



FITZROY-BRISBANE LIONS  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 MUSEUM

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
 EDITION 4: FEBRUARY 2016

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY PAID TRIBUTE TO FITZROY'S DAYS AT THE JUNCTION OVAL ON SEPTEMBER 2 2015



Tammy Roos, Catherine Serafini, and Paul Roos



Chris and Carmel Smith



Tim Pekin and James Wynd



Scott Clayton and family



Life Patron Peter Garriga and his sister Ann



Judy Coates with daughter Suzie and husband Evan



The Maniatakis clan



Laurie Serafini, Mick Conlan, and Grant Lawrie



Kevin Murray, John Murphy, Alan Thompson, and Bill Sykes



Members from Fitzroy's U19 premiership side of 1982 unveil their flag



Robert Walls with Len and Margaret Cox



Sykes, Wilson, Murray, and Pert



Fitzroy fans enjoy the evening



Renato Serafini, Tom Roper, and Tony Ongarello



Doug Barwick and his wife



Arthur and Barbara Wilson and their guests



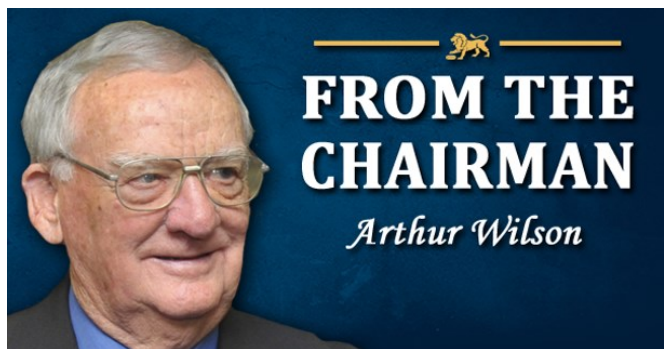
Sam Marasco and his guests



Kevin O'Keeffe and Leon Harris

Our sincerest thanks to **HAPPY MEDIUM PHOTO** for allowing us to use the above photographs from our annual Museum Dinner on Wednesday 2 September 2015. ALL photos taken on the night are currently available for viewing on their website at [www.happymedium.com.au](http://www.happymedium.com.au) or by calling (03) 9421 5668. If you would like to order prints from the evening, simply visit their website, click "view your photos" and then type in the Access Code: **fb10209**

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



On behalf of our Historical Society I would like to thank all our Life Patrons, members, and friends who have supported us during the year and at our various functions.

Your membership has enabled us to continue our ongoing work at the Museum, where we have installed another large cabinet to display all the wonderful memorabilia that has either been donated or loaned to us over the years.

We have also have installed 31 large action photographs of various Fitzroy players, which appear above the recently installed window boxes.

It was also pleasing in 2015 to receive 36 new memberships from our past players. We would be delighted to welcome any past players who have not yet seen the Museum, to come down to Etihad Stadium to view the excellent display of team photographs and memorabilia. There is truly something from every era of the Fitzroy Football Club to reflect the memories you help create during your career along with your teammates.

Each year we host an Annual Museum Dinner and our theme in 2015 was *Remembering the Junction Oval*. A total of 360 attended the event, including 42 players who actually played at the Junction Oval, as well as members from our 1982 U19 premiership team. We introduced all of these players up on stage and presented each with a medal in recognition of their service to the Fitzroy Football Club.

Robert Walls was among a host of guests, who spoke about Fitzroy's successful teams in the early 1980s, while Kevin Murray, John Murphy, Norm Brown, Bill Sykes and Alan Thompson recalled that wonderful win against Richmond before the Royal Family at the MCG in 1970 - the first ever Sunday game.

Other memories which were recounted included the 'Fog game' beating Carlton at the Junction in 1970, winning the Night Premiership against North Melbourne in 1978 at VFL Park, and winning by a record margin against Melbourne in 1979 at VFL Park.

The Historical Society also facilitated three functions at the Fitzroy Bowling Club. Our Vice-Chairman, Ian Crawford, was largely responsible for the coordination of these evenings, and was ably assisted by our dedicated Museum Custodian Brenden Campbell, who provided some exclusive footage of old matches for us all to enjoy.

