlier on.

"It was pretty lucky in the end, the opportunity I got to play in that under-16 comp.

"It was clear that footy was going to be the opportunity to go a bit further."

Pearce has earned wide praise since his debut in round 6 against Essendon at Domain Stadium.

Taken at pick 37 in the 2013 National Draft, he has become a versatile swingman for Fremantle, spending time learning the ropes in the back and forward line.

Adjusting to the rigours of AFL football has been a relatively simple change for the 21-year-old, who shows maturity beyond his years.

"Week on week I've become more comfortable playing AFL," he said.

"I've said to a lot of people leading up to my first game, I wasn't as nervous as I thought I would be.

"I feel as though I've been able to settle in reasonably well."

Pearce grew up in Ulverstone, on Tasmania's north-west coast.

The small seaside town, 21km west of Devonport, has a population of just over 6000.

The regional town has nurtured its fair share of sportsmen, among them Melbourne forward David Neitz, Australian cricketer Ben Hilfenhaus and international tennis player Richard Fromberg.

"I loved growing up there," Pearce said.

"Growing up with all my school mates.

"A lot of my time was involved in footy and cricket for my school and Ulverstone.

"I loved it then and I love it now."

Pearce's afternoons and weekends were spent playing a variety of sports.

He would play cricket, football, soccer and compete in little athletics.

Some of his AFL heroes growing up were Carlton legend Anthony Koutoufides, Brisbane premiership player Jonathan Brown and St Kilda captain Nick Riewoldt.

There was also one forward in particular who Pearce loved to watch in action and he now lines up alongside him. Fremantle captain Matthew Pavlich.

"I used to love watching those big power forwards," he said.

"You can tell when you play with or against those guys like Pav and Nick, why they're the best.

"It's a great learning experience at the start of my career."

Pearce has spent much of the second half of the season playing as a tall target inside-50.

It comes naturally to Pearce, who was predominantly a forward before he was drafted.

"The last couple of years of juniors I played forward," he said.

"I enjoy playing up forward a little bit more than defence.

"As a junior I played in every position.

"I like being able to be thrown around the ground a little bit more.

"It helps me maintain my spot by being able to play more than one position.

"That's something I pride myself on."

Versatility is one word to sum up Pearce.

While most are not born with any natural sporting talents, Pearce seems to be a master of many.

On his day off, he tries to fit in a round of golf before university, where he is studying for a commerce degree.

"I play a fair bit of golf," he said.

"I played in Tassie and I've paired up with Max Duffy and we play a fair bit at Point Walter."

While his professional cricketing days may be behind him, he still enjoys some backyard hits with team mates in the off-season.

However, despite his tall frame, that rivals legendary Australian fast bowler Glen McGrath, he was not a pace bowler but a batting all-rounder.

"I bowled medium pace, I wasn't quick enough to be a pace bowler," he said.

"We have a backyard cricket comp in the off-season with the boys.

"I follow the cricket pretty closely, I keep up-to-date with what's going on.

"Other than footy, it's the sport I enjoy the most."

In a remarkable coincidence, Pearce grew up playing with and against fellow Fremantle listed players, Brady Grey and Lachie Weller.

"Brady and I played soccer, cricket and football against each other," he said.

"We first played cricket together for representative sides, it wasn't until a bit later that we played football together for the under-18 Tassie side.

"We were always competing against each other but we always got on really well.

"Brady was a good cricketer.

"We were captaining sides against

each other, Brady even made a State side when he was younger.

"I remember playing soccer against Lachie when I was younger, he played footy and little athletics."

Pearce said the bond between the three from the Apple Isle had grown since they arrived at Fremantle within 12 months of each other.

"We know the same people back home and keep up-to-date with the local footy competitions," he said.

"It's a great story that we've all ended up at Fremantle."

WA is now home for the trio.

Pearce had not even visited the State before he was drafted in 2013.

"My first visit was when I was drafted," he said.

"I didn't know anyone here, I'd spoken to Fremantle a little bit.

