



HONOURING  
THE PAST

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018





## MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

In the Club's 160th year, the Honouring the Past Management Committee has continued to play a key part in respecting the Club's people and showcasing its memorabilia collection. From events that engage with our people to establishing our stories into the digital realm, we have celebrated our Club's long history.

As we continued to add names to the Club's Every Player Honour Board, a new board was inaugurated. We honoured the VFLW pioneer players setting the foundation for the Club's 2019 AFLW debutants.

Pressing new Hall of Fame medals was the impetus to bring our awards into one place at the Hall of Fame Dinner; a special evening to honour those who have helped make the Club the sporting institution that it is today. Again we congratulate our 2018 award winners: RJ Hickey Award – Brian Cook, new Life Members Colin Carter, Malcolm Blight and James Rahilly, Hall of Famers Max Rooke and Brad Ottens and our 25th Legend Teddy Rankin.

Engaging our community with the Club's history has also been a key part of the year. The History Society events are growing in popularity, with our final event of the year,

The Rankin Dynasty, the biggest one yet. The history component of the Club's website has also grown, with the addition of 12 pages covering various aspects of the Club's history and players.

Other highlights include our very first new staff and player induction tour, where guests were treated to stories and historical facts from Club gems historian Col Hutchinson and past player Eric Nicholls.

As 2019 approaches we also consider the exciting opportunity to celebrate the Club's 160th anniversary on the 18th of July. We are the second oldest professional football club in the world and we have a very long and proud history. Next year we have the extraordinary chance to honour and further celebrate the Geelong Cats' legacy

**Bob Gartland**  
Honouring the Past Management Committee Chair  
Vice President

## NOTE FROM HARRY TAYLOR

*Current Player, Honouring the Past Management Committee Member*

It is a privilege to be part of our Club's commitment to honouring and celebrating its history. An organisation's past is a great way to connect people together. In the locker room we are reminded of the legacy of current and past players with the Life Member medallions added to our lockers this year. This serves as a great talking point

with new players, demonstrating how their commitment to the Club and its history may be rewarded. While we strive to be the greatest team of all, we still recognise the importance of our past and all of those who have shaped that history.

## OUR AIMS

The Honouring the Past unit acts to preserve and promote the Club's history and to honour and connect to the groups and individuals who have collectively made the Club the sporting institution that it is today.

These aims are broken into two strategic components:

- 1. Connection with our people**
- 2. Preserve and promote**

## CONNECTION WITH OUR PEOPLE

The Club has a responsibility to recognise and respect our people. It is our duty to celebrate the contribution of each and every person that has contributed to the success of the Geelong Cats acknowledging their achievements and their role in the story of our Club and the game of Australian Rules Football.

### 1. Geelong Cats History Society

- The History Society hosted two successful events in 2018. In May, we celebrated the 90th anniversary of the Clubs 1878 premiership year. Special guests included author John Harms, and players Harry Taylor and Tim Kelly. At the second event, in recognition of the induction of Teddy Rankin as the Club's 25th legend, we discovered the Rankin Dynasty and the legacy of the Family at the Club.
- Facts and Figures**  
We have 193 History Society members. 20 signed up in 2018.
- Membership to the History Society is free and includes a quarterly newsletter and two events per year. To join, email [honouringthepast@geelongcats.com.au](mailto:honouringthepast@geelongcats.com.au).

### 2. Meaningful association with our past players

- We kicked off the year with successful Past Players BBQ. This event welcomed past players and their families with a mini footy clinic with current players Gary Ablett, Jed Bews, Sam Simpson, Kate Darby and Elise Coventry.
- Facts and Figures**  
Past Players Database:  
We have 443 living past players

### 3. Strong working relationship with the Past Players and Officials Association

- General Manager Community Development Sarah Albon and Honouring the Past Coordinator Caroline Stok attended the Past Players and Officials Association monthly meetings in an ex-officio capacity.
- It was a pleasure to host 10 past players and their young children to form the Guard of Honour at Retro Round Cats vs Roos, 9 June.
- The Club worked with the Past Players and Officials Association to host match day functions each home match in the Past Player Rooms at GMHBA Stadium.
- For the first time Life Members who are past players received a personalized life membership card as part of the membership pack.
- New Life Members Malcolm Blight, Colin Carter and James Rahilly were welcomed at the Hall of Fame dinner in August.

### 5. Management of Club and AFL recognition award recommendations

- The Life Members Dinner of previous years transformed to become the Hall of Fame dinner, where the new Life Members were named alongside the induction of two Hall of Famers Brad Ottens and Max Rooke, Club Legend Teddy Rankin, and presentation of the RJ Hickey Award to Brian Cook. The Events Team led by Carly Flakemore organised a lovely evening, hosting 312 guests, including current players (and Life Members) Harry Taylor and Tom Hawkins.