Ian, whose own report appears on the next page, has been a terrific support for me on the Historical Society executive in recent times, not to mention his outstanding work on the committee since we formed in 1997.

I must also pay tribute and congratulate my hard-working Custodians, Bob Forrest and Brenden Campbell, who spend a great deal of time assisting me whenever I call on their service. Both Bob and Brenden are really dedicated to their nominated jobs at the Museum, and I sincerely thank them for what they've done for me - particularly during the time of my illness.

My sincerest thanks to Bill Lane - Communications Manager at Etihad Stadium - who has been my contact at the venue since the opening of our Museum in 2011. Bill has given the Historical Society wonderful support and assistance behind the scenes, and I thank him for his friendship and cooperation.

Judy Haley has also been an important part of the Historical Society over many years, and her assistance at our functions and dinners is greatly appreciated.

Looking ahead to 2016, I would like to advise that Ian and I have invited Brisbane Lions Victorian Manager, Sam Lord, onto our Executive Committee. I have had the opportunity to work closely with Sam since his appointment to discuss ideas surrounding how we might increase our Historical Society membership. He and the Club are just as passionate about continuing to build our Society - and the Museum. No doubt you will notice some exciting changes taking place in the New Year.

Peter Garriga is another young man who has spent a lifetime supporting Fitzroy and now the Brisbane Lions. He has been a Historical Society member for several years, and is also a Life Patron. Peter has always been keen to get more involved in our management, and we are very pleased that he has also agreed to join our Executive Committee.

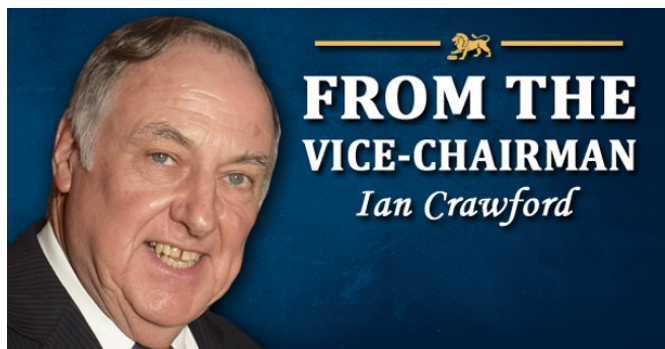
Our Treasurer Louise Maniatakis was appointed to this position some 18 months ago, and has done an outstanding job. She has looked after membership, accounting, and spends many hours preparing our Annual Dinners - together with her husband, Steve. Louise is also a member of our Executive Committee.

I would also like to sincerely thank the Brisbane Lions for their support, with particular mention to our Melbourne-based Club Directors, Peter McGregor and Ross Thornton, whose attendance at our functions throughout the year has been greatly appreciated.

Next year we celebrate 20 years since the Historical Society was formed, and hope to have you all back on board to help celebrate this monumental milestone.

After all, it is through your financial assistance that we have been able to keep the Club's rich history alive, and on display courtesy of our magnificent Museum at Etihad Stadium.

## VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Season 2015 saw the Fitzroy-Brisbane Lions Historical Society again organise a further three functions for members at the Fitzroy Bowls Club at Brunswick Street.

The year commenced with newly appointed Brisbane Lions Board member Ross Thornton in attendance and members were also updated with both current news and expectations of potential recruiting of players from Peter Schwab (National Talent Manager) together with Leon Harris (TAC CUP High Performance Manager – VIC Country) and our own Andrew Farrell (VIC & SA Recruiting Manager). A most interesting evening indeed and they were ably supported by Sam Lord (Brisbane Lions Victorian Manager) who never fails to assist our group at all times by his attendance.

Another highlight was the Number 7 locker given to your Society for display at our wonderful museum. This number of course, was famous for having names such as champions Bunton and Ruthven as 'owners' of it, plus many others over the years. On the night in question, we were entertained by Michael Gale, Warwick Irwin and Ian McCrae who also proudly wore that number.



Some famous Fitzroy No.7's - Ian McCrae, Warwick Irwin, and Michael Gale

We also heard from Fitzroy's last ever best and fairest winner, Martin Pike, who also went on to play a key role in the Lions' hat-trick of premierships from 2001-2003.