"There were three or four clubs I thought I might be going to."

Before the draft he knew there were clubs interested but was still oblivious to where he may end up, if he was drafted at all.

"Going into the draft, I didn't want to build it up too much because I thought there was a good chance I wouldn't get picked up at all," he said.

"Getting picked up by Freo was a good surprise.

"I was watching the draft live with my immediate family, uncles and aunts, grandparents and all that.

"It was a pretty special time."

Pearce said it was a surreal moment when he heard Fremantle general manager of player management Brad Lloyd read out his name.

TO HAVE FEEDBACK FROM ONE OF THE BEST EVER IS DEFINITELY HELPFUL.

ALEX PEARCE

"There was a second there when you don't really believe what's happened," he said.

"I wasn't really nervous watching the draft during those early picks, before that Fremantle pick, but when it came up I got butterflies and got a bit nervous."

The night following the draft is one he will forever cherish.

"My parents were excited, there were plenty of hugs," Pearce said.

"I had groups of mates watching it at different houses around town and within five minutes they were at my place.

"They were jumping out of cars as they rocked up.

"That was one of the better nights I've ever had.

"Having all these people coming round and supporting me was special."

Pearce said it was a quick transition from family life to football life upon moving to WA.



NATURAL TALENT: Alex Pearce has impressed in his first season.

"There were a few tears when I left my parents and sister but they were excited for me," he said.

"It doesn't take long when you're in the football environment, or any sporting club, to find some mates and you feel comfortable.

"They become your family.

"I have some really close mates I play with and they're my WA family."

Pearce was taken under the wing of the experienced Fremantle pair Matthew Pavlich and Luke McPharlin.

You could not pick two better credentialed teachers, according to Pearce.

"When you speak of Pav's record it sounds intimidating," he said.

"Once you've been around a few weeks, you get to know him and he's just a normal bloke.

"Being able to play on Pav at training has been a big help.

"We often have conversations on the track or straight after we've come off the track on what I did well and what I did wrong.

"To have that feedback from one of the best ever is definitely helpful.

"Luke has helped me ever since I walked through the door too.

"Learning defence from him and being able to play alongside him has been a huge help.

"I try to take on board as much as I can and learn from both of them."


Coincidentally, it was an injury to McPharlin that opened the door for Pearce to debut in front of a packed home crowd against Essendon in round 6.

His first kick received a rousing cheer from the vocal supporters.

"During the game I tried not to take note of the crowd too much," he said.

"I didn't want to get over-awed by it. "I wanted to be as focused as I could to do what I had to do.

"Once the siren had sounded, I tried to take it in a little bit, walk around and take in the crowd and the atmosphere."

With Pavlich and McPharlin nearing the end of their careers, Fremantle fans will surely hope they will be cheering this promising talent for years to come. 

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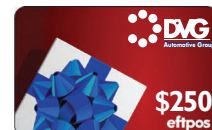
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LIVE THE DREAM 2015



ALL OF THE DREAMERS



Presented by



STORY » JOHN DOBSON

It was a busy five days for the 16 participants in the 2015 Live the Dream program, presented by Decmil, but it was an experience they will never forget.

The program offered a rare opportunity for young people to develop skills and behaviours, which can deliver long-term benefits to the individual and their community.

Fremantle players Michael Walters, Tommy Sheridan, Hayden

Crozier, Nick Suban, Chris Mayne, Michael Johnson, Danyle Pearce and Zac Clarke were mentors to the group during the program.

Walters said the program would have plenty of positive long-term benefits for each individual.

"It's been a great achievement for these young people to take part in this program," he said.

"I've been part of the program for two years and I hope it continues."

Participant Kelsey Giles, from Thornlie, said the group had learned a lot of skills and behaviours during the program that they would use for the rest of their lives.

"Thanks to Decmil and the Fremantle Dockers for running this program," she said.


"We are so lucky to get this once in a lifetime opportunity."

Decmil general manager of construction and engineering west

Tony Radalj said the company was proud to present Live the Dream.

