



# FITZROY-BRISBANE LIONS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## MUSEUM

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
EDITION 3: JANUARY 2015

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATED FITZROY'S BEST & FAIREST WINNERS ON 21 AUGUST 2014



Matthew Rendell and Geoff Lord



Warwick Irwin and Lorraine Duncan



Garry Wilson and Peter McGregor



Ivan Smith and Norm Brown



Brad Boyd and Jacinta Galanos



Alastair Lynch



Darren Kappler and John Dall'Amico



Don Furness' niece Courtney and Adrian Stin



Arthur Wilson and George Coates Memorial Award Winner Len Cox



Fred Hughson Jr and Kevin Wise



Harvey Merrigan

Our sincerest thanks and appreciation to **HAPPY MEDIUM PHOTO** for their kind donation of photographs that appear on the front and back pages of this Annual Report that were taken at our Best and Fairest function at Moonlight Receptions on Thursday 21st August 2014. All photos taken on the night are on their website, and viewing/ordering of these can be made by visiting [www.happymedium.com.au](http://www.happymedium.com.au) Simply click "view your photos" and then type in the Access Code bl2108  
**HAPPY MEDIUM PHOTO - 03 9421 5668**



Bill Lane and Irene Smith

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



The 16th of February was a very sad day for me, with the passing of a very loyal friend and mate in George Coates.

Our friendship started some 50 years ago at the Fitzroy Football Club, and we spent many happy times together working within the Club, recruiting in our metro and country zones in the Hampden League and interstate, and working on the various committees. There was no better friend than George Coates.

I would like to thank all members who have supported our Historical Society and attended our functions over the years. We have a number of members from country and interstate, and others in Melbourne who are unable to attend our functions due to illness or other reasons and we have also welcomed many Past Players who have joined in the past year .

We thank you all sincerely for giving us the opportunity to inform you of coming events, and please continue to come along with your family and friends to our various functions.

The Museum Annual Dinner in August was a outstanding function, where we presented 31 Fitzroy players with a Best and Fairest Medallion. We had a sell-out crowd of over 600 people in attendance, where the passion and reception to these players from our supporters after 18 years since Fitzroy's last game was unbelievable.

We also had two functions at the Fitzroy Bowling Club - the first on the 18th June which celebrated Norm Brown and Chris Johnson's induction into the Brisbane Lions Hall of Fame (which was held in Brisbane on 21 May). Both Norm and Chris were in attendance and shared some terrific stories.

The second function was on Wednesday 16th July, and we paid tribute to the 'Miracle Match' from 1963 when Fitzroy defeated eventual premiers Geelong at Brunswick St against all odds. 11 players from that match were in attendance on the night, and it was wonderful to hear their recollections of what was one of the club's most famous wins.

To Rob Allen, Ian Crawford and Brenden Campbell, who organized these two functions, and our committee members who assisted at the bowling club, I thank you all for your support.

Rob Allen resigned as President last year, and my thanks to him for his excellent contribution over the past two years and in particular for his work in the area of membership,

where his personal efforts helped our membership figures reach well over 300. My sincerest thanks go to Doug Coldham who filled in as Chairman midway through the year.

There will be a change in the structure of the Historical Society in the future, and as my primary contact since the merger has been between the Brisbane Lions and the Historical Society, it was agreed that I be appointed to the role of Chairman and work closely with a smaller executive team made up of Ian Crawford (Vice Chairman) and Doug Coldham (Finance Director).

As well as chairing our executive meetings in 2015, my main role as Chairman will surround the management and future development of our Museum at Etihad Stadium and Ian Crawford, who has been a very capable and wonderful worker since the formation of our Society, will be responsible for our regular functions at the Fitzroy Bowling Club.

My sincerest thanks to the Brisbane Lions for their co-operation and recognition of our Society's work and congratulate those recently appointed to the Board and if possible with time permitting we look forward to your attendance to some of our Melbourne games, and to Sam Lord our Brisbane Lions Victorian Manager who has always been on hand with assistance to our Society and always represents our Club in a very professional and efficient manner.

