

The following are extracts from our Members Newsletter made available to the public

Newsletter August 2011



WEBSITE

We will continue to develop our Website to ensure that it becomes compulsory reading for all members and the public, and in this respect seek assistance from all members and our readers in ensuring that this happens. All past players and officials and members of the public hear of stories concerning other past players or officials that would make interesting reading to our members and readers and we therefore encourage you to pass on any stories or anecdotes that you are aware of. This can be done by Emailing any stories to david@essendonfcpastplayers.com.au or barry@essendonfcpastplayers.com.au or by phone.

We believe that the Website opens up many opportunities for past players and officials in developing networking opportunities with our readers as well as advertising your business to other members and the public. In this regard we seek any input that you believe will help us to continue to improve our Website.

OBITUARIES

Since our last Newsletter we have unfortunately lost highly respected members:

Ed Bowen	Former Trainer
Wally May	Former Player
Alan Noonan	former Player

Our condolences have been passed on to their families.

“WHERE ARE THEY NOW?”

Name: Geoff Burdett

Years played	1976-1978 & 1981
Games played	37
Numbers worn	45, 15 & 7
Debut number	834
Recruited from	Hopetoun
Now lives in	Horsham

What did you do, football wise, following your playing days with Essendon?

I went back to the farm at Hopetoun and coached Warracknabeal in 1979 and 1983-1986, Birchip 1987-1988 and also coached the Mallee Football League, North Central Football League for several years. I finished playing in 1998 at 42 years old after playing in 20 Grand Finals for 13 Premierships throughout my career.

What job/jobs did you pursue following your playing days, including what you are doing currently?
Farmer until 1998 and now work for AFL Victoria as the Wimmera Region Development Manager. I look after all the junior football and schools throughout the Wimmera Region

Have you suffered with any post football injuries and have any required surgery?
During my playing career I had ankle trouble and had any operation in 1991 and had no trouble since. I have the usual back problems from farming and football.

Do you have any ongoing medical problems?
I do not have any major problems apart from the occasional back ache.

What are your thoughts on the modern game, and how would you change any of the areas that you don't like"
I think the fitness and skill (most of the time) are great. The tackling is good due to stronger bodies from gym work. I still cannot work out why kicking for goal has not improved, but I assume PRESSURE plays a big part. It is hard for a backman now due to the contact being made harder each year with rule changes.

Do you have any special anecdotes from your playing time to pass onto other past players?

The St Kilda blood bath down at Moorabbin in 1978 with Carl Ditterich running on a rampage. Ron Andrews and Stewie Gull punching toe to toe, unfortunately Ron came off second best at Windy Hill. Paul Vander Haar and Peter Knights going head to head at Windy Hill taking screamer marks over each other.

Who were your mates in your playing days with Essendon, do you keep in touch?
Max Crow, Ron Andrews, Terry Daniher, Ken Fletcher, Ken Roberts, Robert Shaw, Kevin Sheedy, Barry Davis and Neil Besanko. Due to living in Horsham it is always hard to catch up with the guys, but it is good when functions are on to take the opportunity to catch up.

Who were the players you most admired in your playing days at Essendon?

For Essendon: Terry Daniher, Simon Madden, Ron Andrews, Tim Watson.

Other teams: Robert Flower, Peter Knights, Leigh Matthews, Gary Wilson.

Do you have any comments that you would like to pass on about your time at Essendon?
Essendon is a great club who look after their past players. In our era we would have paid to play because of the honour of representing the jumper, now because of the big money and full time, it is a job that perhaps some players take for granted. An average AFL career is about 35 games so make the most of your opportunities and put in the hard work. You only get out what you put in.

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Name: Jim Forsyth

Years played 1963-1967

Games played 29

Number worn 27

Debut number 734

Recruited from Thorpdale

Following Essendon played with West Torrens and won a place in the State team.

Now lives in Naracan

What did you do, football wise, following your playing days with Essendon?