"Live the Dream is a great opportunity to get people engaged in football," he said.

"We've been fortunate to work with Fremantle for four to five years and it is good to be part of this program again.

"I hope you learn a lot of life skills and take that back to whatever town, community or club you're from." 



LIVING THE DREAM: 2015
Live the Dream participants,
mentors and support staff



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): Nick Suban with Kelsey Giles; living the dream at the Point Walter high ropes course; Michael Walters with Kenneth Bedford-Hills.



2015 HOME & AWAY REVIEW

A round-by-round look at how Fremantle cemented its first ever minor premiership.

ROUND 9

v ADELAIDE

Saturday 30 May, 7.10pm

Adelaide Oval

45,518

FREMANTLE

3.1 4.3 9.4 10.8 **(68)**

ADELAIDE

3.4 4.9 7.12 7.15 **(57)**

OVERVIEW

Fremantle continued its perfect start to the season winning a close game away from home. Aaron Sandilands led the way with a record breaking 69 hit-outs while Nat Fyfe finished with 40 disposals.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Walters 3
DISPOSALS: Fyfe 40
MARKS: Ibbotson, McPharlin 6
TACKLES: Suban, Ballantyne 7
SUBBED IN: Sheridan
SUBBED OUT: Taberner



ROUND 10

v RICHMOND

Friday 5 June, 6.10pm

Domain Stadium

38,109

FREMANTLE

3.1 5.2 8.5 10.10 **(70)**

RICHMOND

8.1 12.3 13.4 15.7 **(97)**

OVERVIEW

Freo was dealt its first loss of the season at the hands of the Tigers despite Aaron Sandilands breaking the AFL record for hit-outs to advantage. Lachie Neale stood up with 28 disposals, while defender Michael Johnson injured his right hamstring early in his milestone 200th game.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Walters 3
DISPOSALS: Neale 28
MARKS: Sandilands, Barlow, McPharlin 4
TACKLES: Mundy 8
SUBBED IN: Crozier
SUBBED OUT: Johnson



ROUND 11

v GOLD COAST

Saturday 13 June, 1.40pm

Metricon Stadium

8911

FREMANTLE

1.3 3.7 5.11 6.17 **(53)**

GOLD COAST

2.0 3.1 5.2 7.4 **(46)**

OVERVIEW

In a scrappy contest, Fremantle rejoined the winner's list with a nail-biting victory over Gold Coast. Nick Suban's late goal kept Freo ahead in the last minute alongside Nat Fyfe's 31 disposal, two-goal effort helping to get the team over the line.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Fyfe 2
DISPOSALS: Fyfe 31
MARKS: Ibbotson, Spurr 11
TACKLES: Neale 8
SUBBED IN: Suban
SUBBED OUT: Taberner



**ROUND 13**

v COLLINGWOOD

Thursday 25 June, 6.10pm
Domain Stadium 37,145**FREMANTLE**

3.2 7.4 9.6 12.8 (80)

COLLINGWOOD

3.4 7.6 9.6 11.7 (73)

OVERVIEW

With scores level at three-quarter time, heroic efforts from Nat Fyfe and Michael Walters lifted Freo over the line by seven points at Domain Stadium against Collingwood. Lachie Neale had another big game with 34 disposals and a goal.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Walters 4
DISPOSALS: Neale 34
MARKS: Ibbotson 9
TACKLES: Mundy, Barlow 9
SUBBED IN: Suban
SUBBED OUT: Crozier

**ROUND 14**

v BRISBANE

Sunday 5 July, 2.40pm
Domain Stadium 32,970**FREMANTLE**

3.0 5.2 6.5 13.6 (84)

BRISBANE

3.2 5.2 6.2 7.6 (48)

OVERVIEW

In wet-weather conditions Freo kicked away from a tough Brisbane Lions in the last term to give itself a two-game buffer at the top of the ladder. Michael Walters kicked four goals for the second week in a row while Matthew Pavlich returned to form with three goals.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Walters 4
DISPOSALS: Mundy 30
MARKS: Mayne, C.Pearce, Spurr, Neale 6
TACKLES: Mayne 14
SUBBED IN: de Boer
SUBBED OUT: Taberner