To Bob Forrest and Brendan Campbell, our assistant custodians, who give me great support and assistance at the Museum along with our Treasurer Louise Maniatakis, and Membership Manager Judy Haley, I truly appreciate the time and effort you give to our Historical Society.

To our Committee members who assisted us during the year, firstly at the Fitzroy bowling club where we had two very good functions, and the Museum Annual Dinner where we had an outstanding function awarding Best and Fairest medallions to our Fitzroy players, our thanks go to you all for your efforts and assistance at these functions.

We thank Bill Lane, Communications Manager at Etihad Stadium, for his continued co-operation and advice in planning new displays, his friendship and support, and maintaining a wonderful venue of security for our members to enjoy.

To you our members, supporters and friends thank for your continued support of the Fitzroy- Brisbane Lions Historical Society, which has enabled us to present to you a wonderful display of history and memorabilia of the Fitzroy Football Club at Etihad Stadium and I wish you well for 2015.

**ARTHUR WILSON**  
*Historical Society Chairman*

## IN MEMORIAM



**GEORGE COATES (1923 - 2014)**

On the 16th February 2014, George Coates sadly passed away.

George served in the Air Force in World War 2 and in 1946 resumed playing football with the Fitzroy Sub District team. In 1947 he joined the Fitzroy Football Club, where he played 128 games till 1954, finished Runner-Up to Don Furness by one vote in the 1953 Best and Fairest award, represented Victoria in 1952, and played in two final series for the club in 1947 and 1952. In his first season, in the losing final against Essendon, George had an excellent game kicking 5 goals.

George retired in 1954 and then went on to coach Ajax and The State Savings Bank in the Victorian Amateur Association. He returned to Fitzroy in 1965 and was appointed to our committee under the leadership of Ern Joseph as one of the Vice-Presidents, a position he held to his retirement in 1986.

George spent most of his years on the Match Committee and for several years was the Chairman of the Match Committee. His other important role was recruiting and particularly active in our country zoning areas in the Hampden League, as well as working with Arthur Wilson in interstate recruiting.

Before George retired in 1986, he was presented with the Jack Titus award by the VFL for services to Fitzroy and VFL football. In 2001 George was appointed Chairman of the selection panel for the 2001 Team of our Century.

In 1997 at the time of the merger George and Arthur Wilson were invited by the Brisbane Lions to set-up a Committee in Melbourne where the memorabilia should stay and this committee to be responsible for the safe-keeping, repairing and re framing of this important Fitzroy memorabilia.

George and Arthur having spent over 50 years together at the club, along with the Historical Society Committee who have in the last 18 years since the merger raised the finance through membership and functions and together with a wonderful venue at Etihad Stadium. This memorabilia is now there for Fitzroy and Brisbane Lions supporters to enjoy.

Before the opening of our Museum in November 2011, George was admitted into a nursing home and on the night of the opening, was taken to the unveiling by his wife Judy in a wheelchair. He was delighted with the progress and the display of memorabilia.

Unfortunately George's health deteriorated over the next two years.

George Coates was the Godfather of our Historical Society with his managerial and extensive football experience and he was a great worker and friend to all of us as members in the building of our Historical Society, and we will always be indebted to this wonderful man who gave a lifetime of love and support to both the Fitzroy and Brisbane Lions Football clubs.

### JOHN BULLEN



John Bullen was a volunteer at the Fitzroy Football Club and worked during the 70s in the club office assisting the staff with mailouts, answering the phone and many other such tasks. In the early 80s John formed a group of businessmen to help obtain employment and jobs for our players, in particular the new recruits who arrived each year. With his contacts, this proved most successful.

When the Fitzroy- Brisbane Lions Historical Society was formed, John was a Foundation Committee member and was responsible for members lists, sending details of functions to our members, chasing up members to attend our functions, collecting money at the door, and was a great and loyal worker who played an important part in the establishment of our Historical Society. John worked with the Society till 2009 when he became ill and could not continue. He unfortunately passed away on the 3rd September 2014.

