



Extracts from **NEWSLETTER DECEMBER** **2021**

THE FOUNDING CURATOR OF THE EFC HALL OF FAME- BARBARA CULLEN



Life Member, EFC, 2006 Essendon Women's Network Football Woman of the Year, Author. As a curator, archivist and author - Barb Cullen has a long history of commitment to Australian Football League's affiliated groups and clubs. Her contribution to the AFL has been significant in the preservation of football's heritage and traditions. She has provided service to several AFL clubs for the past 25 years, beginning with the Essendon Football Club.

1996 - 2003 - Curator, Essendon Hall of Fame

Barb was appointed Curator of the Essendon Football Club Hall of Fame in 1996. She served in that position with distinction until 2003. In establishing the Hall of Fame, Barb brought to life a collection of memorabilia from 1874 into an accredited museum facility. The museum became a repository for recording and display of medals, photographs, clothing, trophies, cartoons, paintings, printed material and more. Located at 'Windy Hill' it was embraced by the football club, local community and its reach extended beyond 'Essendon' to many children and adults from all walks of life who would join tours to learn about the history of our great Australian game. Bespoke exhibitions themed around Anzac Day and the Dreamtime game, served as liberal education and a key factor in understanding the world in which we live. The EFC Hall of Fame became a benchmark for other clubs and Barb graciously shared her knowledge to further the preservation of the history and traditions of Australian rules football.

It was Barb's passion and expertise that ensured the EFC museum reflected the breadth of contribution that comes together in a football club community. She recruited a dedicated group of volunteers drawn from past players, club members and rookie players who came together and under Barb's tutelage worked to catalogue the collection, host tours and functions at the facility whilst they themselves were immersed in the proud history of the

club. Following her “retirement”, Barb continued to serve the Essendon Football Club as a volunteer, curating events on behalf of the Dick Reynolds Club. Drawing on her archivist's knowledge and expertise to design well-regarded events detailing touchpoints and milestones in the history of the club and its community. Showcasing history, tradition and creating a sense of belonging.

From 2004-2010 Barbara supported the annual Dick Reynolds Club Anzac Day lunch providing historical details and researched stories each with a particular theme - the Kokoda Trail, the Changi Medal or Fromelles. The Anzac Day lunch is now hosted by the Essendonians, and Barbara continues to assist their organising committee with the event design.

After retiring from her professional role at the EFC, Barb volunteered her expertise as a curator to other AFL clubs, notably Sydney Swans and North Melbourne Football Clubs. Her work with these clubs continues today.

Acknowledging Barb's extensive and specialised contribution to football she was recognised by the Essendon Football Club on two occasions:

In 2006 Barb was named Football Woman of the Year by the Essendon Women's Network for her contribution to the preservation of the code's history and as a leader in her field.

In 2013 in recognition of her contribution to the EFC community, Barb was inducted as a Life Member of the Essendon Football Club - the club's highest honour for its non-playing members.

Following seven years of self-funded, dedicated research and data collection Barb's first book was published in 2015: *'Harder than Football - League Players at War'*. The book gathers the names and details of players who served and the stories behind them and their times. Having curated many Anzac Day lunches Barb became aware of the absence of a definitive/accessible list of League players who were also Australian Servicemen. So, she set about creating one! What began as a simple list of names soon became so much more. Beginning with a list of more than 8,000 men who had played at least 1 senior VFL game from 1897 the League's beginning to 1972 the end of Australia's involvement in Vietnam when National Service claimed many VFL players. The book records stories of courage, resilience and survival. It is a resource now widely utilised and an important record for the men, their descendants, the Australian rules code, clubs and our nation. Barb is currently updating the 2015 edition as more records are made available by the Australian War Memorial and other sources.

Barb is a lifetime member of the Australian Football Heritage Group.