**ROUND 15**

v HAWTHORN

Sunday 12 July, 3.20pm
Aurora Stadium 16,792**FREMANTLE**

1.2 1.4 3.7 6.7 (43)

HAWTHORN

4.3 7.6 13.8 17.13 (115)

OVERVIEW

Fremantle was dealt its second loss for the year in Launceston following a slow start. Lachie Neale was the only goal scorer for Freo in the first half, however Michael Barlow stood up with 26 disposals and four tackles.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Pavlich, Walters, Mundy, Barlow, Neale, Mayne
DISPOSALS: Barlow 26
MARKS: McPharlin, Barlow, Pavlich, Mayne 7
TACKLES: Duffield 7
SUBBED IN: Suban
SUBBED OUT: C.Pearce





ROUND 16

v CARLTON

Saturday 18 July, 5.40pm

Domain Stadium

33,581

FREMANTLE

6.2 8.6 11.8 13.17 (95)

CARLTON

3.2 6.3 8.5 8.5 (53)

OVERVIEW

Freo returned to dominant form against Carlton at home with forward Chris Mayne equaling his career-best four-goal effort for the sixth time. Lachie Neale and David Mundy both had 30 plus possessions, however a pectoral injury to forward Hayden Ballantyne left a sour note on the win.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Mayne 4
DISPOSALS: Neale 31
MARKS: Neale, Spurr 7
TACKLES: Mundy, Mayne 9
SUBBED IN: Crozier
SUBBED OUT: Ballantyne



ROUND 17

v RICHMOND

Saturday 25 July, 4.35pm

MCG

39,777

FREMANTLE

1.4 5.6 8.9 12.10 (82)

RICHMOND

1.4 5.8 8.14 10.18 (78)

OVERVIEW

A massive 50m goal by David Mundy in the final minute gave Fremantle retribution over the Tigers at the MCG in a gripping finish. Skipper Matthew Pavlich led Freo with three goals along with big efforts from Nat Fyfe and Michael Barlow.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Pavlich 3
DISPOSALS: Mundy 28
MARKS: Mayne 9
TACKLES: Suban, Fyfe 10
SUBBED IN: de Boer
SUBBED OUT: Taberner



ROUND 18

v GWS GIANTS

Sunday 2 August, 4.35pm

Domain Stadium

34,626

FREMANTLE

4.2 6.8 10.11 12.12 (84)

GWS GIANTS

1.2 2.6 5.8 9.9 (63)

OVERVIEW

A huge game for Lachie Neale helped Fremantle secure a 21-point win over the Giants as Lachie Weller made his AFL debut. Michael Walters bagged four goals to maintain Freo's hold on the top spot.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Walters 4
DISPOSALS: Neale 38
MARKS: McPharlin 13
TACKLES: de Boer, Mzungu 7
SUBBED IN: Weller
SUBBED OUT: A.Pearce



**ROUND 19**

v ST KILDA

Sunday 9 August, 4.40pm
Etihad Stadium 16,419**FREMANTLE**

7.1 12.2 14.5 15.6 (96)

ST KILDA

2.4 2.8 3.9 8.11 (59)

OVERVIEW

Seven unanswered goals in the opening term led to a dominant display from Freo in a 37-point win at Etihad Stadium. Ruck duo Aaron Sandilands and Jonathon Griffin finished with two goals each and once again won the hit-outs 46 to 28.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Griffin, Pavlich, Mayne, Crozier, Sandilands, Hill 2
DISPOSALS: Neale 36
MARKS: Ibbotson 11
TACKLES: de Boer 9
SUBBED IN: Weller
SUBBED OUT: McPharlin

**ROUND 20**

v WEST COAST

Sunday 16 August 2.40pm
Domain Stadium 41,959**FREMANTLE**

1.3 2.6 5.10 11.14 (80)