John will always be remembered by our Committee, members and players for his very professional detail to his work, and there was never any doubt about his great passion and support of his beloved Lions.

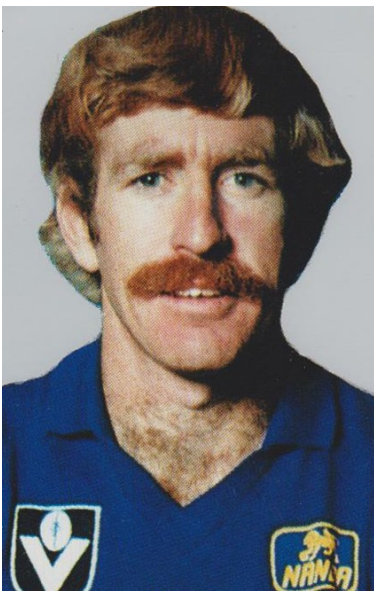
## THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND DONATIONS

During the past year we have received a range of memorabilia from our members, supporters and players, and these items have found a home in our Museum. Those of you who have visited the Museum in recent times have obviously been impressed with our displays by the number of letters and emails congratulating us on the work that has been achieved since the opening in November 2011 and we thank you for your kind correspondence.

Over the past year we have installed a large wall panel with the names of those 1,156 players who have played at least one senior game with the Fitzroy Football Club and this has created a lot of interest. We notice that many of the descendants of these players are taking photos of the names of their loved ones and the year in which they joined our Club. This year we will be installing another large cabinet where many items that have recently been donated will be included in this display.

Many players and members who had an item of memorabilia stored away in a cupboard, the garage, or hidden away somewhere, have since decided to donate or loan these to the Museum once they realised we have a safe and secure facility to house them. The Museum is under constant security surveillance and security personnel patrol the area when the room is being used.

If you have an item that you would like to donate, or if you would like to display any item on loan, we can arrange a loan form where we also cover the item with our insurance company on your behalf.



### RON ALEXANDER'S HISTORIC PENNY



The Fitzroy Football Club played their last ever VFL game against Fremantle at Subiaco on 1st September 1996, and former player Ron Alexander who played 131 games with our club from 1976 to 1981, was Captain of Fitzroy from 1979 to 1981, and won our Best and Fairest award in 1981, was at this match as a Director of the Fremantle Football Club.

Ron, who was invited to toss the coin for the start of the game, decided that he would like to honor Fitzroy by obtaining and tossing a 1944 penny in remembrance of Fitzroy's last Premiership in 1944.

Ron has since given this coin to the Historical Society and it will form part of a future display.

### SHARYN REMEMBERS THE LIONESSES

In the mid 70s at the Junction Oval, when IOOF were the club's sponsors, a group of six young girls aged 15 and 16 - along with their 21-year-old leader Glenis Watkins - were called the Yarra Valley Baton Twirlers. At the time, they were Victorian champions and runners-up in the Australian titles. They also performed for Fitzroy before the game and during the breaks in the maroon and blue uniforms.

Sharyn Smith is the girl in the front on the left and was very much a Lions supporter with her parents Barry and Jenny Smith from Yarra Glen lifelong Fitzroy members.

We are grateful to Sharyn, now living in Brisbane, who sent these photos to us recalling those days - another part of the Lions history at the Junction oval.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND DONATIONS



On behalf of the Fitzroy Football Club, company secretary Bill Atherton presented two wonderful trophies to the Historical Society at our Annual Dinner in August 2014.

These trophies include a large silver cup presented to Haydn Bunton as the 1936 Best and Fairest winner, and a large silver bowl presented to the FFC for winning the 1959 Night Premiership.

Both were discovered in a very damaged state in a factory, and they had these repaired and restored at great cost. We are very grateful to Bill and the Fitzroy committee for their kind gesture.

### GEORGE COATES MEMORIAL TROPHY



From 2001 to 2013 the Fitzroy-Brisbane Lions Historical Society presented an award to either a player, official, staff member or supporter who have given long and loyal service to either the Fitzroy Football Club and/or the Brisbane Lions and this was called the Lion Heart award.