1968 Joined West Torrens in Adelaide for 3 years under coach John Birt.

1971 Joined Yarrawonga for 2 years under coach Ken Fraser.

1973 Joined Drouin as coach for 4 years.

1977 Joined Trafalgar as coach for 1 year.

1984 Joined Thorpdale as coach for 3 years, Premiers 1985.

What job/jobs did you pursue following your playing days, including what you are doing currently?

Beaurepairs Adelaide 3 years, Farmers Co-Op Yarrawonga 2 years, Joined livestock firm from 1972 for 37 years.

Are you still working? No

Now retired, 2 years on farm at Thorpdale

Have you suffered with any post football injuries and have any required surgery?

No

Do you have any ongoing medical problems?

Diabetes.

What are your thoughts on the modern game, and how would you change any of the areas that you don't like?

Don't like the flooding. Wish they would kick it longer into the forward zone.

Who were your mates in your playing days with Essendon, do you keep in touch?

Noel Raitt, Bluey Shelton, Max Byers. Yes I keep in touch.

Who were the players you most admired in your playing days at Essendon?

For Essendon: Bluey Shelton, Ken Fraser, Hugh Mitchell

Other teams: Polly Farmer

Do you have any comments that you would like to pass on about your time at Essendon?

I had 5 good years at the club under John Coleman.

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Name: Stuart Barclay

Years played 1969-1973

Games played 38

Numbers worn 42 & 37

Debut number 769

Recruited from Gisborne
Now lives in Tewantin Queensland

What did you do, football wise, following your playing days with Essendon?

Player/coach City South in NTFA Tasmania 1974-1977. Premiership 1974
Coached Tassie Team in Australian Carnival 1974 (Represented Tassie in other State Team).
Played for Windsor Zillmere Queensland 1978-1981 (Premiers 1981 under Frank Gumbleton ex North Melbourne).
Represented Queensland in State Teams

What job/jobs did you pursue following your playing days, including what you are doing currently?

Last 20 years of my working life as Queensland Manager of Caroma Industries (GWA) and Key Plastics (Formerly Crane group, now Fletcher Building)

Are you still working? No

Renovating retirement home.

Have you suffered with any post football injuries and have any required surgery?

Unfortunately yes. Most recent, spinal fusion. Ongoing problems with hips, unrepaired breaks (wrist) and ACL injury.

Do you have any ongoing medical problems?

No health problems as such just aches and pains related to the wear and tear of AFL footy.

What are your thoughts on the modern game, and how would you change any of the areas that you don't like?

The game has become so fast it can be spectacular but it has lost some of the great aerial contests.

I was always taught that if you are in first and hard at the ball you will be protected, unfortunately there is no great reward any more. In a high percentage of cases if you get the ball first and then "jumped on" by the opposition you are penalized for "holding". I think it should be looked at along with some of the other soft free kicks where a player is not disadvantaged at all.

Do you have any special anecdotes from your playing time to pass onto other past players?

You may remember some of these highlights:

Waddling laps (like a duck) after a defeat. Thanks Tuddy!

Pre season training running through the Dandenongs in 40 degree + temperature.

Running 10k's in the "soft sand" at Summer Training Camp at HMS Cerberus.

'All good fun'.

Who were your mates in your playing days with Essendon, do you keep in touch?

Sandy Talbot, Barry Grinter. I caught up with Sandy at a recent reunion and had regular contact with Barry in Queensland until he moved back to Victoria.

Who were the players you most admired in your playing days at Essendon?

For Essendon: Barry Davis & Alan Noonan

Other teams: Brent Crosswell, Royce Hart, Peter Hudson & Alex Jesaulenko

Do you have any comments that you would like to pass on about your time at Essendon?

I had a great time at the Bombers from U19's to the Senior Team. Given my time again I would have believed in myself a bit more and made a bigger commitment to the club, however you can't turn back the clock.

A CENTURION IN OUR MIDSTS.