## PRESERVE AND PROMOTE

Over the years the Club has acquired an ever increasing collection of over 4000 objects relating to the history of the Geelong Football Club. The purpose is to acquire a comprehensive and all-encompassing collection of Club-related memorabilia/objects in order to illustrate, via exhibitions and digitally, "our story" and the stories of our people.

### 1. Build internal and external awareness of the value the Club places on its history

- It was a busy year with a number of projects and events to showcase the Club's history and memorabilia collections to both our people and community.
- Moments at GMHBA Stadium, Brownlow Stand Concourse, unveiled at home games 2018
- VFLW Pioneer Board, unveiled May 2018
- Carji Best & Fairest installation, Level 3 Brownlow Stand, June 2018
- Upload of Graham Evan's 1998-2017 Scrapbooks online, June 2018.
- New Staff and Player Honouring the Past Induction Tour, 7 June 2018
- Gartland Heritage Centre Open Afternoon, 10 July 2018
- Temporary Memorabilia installation, outer corridor Premiership-Brownlow Stands, August 2018
- Moments Wall installation, a pictorial GFC history, featuring Bob Gartland's Heritage Collection, August 2018
- Festival of Sport, Gartland Heritage Collection Exhibition, 6 September 2018
- Festival of Sport Cats History Tours, 6 September 2018
- Signed Memorandum of Understanding with Trove and Victorian Collections so that the Cats memorabilia collection will now appear on online.
- Updated GFC History on the Cats website [geelongcats.com.au/club/history](http://geelongcats.com.au/club/history)
- Keep your eye on Cats Facebook and Instagram for quirky history facts
- Gartland Heritage Centre is open every Monday from 3.30-5pm

### 2. The history of the Club is collected, recorded, preserved, displayed and managed in accordance with museums best practice

- A scheduled valuation of the Club's memorabilia collection was conducted in March 2018, this provided accurate records about the collection and for insurance purposes.
- Over 100 items catalogued and digitised.
- A number of items were added to the collection, including:
  - Gary Ablett Jnr 2018 200th match guernsey
  - Gold watch was presented to Jack Conway on the occasion of his marriage, 1898



### 3. An interesting, informative and relevant exhibition program

- The Gartland Heritage Centre featured some new and updated displays:
  - Indigenous Round, added 2018 gifts
  - 1878 to celebrate 1878 History Society May event
  - 2018 milestone guernseys
- Visitor numbers to GHC (8978 to 28/10/18)
- Two fascinating portraits were on display during the AFL season, on loan from the artists: Lisa Wang's Archibald entry portrait of Doug Wade, and Lana McLean's portrait of Barry Stoneham.

## OUR PEOPLE

In late 2017 we welcomed Caroline Stok as the new Honouring the Past Coordinator. We thank our incredible Collections Support Assistant Jane Guthrey for her tireless and beautiful work.

The team welcomed a new volunteer Sandra McCall early in the year as well as James Firipis as part of his workplace experience for the SEDA program. Special thanks our volunteers for their valuable contributions:

- James Firipis, SEDA student
- Sandra McCall, Volunteer
- Jeanie Morgan, Volunteer
- Ron Morgan, Volunteer
- Maria Pitaro, Volunteer
- Judy Williams, Volunteer

We also extend our thanks to the Honouring the Past Management Committee Bob Gartland (Chair), Kevin Diggerson, Col Hutchinson, Stephen Wells, Eric Nicholls, Harry Taylor, Carly Flakemore, Sarah Albon & Caroline Stok.

## GEELONG CATS HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Sincere thanks to all those who have given to our Heritage Foundation. This money supports the management and promotion of the Cats Memorabilia Collection, safeguarding the treasures for future generations.

### OUR AMBITION

Our Ambition is embedded in the core values and mission of our Club.

To be the greatest team of all; a Club people can be proud of because of how we play the game, live our values, conduct business and engage with the community.

Our Ambition is the philanthropic heart of our great Club and provides an ongoing invitation to members, sponsors, supporters and the wider community to invest and partner to support our past, present and future.

#### OUR PAST HERITAGE

Ensuring our rich history is honoured and celebrated.

#### OUR PRESENT COMMUNITY

Being a leader and giving back to our community

#### OUR FUTURE FOOTBALL

Developing the best talent and facilities

If you would like to know more or would like to contribute please email Eva George [egeorge@geelongcats.com.au](mailto:egeorge@geelongcats.com.au)



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