Following the sad passing of George Coates, our Executive Committee decided that this award be renamed in memory of George and would be presented for the first time at our Best and Fairest Award function last year. George's wife Judy had great pleasure in presenting this award to former Fitzroy official, Len Cox.

Len was a life-long Fitzroy supporter and in 1971 was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Fitzroy Football Club. In 1974 he was appointed Treasurer of the club - a position he retained for 14 years till he retired in 1985.

Len gave outstanding service as Treasurer in a difficult financial period of the club's history, but enjoyed and managed some exciting times of team success in the 80s. During his time at the club, he also assisted several players with financial advice.

Following his retirement in 1985 Len and his wife Margaret joined a coterie group to assist the club financially till the merger in 1996, and since the formation of our Historical Society have continued supporting us as financially members.

Len is always in attendance at our various functions, and has even joined a unique group with his generous financial commitment as a Life Patron of the Historical Society. Our sincerest congratulations and appreciation to Len Cox for his devotion, and many years of loyal service to both the Fitzroy Football Club and the Brisbane Lions over a period of 43 years.

### GUIDED TOURS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

Tours of the Fitzroy-Brisbane Lions Historical Society Museum are available by appointment every Wednesday and Fridays throughout 2015. Tours are free for Historical Society members and \$5 for all non-members and guests, with all proceeds going back to supporting the Museum. You can also arrange a tour of the entire Etihad Stadium facility should you desire at an additional cost.

Bookings are essential, so please contact **Arthur Wilson** (on 03 9432 6213 or 0405 565 814) or **Bob Forrest** (on 03 9801 1596 or 0407 568 754) to pre-arrange your next visit.

### 2014 DONATIONS

#### **Patricia Burns**

Framed print of players selected in Fitzroy's the Team of our Century, including several player photos

#### **Bransgrove Family**

Framed picture Fitzroy Committee members

#### **Trevor and Jackie Dawson**

FFC Runners uniform. And several Fitzroy mascot items

#### **Ken Dyer**

Photos of Fitzroy's U19s 1982 Premiership Team and signed football

#### **Norma Harmes**

Framed jumper and badges of her father and Team of our Century coach. Len Smith

#### **Richard Hodgson**

Several FFC membership tickets

#### **Rick Milne**

Framed 1935 Photograph of Haydn Bunton

#### **Kevin Murray**

Framed 9 Best and Fairest medallions

#### **Tony Ongarello**

Framed Photographs of Tony kicking a place kick

#### **John Pearce**

Framed Print of Simon Black highlighting his career

#### **Bill Sykes**

Two different framed signed jumpers

#### **Bob Taylor**

Membership tickets from 1943, 1944, and 1945

#### **Brooke Taylor**

Memorabilia of Herbert (Boxer) Milne

#### **Helen Tsapatsaris**

Kevin Murray framed signed jumper

## THANK YOU FOR BEING A MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 2014

### **PATRON LIFE MEMBERS**

STEPHEN CALLAGHAN  
 SHANE CALLAGHAN  
 LEIGH CALLAGHAN  
 GEORGE COATES  
 LEN COX  
 BOB FORREST  
 PETER GARRIGA  
 KEITH HOAD  
 GEOFF LORD  
 STEVE MANIATAKIS  
 STEPHEN O'CONNOR  
 JOHN PEARCE  
 DR. ALLAN SMITH  
 ADRIAN STIN  
 MAC TOLLIDAY  
 ARTHUR WILSON  
 KEVIN WISE

Paul Abrahams	Darren Blood
Elaine Adams	Elaine Blythe
David Aisbett	Bill Blythe
Sue Aisbett	John Booth
Robert Allen	John Bowles
Ann Allen	Gavin Bransgrove
Janice Andrews	Frank Breckon
Rod Appleton	Bob Breecroft
Bill Atherton	Scott Brown
Jeff Bailey	Brian Brown
Ken Bannon	Doug Brownley
Neil Barrie	Noel Bullen
Garth Baulch	Norma Burnie
Bob Beattie	Annette Burton
Brian Beers	Michael George Butler
John Benison	Lyn Cairncross
Don Blackwood	Ian Cairncross
Anthony Blood	Kevin Callaghan