Later in the year Grant Lawrie, Laurie Serafini and outstanding noted painter and former player Jamie Cooper all shared stories as they recalled memorable times at our great Club and Jamie took us down the path of his highly recognised work done over many years with his respected artistry.

We, as a Society, are indebted to the above for giving their valuable time so freely to give something back to the Club they have contributed to.

The Historical Society is appreciative of the wonderful honorary work given at these nights by Brenden Campbell, Ian Cairncross, Noel Nye, Peta Phillips, Louise and Steve Maniatakis, Neil Russell and Brian Spencer who assist greatly with these evenings and our thanks go out to them.

We acknowledge with gratitude the cooperation always given by Sam Lord and this year by Gemma Bentley from the Melbourne office. We thank you. Special mention to Brisbane Lions Melbourne-based Director, Peter McGregor, for his constant encouragement and support.

Finally, a special thank you to our dedicated members for your continual support, this is greatly appreciated.

I conclude this, my inaugural report, by on your behalf thanking our leader, Arthur Wilson, for his continual work ethic given to this Society and I again reiterate, the wonderful display we proudly have at Etihad Stadium would NOT be possible without the determination and discipline given by Arthur. A job very well done.

### AN ODE FROM SAM MARASCO

Long-time Fitzroy man and loyal Historical Society member Sam Marasco penned the following tribute to the Junction Oval ahead of the annual Museum Dinner in September

*Fitzroy's time at the Junction Oval  
Has so many stories to tell  
The hundred and thirty five games  
Played there until the final bell*

*From the game in the fog  
To 1979's record score  
The Roy Boys battled hard  
Playing fainls and more*

*Under different coaches  
Displaying vigour and poise  
We herald every player  
Who wore the jumper for the Roys*

*Under Wallsy the Roys played  
The best footy ever seen  
Under Billy Stephen we beat  
The Tigers in from of the Queen*

*From the guard of honour  
For Kevin's 300th game  
To Bernie's back-to-back centuries  
The goals were good enough to frame*

*The roll call of champions  
Who played there is too long to list  
Let us salute Fitzroy's time there  
For they are sadly missed*

### CONTACT US

#### CHAIRMAN

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Greensborough VIC 3088  
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#### VICE-CHAIRMAN

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

## LIONS INDUCT NEW LIFE MEMBERS



The Brisbane Lions inducted three new Life Members at their annual Club Champion Dinner in September 2015 - with **Ivan Smith**, **Martin Pike**, and **Mal Michael** the latest individuals to be included in this most exclusive group.

### MARTIN PIKE

Martin Pike was one of the great journeymen of the AFL, having represented four Clubs, played in six AFL Grand Finals, and been part of four premierships - three of which were achieved with the Lions during the halcyon period between 2001-2003.

Originally drafted by Melbourne in 1993, Pike moved to Fitzroy two years later and became a key member of the Club during its final two seasons before the merger.

He even etched himself into the history books after being honoured as Fitzroy's last ever best and fairest winner.

He was initially overlooked by the Brisbane Lions in 1997, and instead headed to North Melbourne and was part of the Kangaroos' premiership triumph in 1999, before finally coming full circle back to Brisbane on the eve of the 2001 season.

He famously went on to play key roles in the Lions' hat-trick of premierships, with his ability to play in just about every position on the field proving valuable in what was a star-studded line-up.

With his separate stints at both Fitzroy and the Brisbane Lions combined, he played a total of 142 senior matches in seven seasons with the Club - and although this alone didn't quite meet the criteria for Life Membership (which stipulates players must have served for 10-plus years and played at least 150 senior games), the Board used its discretion to deem his phenomenal service as being more than worthy of such an honour.



### IVAN SMITH

Ivan Smith was recruited to Club from Robinvale - a small country town on the border of Victoria and New South Wales - back in 1956, and went on to play four (4) senior games with Fitzroy.

He resigned from Fitzroy after just one season, and headed back to the bush where he continued playing football locally and joined the police force.

He returned to Melbourne in 1964 and approached Fitzroy to see how he could get back involved - purely because he wanted to give something back to the Club that gave him a chance at playing VFL football.

He was soon appointed to the committee of the Past Players Association - a position he has maintained for the best part of 50 years - and has served as Secretary since 1988.