Back in March we received a copy of correspondence received by the EFC in respect to a long time supporter of the club who was soon to turn 100 years of age. The daughter of the gentleman turning 100 had sought the assistance from the club in having some current day players or coaches attending his birthday function on Sunday 15th May, however as the team was playing in Brisbane on that weekend it was not possible to supply current players, so our Association agreed to supply two past players for the day. As it turned out, due to the large number of people attending the function, they asked if it were possible to drop in and see him on his actual birthday, being Monday 16th May.

The gentleman in question is Fred Hosking and in his daughters letter to the club, she indicated that Fred had been a top sportsman. Following further enquiry, apart from being champion of his golf club on seven occasions, playing off 1, and also a long time member of the Torquay Life Saving Club, actually played two games with the Essendon Reserves in 1928. Fred was also a top musician and used to play in the IMT band during Graham Kennedy's time and would you believe, still teaches music.

Darryl Gerlach and Barry Capuano called in to see Fred and members of his family and friends on his birthday, and decided to make Fred an Honorary member of our Association and presented him with an Association polo shirt, shown off proudly in the photograph.

We found Fred to be a very lucid and bright personality and he told us the following story, which we believe is hilarious:

Due to his failing eyesight, Fred had said to his golf club when he was 94, that he would have to give up playing as he was having great difficulty in seeing where his ball had landed. The club suggested that they could pair Fred up with another member who was in fact older than Fred, but had great eyesight, which Fred agreed to. On the first tee off on his first round with his new partner, Fred hit the ball and said to his partner, "Did you see where that went?" and received the answer of "Yes". When they proceeded to walk down the fairway, Fred asked his partner where the ball had gone, and got the answer, "I forget".

Fred is a real character and we are glad to have him on board as an Honorary Member.



Fred Hosking in his Association Polo Shirt on his 100th birthday.

MILESTONES & ACHIEVEMENTS

The following members have achieved significant age milestones between 1st May and 31st August:

50 years of age

Tim Watson
 Paul Weston
 Graeme Beissel (70)
 Ted Fordham (71)
 Geoff Gosper (71)
 Doug Philipson (71)
 Ken Timms (73)
 Jim Matthews (74)
 Fred Lynch (75)
 Ian Whitford (75)
 Kevin Parks (76)
 Reg Burgess (77)
 Frank Driscoll (77)
 Ron Okey (77)
 James McColl (78)
 Greg Sewell (78)
 Graham Willey (78)
 Robert Taylor (80)
 Lance Mann (81)
 Bob Suter (83)
 Jack Symons (87)
 Ted Leehane (88)

70 years of age plus

80 years of age plus

Milton Clark (89)

Harold Lambert (89)

Congratulations to you all and best wishes for many more milestones.

Harold Lambert is our oldest living senior player, closely followed by Milton Clark.

FACTS, FIGURES & OTHER TRIVIA

In 1875 Essendon changed the design of their jersey. The early colors had been red and black stripes but now the club adopted the black jersey with a red sash coming over the left shoulder and red and black hose. Little wonder the club is not too keen on an alternate club jumper.

In 1894 Essendon won their fourth Association Premiership in a row, losing the last game of the year to Geelong, being their first loss since the ninth of July, 1892

It was not until 1906 that the first Victorian Football League “Coach” was appointed, being Jack Worrall by Carlton. He later became Coach at Essendon in 1911 until 1919, during which time the team won the Premiership in 1911 and 1912.

On the Kings Birthday in June 1938, Essendon easily defeated St Kilda by 46 points, the game, only the second ever to have been played, was played in the morning as an experiment as both clubs were traveling interstate in the afternoon (No explanation given as to why they were traveling interstate).

1942 was a great year for Essendon as they not only won the Premiership, it was Bill Hutchison’s first year. Geelong did not field a side in that year due to war-time travel restrictions which created a bye each round. The Grand Final that year was held at Carlton, again due to war-time restrictions before a crowd of 49,000. The Brownlow Medal was not awarded in 1942 and was not reintroduced until 1946. Ted Leehane is the only living member of that Premiership Team.