### **HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMITTEE**

**2014 Committee:** Arthur Wilson, Ian Crawford, Doug Coldham, Judy Haley, Robert Allen, Peta Phillips, Neil Russell, Mary Spencer, Brian Spencer, Renato Serafini, Ian Cairncross, Louise Maniatakis, Steve Maniatakis, Noel Nye, Brenden Campbell (Museum), Bob Forrest (Museum), Alan Hardy (Museum), Bill Blythe (Museum).

### **CONTACT US**

#### **CHAIRMAN**

Arthur Wilson  
 1/88 Nell Street  
 Greensborough VIC 3088  
 0405 565 814

#### **VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Ian Crawford  
 5/26 Parkside Street  
 Elsternwick VIC 3185  
 0419 508 309

Brenden Campbell	Robert Edgar
Tanya Canals	Ray Edwards
Lou Cannata	Victor Edwards
John Cantwell	Justin Edwards
Leigh Carlson	Bill Elms
David Carolane	Brian Emery
Brian Carroll	Glenn Equid
Peter Carter	George Ermer
William Chambers	Elaine Essing
Frank Chiodo	Brian Essing
Bill Christopher	Neal Evans
Jude Christopher	Peter Faigh
Gary Clarke	Paul Ferronato
Rosemary Clarke	Helen Fielding
Pamela Clarke	Kerryn Finlay
Doug Coldham	Mac Forrest
Colin J Coldrey	Maureen Forrest
Max Cole	Bob Forrest
Rod Connelly	John Franco
Effie Cook	Jennie Fraser
Richard Cook	Ted Frazer
Syd Cook	Ralph Fuller
Mal Corben	Leo Gardamone
Peter K Cotsopoulos	John Gardamone
Tony Coutts	Geoffrey Gargett
Margaret Cox	Pat Girolami
Jamie Craik	Paul Girolami
Ian Crawford	Carmel Girolami
Frank Anthony Crea	Maree Girolami
Justin Croft	Anne Girolami
Colin Cruse	Bernard Girolami
Trevor Dawson	Margaret Girolami
Neil Dawson	Ern Girolami
Paul De Cata	Rev Anthony Girolami
Gary Dean	Don Goodridge
Michelle Dean	Alexander Gough
Ken Delbridge	Colin Gray
Peter Delbridge	Ron Gretton
David Delbridge	Hazel Gretton
Kerrin Delbridge	Craig Griffin
Lorraine Dellow	Brian Griffiths
Mike Delves	Norma Griffiths
Carol Dew	Glenda Grigg
Tony Dew	Ken Grimley
Duke Duncan	Ian Edwin Haines
Ross Dunn	Judy Haley
Reg Durnford	Barbara Hardy
Nick Dwyer	Alan Hardy
Margaret Dwyer	Christine Harrison
John Eddy	Alan Harrison