Throughout the period of the merger in 1996, he was a key driver of turning the Fitzroy Past Players Association into the Fitzroy-Brisbane Lions Past Players Association, and even ensured that a number of former Bears players were recognised within the group.

To this day he still sits as Secretary of the Association, and along with his wife Barbara, dedicates much of his time maintaining a strong level of support for both the Club, and its long list of past players.

### MAL MICHAEL

It's no coincidence Mal Michael arrived at the Brisbane Lions' at the end of 2000 - just before the Club proceeded to secure a historic Three-Peat of premierships.

Like Pike, he proved one of the missing ingredients in Leigh Matthews' recipe for the success, and played a key role in delivering the Premiership Cup to the Northern frontier for the first time in VFL/AFL history.

He was a rock in the Lions' defence, and was remarkably durable throughout his six seasons with the Club, playing 140 of a possible 145 matches over that period.

His induction, along with Pike's, ensures that every one of the Brisbane Lions' triple-premiership players from 2001-03 are now also Life Members of the Club - and rightly so.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND DONATIONS

Throughout the past year, we have received some excellent donations from players, members and supporters.

If you happen to have an item that you wish to donate or place on loan to the Museum, we certainly encourage you to contact us. Loaned items are not only thoroughly documented in our Museum manifest, but are also independently valued and covered as part of the Brisbane Lions' insurance policy.

As you can imagine, we do have many members offering items that might already be on display, but we would love to hear from you regardless in case there's something that could prove unique in our Museum.

To discuss the potential donation or loan of an item, please contact either Arthur Wilson on 0405 565 814 or Bob Forrest on 0407 568 754.



Keith Bromage's jumper



Kevin Murray's lightbox is now complete with his back brace

### 2015 DONATIONS

*We would like to sincerely thank the following players, members, and supporters for their kind donations to our Museum during the 2015 season.*

**Don Blackwood**

Club Records, player records, match reports, and documentation surrounding the merger

**Fran Bromage**

Keith Bromage jumper

**Norm Brown**

Personal photographs from his playing days

**Lawrie Conway**

Several items of Fitzroy memorabilia

**Trevor and Jackie Dawson**

Several items of Fitzroy memorabilia

**Jan Crow**

Special photo print of the Royal Game 1970

**Craig Griffen**

Centenary Jumper, Fitzroy Cap, Fitzroy Centenary Queen Sash 1983. Fitzroy pullover

**Shirley Hardy-Rix**

Nine (9) framed player photographs, Football Records, and Laurie Serafini jumper

**John Murphy**

Personal photographs from his playing days

**Kevin Murray**

Several items of memorabilia, including medallions, his famous back brace, photographs, and framed prints

**Tony Ongarello**

Photo of Tony taking one of his special high marks

**Peta Phillips**

Carpet Squares Junction Oval. Several player photographs

**Bernie Quinlan**

Personal photographs from his playing days

**Paul Roos**

Personal photographs from his playing days

**Bill Stephen**

Personal photographs from his playing days

**Mary Wallace-Smith**

Fitzroy posters, football magazines, and game videos

**Gary Wills**

Team of the Century print and 1944 premiership photo

**Garry Wilson**

Personal photographs from his playing days

**Evan Woolnough**

Copper print with Lion emblem, Framed prints and other memorabilia

We have also received many other items such as clothing, Football Records, toys, badges, membership tickets, flags, caps, banners, WEG Posters and scarves that aren't listed above. But we wish to thank all supporters for their generosity and support in making our Museum such a wonderful tribute to the Fitzroy Football Club.

### GUIDED TOURS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

Tours of the Fitzroy-Brisbane Lions Historical Society Museum are available by appointment throughout the year. Tours are free for Historical Society members and \$5 for all non-members and guests, with all proceeds going back to supporting and maintaining the ongoing operation of 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.