In 1953 fans paid twenty two shillings and sixpence for a membership ticket. The membership that year totaled 7,904 members, of which 5,952 were adults and 1,952 were juniors.

The 1967 season started off sensationally, as after losing the first two games, club champions, Jack Clarke with 263 games played and Hugh Mitchell with 224 games played, were left out of the side. Both players then retired.

Essendon’s lowest score in a game of 0.9 occurred in 1899 against Fitzroy, who scored 6.11.

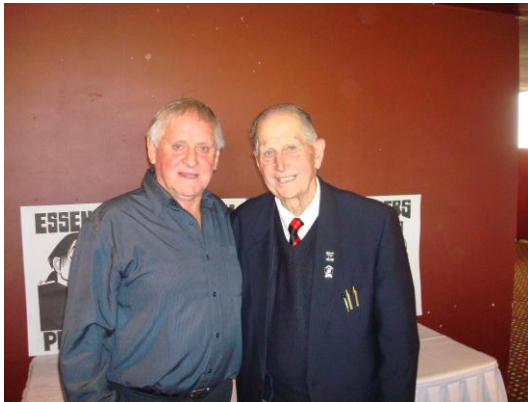
The lowest score kicked against Essendon was 0.3 by St Kilda in 1897, Essendon kicking 13.12.

Three Essendon players have kicked 12 or more goals in a game, namely Ted Freyer, 12 in 1935, Fred Gallagher, 12 in 1957, and the great John Coleman, 12 in 1949 (his first game), 13 twice in 1952 and 14 in 1954, the year he unfortunately damaged his knee and never played again. In the six games he played in 1954 he kicked 42 goals.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIVING 1940'S PREMIERSHIP PLAYERS

On Sunday the 24th July, we ran a luncheon to pay Tribute to the living 1940's Premiership players at the Windy Hill Function Centre. Of the six only living players, four, namely, Noel Allanson, George Hassell, Jack Jones and Harold Lambert, attended, with apologies from Ted Leehane and Les Gardiner.

The day was a great success, and those who attended had the benefit of not only meeting and hearing from these past champions, but of hearing from our guest speaker, former player and now State Minister for Sport, Recreation and Veteran Affairs, Hugh Delahunty and witnessing the presentation of Life Membership Medallions to Emil Eugene and Colin Hooper.



Life Memberships were presented to

Colin Hooper & Emil Eugene



Our 1940's Premiership Players

**Noel Allanson, Jack Jones,
Harold Lambert & George Hassell**

THE COLLINS STREET DONS

This group was formed a few years ago from Essendon supporters who are also members of the Athaneum Club in Collins Street, Melbourne, and run luncheons on a number of occasions during each season. At these luncheons various senior staff and officials and past players of the EFC are invited to talk at the luncheon to give an insight in to how the club operates and these functions have not only become excellent events but are very informative.

The group sponsor two current Essendon players, namely Tate Pears and Michael Hurley, both of whom were present at the last luncheon, held on the 29th June. Both players spoke at the function and were great representatives of the club as their communication skills were excellent.



Tate Pears and CSD Member Aaron Dunn

MEMORABILIA REQUIRED

As part of the continued development of our Association, we are seeking old photographs of individual players, team photographs and any other sort of player memorabilia including playing cards and caricatures to enable us to develop a library for two purposes. One, to enable us to show images on our Website, and two, to give opportunities to other past players to obtain copies of these images for their own collections.

If you are able to assist with any memorabilia, please contact Barry Capuano or David Collins.

THE EFC FLIGHT PLAN

The launch of the fund raising activities for the new facility will be held at Tenex Defence-Aerospace, Melbourne Airport, Cargo Road, Tullamarine, Melway Page 5 D9. A media briefing will occur at 14.15 and all are welcome to attend.