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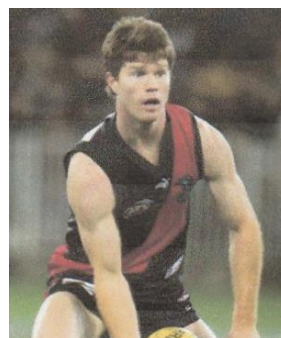
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Ben Jolley

Year played: 2006

Games played: 4

Number worn: 40



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

My next footballing home after Essendon became the Williamstown Football Club, remaining at Point Gellibrand until the conclusion of the 2018 VFL season. From there it was off across the Westgate to join Port Melbourne where I'm still attempting to chase a Sherrin around on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

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

Following finishing up at Essendon, it was back to university to finish off a finance degree. After completing that, my first taste of full-time employment was in financial services. After a few years working in financial services, I headed back to university to complete a graduate diploma in education. That led to a career change into secondary school teaching and my current employment as a senior school teacher at Williamstown High School.

Are you still working? Yes

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

Touchwood, I've avoided the surgeon's scalpel throughout my career and the body isn't in too bad of working order.

Do you have any ongoing medical problems?

Thankfully no.

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

I'm a fan of the modern game and I still find watching most games of footy entertaining and appreciate it for what it is – a very demanding sport that more often than not requires a contribution from 22 blokes in order to get a win. I suppose it's always been there, but the media cycle, spin and speculation that seems to continually surround the game I find a bit tiresome sometimes but with the size the industry is now I suppose that's the way it has to be.

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

Only because it occurred on the eve of my first game and only because I still often find myself thinking about it when completing the final training session before a weekends game, but Dean Solomon being a bit overzealous on our Friday morning captains run and cleaning up Sheeds, putting him out of action for our game against St Kilda the following day sticks in my mind.

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

You tend to gravitate toward the guys who arrived at the club in and around the time you were there – Henry Slattery, Angus Monfries, Ricky Dyson, Jason Winderlich, Sam Lonergan, Matty Firman, Andy Lee, Jay Nash, Joel Reynolds, Courtney Johns, Tristan Cartledge, Kepler Bradley. Getting away on a couple footy trips in my two years at the club meant it wouldn't be too much of stretch for that list of names to keep growing – good bonding experiences right there!

Unfortunately, distance, time and life simply pushing forward has meant keeping in touch has mainly been at arms lengths. There's always the incidental contact that you have with guys that have continued their playing careers elsewhere or moved into coaching ranks or started businesses and moved on to the next stage of their lives which is always good to see. Still living locally means is not uncommon to bump into Scotty Lucas at the shops or Mark Bolton around Princes Park so you always feel a part of the Essendon family.

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

For Essendon: I was pretty spoilt for choice in the mid 2000's for role models at the club. So many of the established players were always willing and forthcoming to provide advice and guidance on how to get the most out of yourself – Jason & Marc Johnson, Damian Peverill, Scotty Lucas, Matty Lloyd, Andrew Welsh, Mark McVeigh, Adam McPhee. These guys, plus a host of others, certainly put me on the right path to achieving my potential. Fletch for his longevity and durability (not to mention football ability) were also admirable things to try and aspire too.

Other teams: Brett Kirk and Melbourne's James McDonald spring to mind. Getting to play against Robert Harvey, Shane Crawford and Nathan Buckley are others that are hard to go past.

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

To play for the club you supported growing up. Being able to walk from the family home to Windy Hill for training. Directly benefiting in regards to employment and career opportunities from my association with the club. And of course meeting such a great array of people – players, coaches, support staff, administration, members – it's hard not to look back on my time at the club as one of great opportunity and excitement for which I will always be grateful for.

MILESTONES & ACHIEVEMENTS

The following members have or will have achieved significant birthday milestones between 1st September 2021 and 31st December 2021.