## LIFE PATRONS HONOUR ROLL

IAN CAIRNCROSS

STEPHEN CALLAGHAN

SHANE CALLAGHAN

LEIGH CALLAGHAN

GEORGE COATES

LEN COX

JOY DEW

TONY DEW

BOB FORREST

PETER GARRIGA

KEITH HOAD

LINDSAY JOHNSON

RUSSELL JOHNSON

GEOFF LORD

STEVE MANIATAKIS

TAS MANIATAKIS

BERNARD MATISI

PETER MCGREGOR

SHIRLEY McWHINNIE

STEPHEN O'CONNOR

JOHN PEARCE

BRIAN PERT

TOM REYNOLDS

DR. ALLAN SMITH

ADRIAN STIN

MAC TOLLIDAY

ARTHUR WILSON

KEVIN WISE



Life Patron - Kevin Wise



Life Patron - Shirley McWhinnie

Brendan Abrahams	Annette Burton	Russell Cromarty	Ryan Finlay
Elaine Adams	Lynnette Cairncross	Vicki Crowley	Kerryn Finlay
Sue Aisbett	Graham Calverley	Colin Cruse	Maureen Forrest
David Aisbett	Ray Calverley	Neil Dawson	Peter Francis
Ann Allen	Dris Calverley	Trevor Dawson	Jennie Fraser
Robert Allen	Susan Camilleri	Jacqui Dawson	Ted Frazer
Joan Allen	George Camilleri	Gary Dean	Ralph Fuller
Michael Anderson	Brenden Campbell	Michelle Dean	Michael Gale
Janice Andrews	Lou Cannata	Ken Delbridge	Paul Girolami
Barbara Angus	John Cardamone	David Delbridge	Pat Girolami
Sauro Antonelli AM	Leo Cardamone	Kerrin Delbridge	Carmel Girolami
Rodney Appleton	Leigh Carlson	Peter Delbridge	Margaret Girolami
Bill Atherton	Brian Carroll	Lorraine Dellow	Anthony Girolami
Jeff Bailey	William Chambers	Bert DeLuca	Bernard Girolami
Paul Baker	Frank Chiodo	Michael Delves	Ern Girolami
Ken Bannon	Gary Clarke	Neale Delves	Anne Girolami
Jason Barrie	Pamela Clarke	Tony Delves	Maree Girolami
Neil Barrie	Rosemary Clarke	Danny Deutscher	Paul Girolami
Bob Beattie	Judy Coates	Carol Dew	Donald Goodridge
Brian Beers	Doug Coldham	David Donato	Alex Gough
John Benison	Colin J Coldrey	Ross Dunn	Colin Gray
Frank Bibby	Max Cole	Reg Durnford	Robyn Greensill
Darren Blood	Ron Connelly	Margaret Dwyer	Ron Gretton
Bill Blythe	Richard Cook	Nick Dwyer	Hazel Gretton
Elaine Blythe	Effie Cook	Joan Eddy	Craig Griffin
John Booth	Peter Cooper	Robert Edgar	Brian Griffiths
John Bowles	Mal Corben	Brian Emery	Norma Griffiths
Gavin Bransgrove	Harry Corbett	Elaine Essing	Glenda Grigg
Frank Breckon	Tony Coutts	Brian Essing	Ken Grimley
Francis Bromage	Margaret Cox	Neal Evans	Judy Haley
Brian Brown	Ian Crawford	Peter Faigh	Barbara Hardy
Scott Brown	Frank Crea	Richard Fairley	Alan Hardy
Doug Brownley	Anthony Crea	Paul Ferronato	Lindy Hartley
Norma Burnie	Justin Croft	Helen Fielding	Maureen Harvey