WEST COAST

7.2 8.7 11.12 15.14 (104)

OVERVIEW

Aaron Sandilands' ruck domination wasn't enough to overcome Freo's slow start in the Carlton Draught Derby resulting in the end of their six-game derby streak. Stephen Hill, David Mundy and Nat Fyfe all gathered over 26 disposals and five tackles.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Walters 4
DISPOSALS: Hill, Mundy 28
MARKS: Spurr 8
TACKLES: de Boer, Mundy 7
SUBBED IN: Crozier
SUBBED OUT: Barlow

**ROUND 21**

v NTH MELBOURNE

Sunday 23 August 1.10pm
Etihad Stadium 23,857**FREMANTLE**

7.2 8.6 10.8 12.11 (83)

NORTH MELBOURNE

3.2 6.5 9.8 14.10 (94)

OVERVIEW

Fremantle lost back-to-back for the first time this season despite leading until three quarter time. A seven-goal first term was not enough to quell the Kangaroos. Neale continued his stunning season with 29 touches.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Sandilands, Griffin, Walters 2
DISPOSALS: Neale 29
MARKS: Spurr 9
TACKLES: Fyfe 7
SUBBED IN: de Boer
SUBBED OUT: Sheridan





2015 TOYOTA AFL PREMIERSHIP SEASON LADDER

Pos	Club	P	W	L	D	F	A	%	Pts
1	Fremantle	22	17	5	0	1857	1564	118.7	68
2	West Coast Eagles	22	16	5	1	2330	1572	148.2	66
3	Hawthorn	22	16	6	0	2452	1548	158.4	64
4	Sydney Swans	22	16	6	0	2006	1578	127.1	64
5	Richmond	22	15	7	0	1930	1568	123.1	60
6	Western Bulldogs	22	14	8	0	2101	1825	115.1	56
7	Adelaide Crows	21	13	8	0	2107	1821	115.7	54
8	North Melbourne	22	13	9	0	2062	1937	106.5	52
9	Port Adelaide	22	12	10	0	2002	1874	106.8	48
10	Geelong Cats	21	11	9	1	1853	1833	101.1	48
11	GWS Giants	22	11	11	0	1872	1891	99	44
12	Collingwood	22	10	12	0	1972	1856	106.3	40
13	Melbourne	22	7	15	0	1573	2044	77	28
14	St Kilda	22	6	15	1	1695	2162	78.4	26
15	Essendon	22	6	16	0	1580	2134	74	24
16	Gold Coast Suns	22	4	17	1	1633	2240	72.9	18
17	Brisbane Lions	22	4	18	0	1557	2306	67.5	16
18	Carlton	22	4	18	0	1525	2354	64.8	16

KEY: Played (P) Won (W) Lost (L) Drawn (D) Points For (F) Points Against (A) Percentage (%) Points (Pts)

*The round 14 Adelaide-Geelong match was cancelled by the AFL after the death of Crows coach Phil Walsh. Both clubs received two points, with no change to their percentages.

ROUND 22

v MELBOURNE

Sunday 30 August 2.40pm

Domain Stadium

33,529

FREMANTLE

5.1 11.3 14.5 17.6 (108)

MELBOURNE

0.1 4.2 6.5 8.6 (54)

OVERVIEW

Fremantle thanked its members in emphatic style with a 54-point win over Melbourne. An 11 goal first half setup the win with Danyle Pearce (3) and Matthew Pavlich (3) among the goal scorers. Ed Langdon also impressed in his debut with 18 touches.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Pavlich, D.Pearce 3

DISPOSALS: Mundy 35

MARKS: Johnson, Spurr, McPharlin 11

TACKLES: de Boer 9

SUBBED IN: Duffield

SUBBED OUT: Pavlich



ROUND 23

v PORT ADELAIDE

Saturday 5 September 3.20pm

Adelaide Oval

38,633

FREMANTLE

4.4 4.4 7.4 8.5 (53)

PORT ADELAIDE

1.3 9.4 13.8 18.14 (122)

OVERVIEW

An understrength Fremantle was over-run by Port in what was a debut match for youngsters Connor Blakely, Jacob Ballard, Brady Grey and Ethan Hughes. Zac Dawson's pre-match withdrawal with groin soreness took the total Fremantle changes to 12 as players were rested leading into finals.