## THANK YOU FOR BEING A MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 2014

Lindy Hartley	George Maniatakis	Brenda Potts	Ray Temple
Maureen Harvey	Jim Maniatakis	Jim Poulter	Dorothy Jean Thompson
Bernadette Harvey	Peter Maniatakis	Graeme Price	Joel Thompson
Tom Hill	Costa Maniatakis	Lance Puche	Jocelyn Thompson
Edward Hill	Michelle Maniatakis	Hilary Puche	Alan Thompson
Phillip Hill	Louise Maniatakis	Fred Reed	Ross Thornton
Norma Hislop	Steve Maniatakis	Barbara Reeves	Denise Thornton
Graeme Hislop	John Marasco	Hon Tom Reynolds	Kel Trickey
Malcolm Holmes	Steve Marasco	Graeme Ridley	George Tziotis
Ken Jackson	Sam Marasco	Jim Robb	Debra Vawser
John James	Tom Marinelli	Leigh Robertson	Gerard Vokes
John Jenkinson	Paul Martin	Tim Robins	Bill Walker
Susan Jenkinson	Bernard Matisi	Helen Rodgers	Mary Wallace-Smith
Lindsay Johnson	Justin McConnachy	Anita Roper	Rod Walsh
Anne Jones	Jennifer McDonald-Price	Tom Roper	Steven Warr
Barry Jones	Alex McFarlane	Neil Russell	Keith Webb
David Jukes	Kerry McInerney	Adam Sanderson	Kerrie Wellington
Tom Kapulitsa	Pat McInerney	Tim Sandiford	Carole Wellington
Col Kay	Barbara McInnes	Vincent Sanfilippo	Dominic Whitehouse
Raymond Keane	Patricia McKay	John Schintler	Stephen Whittle
Max Kelleher	Mark McMahon	Neville Segrave	Leah Williams
Jack Kelly	Dominic Megna	Mick Senjov	Timothy Wills
Robert Kelly	Justin Megna	Lorenzo Serafini	Heide Wilson
Graeme Kent	Bernadette Melvaine	Renato Serafini	Barbara Wilson
Frank Kershaw	Stephen Memery	Belinda Shanahan	Dr Allan Wilson
Jason King	John Milton	John-Paul Shanley	Greg Winder
Chris Kotsopoulos	Arlene Morokoff	Maree Sheehan	Colin Winder
Bill Kouvas	Graham Muir	Peter Simpson	Leigh Wise
Evelyn Krygger	John Murphy	John Sinclair	Evan Woolnough
Ashley Lamb	Paul Nailer	Betty Sinnott	Deirdre Worn
Bronwyn Lane	Kevin Nemeth	Rachelle Smith	Peter Worn
Lorraine Leahy	Anthony Newman	Steven Smith	Michael Wright
Lynette Lee	Noel Nye	John Smith	
Dennis Lesesberg	Paul O'Brien	Ivan Smith	
Ken Levy	Tom O'Connell	Irene Smith	
Dean Lindsey	Shane O'Connor	Chris Smith	
Kevin Lindsey	Colin O'Gorman	Lou Soligo	
Nicholas Lindsey	Maria O'Kane	Mary Soligo	
Sam Lord	Kevin O'Keeffe	Tony Spassopoulos	
Peter Lucas	Nick O'Neill	Phillip Steer	
Adrian Lucas	Tony Ongarello	Barry Steffensen	
David Lucas	Glen Oram	John Stewart	
Margaret Luckman	Barry Padley	Leigh Stewart	
Des Luckman	Brian Pert	Nancy Stokes	
Peter Luff	Ann Petrides	Ray Swift	
Mark Lunn	George Petrides	Bill Sykes	
Graeme Mackenzie	Peta Irene Phillips	Victoria Taylor	
Joanne Mahoney	Gregg Pollock	Neville Taylor	
Kylie Malcolm	June Popplewell	Robyn Taylor	
Rowan Malcolm	Stuart Potter	Greg Teese	



Life Patron - John Pearce



Ian Crawford with Bill Walker's great granddaughter Laurel Holden



Jim Freake's granddaughter, Norma Toll, with Doug Coldham



Harold McLennan's granddaughter, Barbara Murphy, with Brenden Campbell



Len Wigrift's grandson, Chris Leahy, with Bob Forrest



Jack Moriarty's daughter, Shirley McWhinnie, with Laurie Serafini



Arthur Wilson interviews Scott Clayton and his son, and new Lions draftee, Josh Clayton



Gary Pert with Sam Lord



Ron Alexander shows off his medal



John Murphy proudly displays his five best and fairest medals



Former Fitzroy player Tony Ongarelo with wife Jenny



Allan Ruthven's son, Gary, with Steve Maniatakis



Ron Harvey's wife, Pat Harvey, and son with Adrian Stin



Alastair Lynch with Lou Soligo



Val Jenkin, Horrie Jenkin's granddaughter, with Fitzroy FC President Joan Eddy



Kevin Murray with his medals

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATED FITZROY'S BEST & FAIREST WINNERS ON 21 AUGUST 2014