## THANK YOU FOR BEING A MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 2015

Bernadette Harvey	Louise Maniatakis	Ben Petrides	Renato Serafini	Ken Trickey	Leah Williams
John Hayes	Michelle Maniatakis	Anna Petrides	John-Paul Shanley	George Tziotis	Tracey Willows <i>for Timothy</i>
Phillip Hill	Troy Maniatakis	George Petrides	Leonard Sharpe	Chris Verwuccio	Barbara Wilson
Peter Hill	Costa Maniatakis	Bradley Phillips	Maree Sheehan	Gerard Francis Vokes	Colin Winder
Edward Hill	Lucas Manuell	Peta Phillips	Ian Shrives	Bill Walker	Gregg Winder
Norma Hislop	Sam Marasco	Marlene Pitts	Peter Simpson	Scott Walker	Stuart Winstanley
Graeme Hislop	John Marasco	Graeme Pitts	Betty Sinnot	Mary Wallace-Smith	Henry Winstone
David Hope	Paul Martin	June Popplewell	Irene Smith	Rod Walsh	Evan Woolnough
Gary Hubbard	Robyn Matheson	Stuart Potter	Ivan Smith	Steven Warr	Sharon Woolnough
Ken Jackson	Scott Matheson	Brenda Potts	Steven Smith	Jamie Watson	Deirdre Worn
John James	Joan Matthews	Jim Poulter	Rachelle Smith	Keith Webb	Peter Worn
Alex James	Adam McBean	Graeme Price	John Smith	Carole Wellington	Jo-Anne Young
Valmai Joy Jenkin	Kevin McCall <i>(in memory of)</i>	H & L Puche	Chris Smith	Peter West	
Susan Jenkinson	Chris McCarthy	Peter Quinlan	Lou Soligo	Dominic Whitehouse	
John Jenkinson	Ian McCulloch	Fred Reed	Mary Soligo		
Barry Jones	Patricia McInerney	Barbara Reeves	Tony Spassopoulos		
Anne Jones	Kerry McInerney	Patricia Reeves	Brian Spencer		
David Jukes	Patricia McKay	Matthew Rendell	Mary Spencer		
Tom Kapulitsa	Anthony McKay	Graeme Ridley	Phillip Steer		
Col Kay	Barry McKenzie	Jim Robb	Nancy Stokes		
Raymond Keane	Mark McMahon	Leigh Robertson	Karen Stray		
Max Kelleher	Colin McNeil	Tim Robins	Ray Swift		
Jack Kelly	Tony Meehan	Helen Rodgers	Bill Sykes		
Graeme Kent	Joan Meehan	Anita Roper	David Sykes		
Pat Keogh	Bernadette Melvaine	Tom Roper	Victoria Taylor		
Michael Keogh	Stephen Memery	Victor Roussidis	Robyn Taylor		
Frank Kershaw	Richard Mills	Graeme Rule	Neville Taylor		
Dawn Kinna	John Milton	Neil Russell	Cath Temple		
Chris Kotsopoulos	Arleen Morokoff	Adam Sanderson	Arnold Thomas		
Bill Kouvas	Graham Muir	Tim Sandiford	Joel Thompson		
Evelyn Krygger	Lee Murnane	John Schintler	Dorothy Thompson		
Ashley Lamb	John Murphy	Jill Seedsman	Jocelyn Thompson		
Lorraine Leahy	Geoffrey Myers	Neville Segrave	Ross Thornton		
Chris Leahy	Kaye Nailer	Mick Senjov	Denise Thornton		
Lynnette Lee	Paul Nailer	Mary Serafini	Jack Tossol		
Dennis Leseberg	Tom Natoli	Carlo Serafini	John Tossol		
Rodney Lincoln	Kevin Nemeth				
Kevin Lindsey	Susan Nye				
Dean Lindsey	Noel Nye				
Nicholas Lindsey	Tom O'Connell				
Trevor Lloyd	Jim Odorisio				
Pauline Longley	Claude Odorisio				
Sam Lord	Colin O'Gorman				
Adrian Lucas	Kevin O'Keefe				
David Lucas	Nick O'Neil				
Mark Lunn	Tony Ongarello				
Graeme Mackenzie	Glen Oram				
Michael Madden	Glen Orwin				
Jo Mahoney	Norma Palmer <i>(clo Jane Hickey)</i>				
Rowan Malcolm	Heide Pearsall				
Kylie Malcolm	Luke Peers				
Chris Maniatakis	Bill Perkins				
James Maniatakis					



Life Patron, and 2014 George Coates Memorial Trophy recipient, Len Cox

## SORRY WE MISSED YOU!

The Fitzroy-Brisbane Lions Historical Society wishes to extend its sincerest apologies to the following paid-up members whose names were accidentally left out of our 2014 newsletter:

**Bob Beecroft, Frank Bibby, Len Cox, Charlie Di Sebastiano, Neil Hay, Lindsay Johnson, Colin McNeil, Geoff Myers, Matthew Rendell, Laurie Richards, Marinelli Serafini, and David Sykes.**

Apologies also to the following, whose names were either misspelt or incorrect in our previous newsletter:

**Stephen Canals, Joan Eddy, Leo Cardamone, John Cardamone, Chris Maniatakis, Tanya Stewart, Dr Allan Smith, and Kevin Wise.**

We trust that this year's member list is more accurate - however if you happen to come across any errors, we ask that you please alert the Club by calling (03) 8850 5600 so that these can be corrected on our official database.