KEY STATS

GOALS: Taberner 2

DISPOSALS: Barlow 35

MARKS: Smith, Hughes 8

TACKLES: Barlow 7

SUBBED IN: Ballard

SUBBED OUT: Neale





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Welcome to the PURPLE PATCH

*Fantastic
photos from
Fremantle
fans!*



PLUTO'S A DOCKER TOO!

My Dad and I were in Japan recently and visited Disneyland. We thought it was only right to sign up Pluto as a Freo supporter! Although he didn't say much, we knew he loved the scarf.

ELIZA GAUCI
ATTADALE



WAX WORKS

I met up with the fastest man in the world, Usain Bolt, at Madame Tussaud's in London recently for some sporting inspiration. He said he's really impressed with Freo's form this year and says we can go all the way.

HAMISH MATTHEWS
APPLECROSS



MEMORABLE MORNING

Residents from the Gracehaven aged care facility in Rockingham headed to Fremantle Oval to watch a training session in August. The morning was a memorable one for the ladies and gentlemen, who also got photos and autographs with the players after training. Two ladies in particular thought they may be able to match it with the boys!

ZOE JORDAN
ROCKINGHAM





FROSTY THE FREEMAN

We have just returned from our three-month trip around Australia where we proudly wore our Freo Dockers gear everywhere. During our time in Thredbo our kids, Cadence and Emerson, got creative in the snow!

Laurie Lord
DunCraig



FIRST WORD FYFE?

My son Finn Ledger was born on the 16th of April this year and this photo was taken when he was four days old. We think his first words will be Mum, Dad, Nat or Fyfe.

Tim Ledger
Guildford



PURPLE PRINCESS

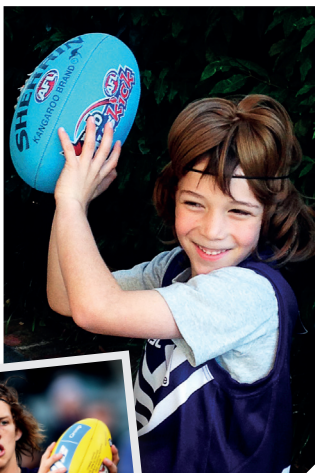
This is our little girl Indi, as you can see she loves wearing her purple tutu and Freo gear. She is looking forward to experiencing her first finals series this year.

Jodie Miller
Perth

IN THE THICK OF IT

I am an avid Freo Dockers supporter and earlier this year I went on a holiday to Japan. This photo was taken in Shibuya, at the busiest intersection in the world.

Clancy Atkins
East Fremantle



DOCKER DOPPELGÄNGER

My six-year-old son Nicolas had his Auskick 'dress as your favourite player' day recently and here he is as his hero, Nat Fyfe. He loves Freo and especially loves Nat Fyfe. We even had trouble getting the wig off him!

Bronwyn Phillips
Canterbury

POSTAL
2015

*Wish you were here! Send your photos to
purplepatch@fremantlefc.com.au*



AIR MAIL



hi kids,

It's an exciting time of the year. I love it when Freo are in the finals! It's been an awesome season and I've loved seeing so many junior fans at Domain Stadium for Freo's home games.

If your footy season is almost finished don't forget to keep training hard over the off-season to keep yourself fit and healthy. Make sure you try and have a footy in your hand as often as possible, so you can keep your skills up during the finals!

Jenny and I are looking forward to seeing you all again next year!

Catch you on the flip side!

JOHNNY
'THE DOC'



SPOT THE
difference



ANSWERS: Purple football; Tattoo on Pavlich's right arm; Top Pavlich's left sock all purple; Mayne's number changed to 28; logo on Mayne's right boot different colour.