50 years of age

60 years of age

70 years of age +

Steve Alessio

Julie Allan

Michael Thomson

Neville Fields (70)

Barry Grinter (70)



Andy Wilson (70)

Neil King (71)

Rod McFarlane (71)

Stuart Barclay (72)

Robin Close (72)

Gary Grainger (72)

Les Stillman (72)

Ian Anderson (73)

John Ellis (73)

John Fanning (73)

Iain Findlay (73)

Roger Hampson (73)

Ray Smith (73)

Ron Thomas (73)

Peter Daniel (74)

Kevin Sheedy (74)

Gary Crouch (75)

Graeme Jenkin (76)

Geoff Pryor (76)

Robert Wilson (76)

Charlie Payne (77)

Ian Stevenson (77)

Barry Davis (78)

Kevin Egan (78)

Michael Maplestone (78)

Noel Raitt (78)

Glenda Wade (78)

Garry Fenton (79)

Robert Horgan (79)

Russell Blew (80)

Alf King (80)

George Spero (80)

Barry Capuano (81)

Barry Matthews (81)

Max Byers (82)

80 years of age +

80 years of age +

Paul Doran (82)



Don Nicolson (82)
Ron Clarke (83)
Noel Freeman (83)
David Shaw (83)
Geoff Barber (84)
Brian Donohoe (85)
Colin Hebbard (85)
Robert Dunlop (86)
John Kilby (86)
John Towner (88)
Robert Fox (90)
Brian Gilmore (92)
Merna Slattery (93)
Noel Allanson (96)

90 years of age +



Associate Members

70 years of age +

John Luscombe (74)
Geoffrey Robinson (74)
George Luscombe (79)
Ray Collis (80)
John Robinson (80)
Wally Johns (84)

80 years of age +

DRC Members

70 years of age +

Robert Preston (71)
Kevin Chambers (74)
Frank Levy (74)
Graeme Brown (77)
Jeff Richards (77)
Graham Couch (79)
Alan Comrie (81)
Patrick Mathey (84)

80 years of age +

We wish you all many years of health and happiness.

DICK REYNOLDS CLUB HISTORY BOOK.



Kevin Dale, one of the original members of the Dick Reynolds Club, is compiling a book on the history of Dick Reynolds Club functions.

The intent is to record the great success of DRC events, as a matter of historical record and legacy of the EFC and EFCPP&OA.

One particular event that will be mentioned is in respect to the function held to raise funds for the Neagle family, following his tragic death in a road accident, which raised around \$120,000.

Various people involved with the DRC over the years are now being asked for their comments and quotes about their experiences or observations about the DRC.

When finished the book should make interesting reading.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Wayne Primmer

Games Played: 40

Years Played: 1977-1979

Number worn: 15



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

1 year with West Torrens (SA), Then back to Country Victoria with Coaching and playing at Lalbert, Hamilton, Benalla and currently coaching Heathcote.

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

Had 36 years with Telstra.

Are you still working? No.

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

No.

Do you have any ongoing medical problems?

Had heart attack at 48 but going well at the moment.

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

I like it and love the Stand rule-good for fast flow on football.

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

Merv Neagle, Roger Merrett, Glenn Hawker. Keep in touch with Brendan Mason, Robin Bellfield and Craig Barbary.

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

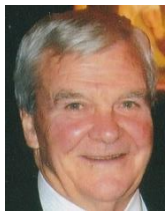
For Essendon: Terry Daniher, Simon Madden, Tim Watson & Shane Heard

Other teams: Gary Wilson, Leigh Matthews, Robbie Flower.

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

Loved my time there-enjoyed the mateship.

EDITORIAL



As this will be the last time that I will produce the Newsletter for the Association, I would like to pass on my thanks to all of the people who have contributed to the Newsletter over many years.

It has been a great privilege for me to produce the Newsletters for such a fantastic Association and I have no doubt that whoever produces future Newsletters will continue to supply the information that members and readers enjoy reading about.

The EFCPP&OA has changed appreciably since it was established in 1953 and has developed a number of programs to assist past players. I am sure that the new facility for past players and officials at The Hanger will open many more opportunities for further development of the Association under a Committee of hard working people.

I look forward to catching up with many of you at future EFCPP&OA and EFC events.
Barry Capuano

FACTS, PHOTOS & OTHER TRIVIA

1981 Escort Cup nights series competition 'Flying Higher' – Michael Maplestone

In previous years Essendon had knuckled under in the night games. ... Its record had been dismal. Essendon was the only side to have won less than 10-night games prior to the start of 1981.