## 2015 GEORGE COATES MEMORIAL AWARD: IAN CRAWFORD



Ian Crawford was recognised for his outstanding service

### DID YOU KNOW?

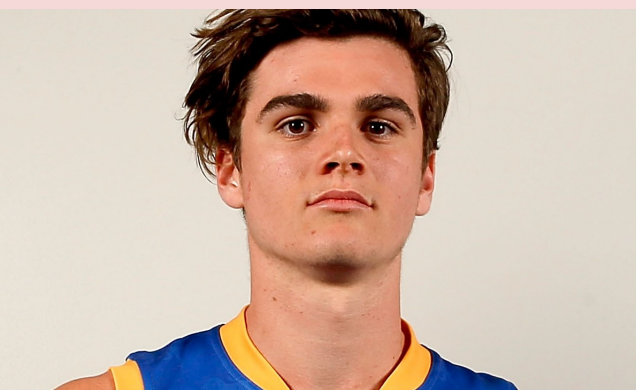
Recent Brisbane Lions draftee Ben Keays comes to the Club with a strong family Fitzroy connection.

18-year-old Keays was born in Melbourne, but moved to Queensland as a five-year-old - which proved fortunate as it meant the Club was able to snare him as part of their Academy program.

Keays grew up a passionate Lions fans, not due to him being based in Brisbane, but more because his father, Matt, was a staunch Fitzroy supporter.

Matt Keays has actually assisted the Historical Society over the years by donating items towards our Museum at Etihad Stadium. It's a nice coincidence that his son will now don the maroon, blue and gold in 2016.

Furthermore, Ben's great grandfather, Fred Keays, played five matches with Fitzroy between 1919-20.



Ben Keays brings another Fitzroy connection to the Lions

The inaugural George Coates Memorial Award was first presented last year following the sad passing of George Coates who played 128 games for the Fitzroy Football Club from 1947-1954 and later served for more than 20 years on the Club's Committee.

At the time of the 1996 merger, the Brisbane Lions Board appointed George and Arthur Wilson to set up the Fitzroy- Brisbane Lions Historical Society where George served for a further 17 years.

He was a wonderful man and administrator, and gave outstanding service to both Fitzroy and the Brisbane Lions for a period of 47 years, and was very well respected by committee members, players, staff and Club members.

This award is presented each year at our annual Museum Dinner to either a former player, official, staff member, or club member who has given long and loyal service to Fitzroy or the Brisbane Lions - with Len Cox the inaugural recipient of the honour in 2014.

Historical Society Vice-Chairman, Ian Crawford, was the worthy winner of the award in 2015, and was duly recognised for his service at our Annual Dinner in September last year.

Ian joined the Fitzroy Football Club as full-time Assistant Secretary in 1965, before deciding to join the dental industry in 1970 - an industry he remains heavily involved in to this day.

However, he wanted to be involved in some capacity with Fitzroy, so joined the Recruiting Committee in a part-time role and maintained this position until the 1996 merger.

Ian was very much involved in the Club's recruiting process each weekend. He spent a great deal of time in our country zone (the Hampden League), arriving early at the games to watch the under 18s at 10am, followed by the Reserves game, and finally the senior game. If he wasn't in the country watching a local game, you would probably find Ian in the stands watching either at the P.D.J.F.A, Doncaster League or the Amateurs.

When the Historical Society was formed in 1997, Ian was the person invited to join Arthur and George on their Executive Committee, and has been our Master of Ceremonies at many functions since.

He now serves as Vice-Chairman of the Historical Society, and devotes a great deal of his precious time to helping organise our regular functions held at the Fitzroy Bowling Club.

We wish to thank Ian for his outstanding service which has totalled 50 years (30 with Fitzroy and 20 with the Historical Society post-merger).

We look forward to Ian continuing to his many years of service to our great Club in the future.