FREO french toast

Get prepared for Freo's finals by starting your day off with this yummy French toast! Make sure you have an adult helping you while cooking



INGREDIENTS

- 3 slices of bread
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup (60ml) milk

PROCESS

- 1 In a large bowl, whisk the egg and milk until well combined. Pre-heat a non-stick frypan to medium-high heat.
- 2 Dip each slice of bread in the the beaten egg until coated on both sides and put into the frypan.
- 3 Cook for 2-3 minutes each side until golden and it separates easily from the frypan.
- 4 If the bread is sticking to the pan, cook a bit longer.
- 5 You can add berries, bananas or maple syrup for some extra delicious French toast.

WHO AM I?



I grew up in **Midvale** and lived in the same street as Nic Naitanui and Chris Yarran. I'm a fiery **small forward** and my **goal celebrations** are always exciting.



I was drafted from **South Australia** and played in the SANFL for the **Glenelg Tigers**. I debuted in round 4, 2012 v St Kilda.



My hometown is **Ulverstone**, Tasmania. If I wasn't playing AFL I would be playing **cricket**. I live with my teammate, **Brady Grey**.



I was picked up by Freo in the 2009 **Rookie Draft**. I **broke my leg** in round 14, 2010. I'm not one of the fastest players in the team, but I still find plenty of the ball in the Freo **midfield**.

ANSWERS: 1. Michael Walters; 2. Lachie Neale; 3. Alex Pearce; 4. Michael Barlow

GATORADE showers

There has been plenty to celebrate during the season but it's always exciting to see a Gatorade shower in the changerooms post match.

Here are the best shots from this year's milestones.



Nat Fyfe played his 100th game in round 8 v North Melbourne



Alex Pearce debuted in round 6 v Essendon



Lachie Weller debuted in round 18 v GWS

STAY UP TO DATE #FORTHEFINALS

As we take part in our fourth consecutive AFL Finals Series, make sure you stay connected with the club to receive all ticketing and event information as it comes to hand.



Ways to stay connected:

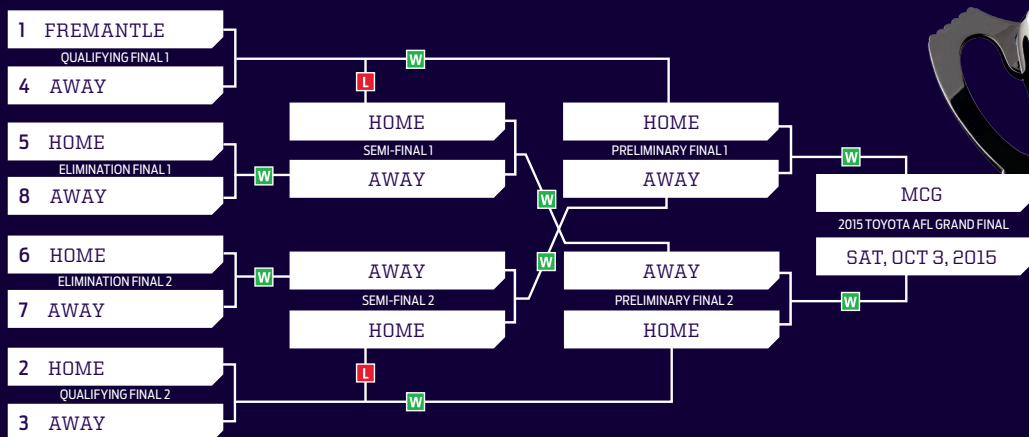
Visit the club's website
www.fremantlefc.com.au

« Download the **Freo Dockers App**
from the App Store or Google Play

Follow the club on social media
@freodockers #forthefinals



Road to the 2015 Toyota AFL Grand Final



AFL Grand Final Ticketing Registration Process

In the event that Fremantle are one of the four teams that make it through to a Preliminary Final, a Grand Final registration process will be launched once qualification is confirmed. The club will directly communicate the details of this process to members, with the information also available on the club's website.



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