... 1981 was different. The Dons won four in a row leading up to the grand final against Carlton. The critics were evenly divided before the game as to who would win.

At quarter time the Dons were in trouble with only one point on the board. But they then stormed home in the second half to win my four goals before a crowd of 42,269 people at VFL Park.

Essendon did not score its first goal until sixteen minutes into the second quarter. The forward appears to be overawed by the occasion and frittered away numerous opportunities.

But it was a different game after half time. Tim Watson kicked two goals in an inspired burst. For one of his goals, he burst through a pack, hurdled a player, shrugged off a tackle and booted truly.

That was the turning point of the match and with the scent of victory in their nostrils, the Bombers didn't let up.

It was the Bombers' first premiership since 1965 and a tribute to first year coach Kevin Sheedy. The win was worth \$43,000 giving them a total of \$83,500 for the series.

The final scores were Essendon 9.11 (65) to Carlton 6.5 (41).

Goal scorers were Neale Daniher (2) Grant Fowler (2) Tim Watson (2) Wayne Foreman (1) Roger Merrett (1) and Simon Madden (1).

Best players included the dynamic Watson who was best on the ground, Neale Daniher, Russell Muir, Max Crow, Roger Merrett and Grant Fowler.



Premiership side:

B:	N Clarke	R Shaw	N Daniher
HB	G Hawker	M Crow	R Muir
C	G Burdett	M Neagle	G Foulds
HF	T Watson	P Van Der Haar	W Foreman
F	G Schultz	T Daniher	R Merrett
Foll	J Madden	P Bennett	
Rov	G Fowler		
I/C	S Madden	A Buhagiar	

It was a gathering together of the clan at Essendon:

President	G Sewell	<u>Committee</u>	
GM	B Capuano	Don McKenzie	Ted Fordham
Team Manager	K Egan	Ken Fraser	Noel Allanson
Charlie Payne – senior skills coach		Bob Syme	Brian Donohoe
Graham Leydin – coach U19's		Ron Evans	
Recruiting – Noel Judkins			
Senior coach: K Sheedy			

In 1950 Essendon were Premiers in all grades, Seniors, Reserves and U19's, which was the most successful year that the club had ever achieved.

During the season the teams only lost three games, the Seniors losing one game, the Reserves two games and the U19's undefeated.

There was a crowd of 85,876 attending the MCG, with all games being played on the ground, commencing at around 9.00am.

There was no preselling of tickets for Finals games in those days, you just turned up and paid at the gate from 8.00am onwards.

George Rawle played for three seasons with the EFC from 1923 to 1925. In 1923 he played one game only, which happened to be the Grand Final and a Premiership. In 1924 he played 17 games, including the winning Premiership team and in 1925 he played one game only. Over the three years he played a total of 19 games but was a member of two Premiership teams. Not a bad effort!

WHO IS THIS PAST PLAYER?

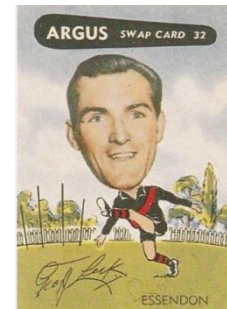
Geoff Leek

Years Played: 1951-1962

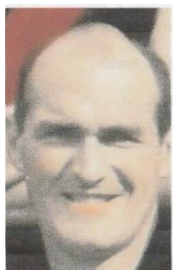
Games played: 191

Number worn: 30

Nicknames: "Sprunga" or "Mustafa"



Geoff was regarded as the "Gentle Giant" and was a great team-man. When he first started playing he was a natural but very awkward left footer, so it was suggested that he try kicking with his right foot, which over a period of time he became quite proficient.



He made the State side in 1958 and after playing in the Runner-Up teams in 1957 and 1959, he was one of the stars in the 1962 Premiership Team, which became his last game.

In the lead up to the 1962 Grand Final Geoff was in serious doubt of playing due to an ankle injury, and prior to the game he was forced to prove his fitness. He was asked to kick a medicine ball across the room and on his first attempt only moved the ball a few inches. His second attempt was a little better, but his third attempt went across the room and he was told that he was fit to play. It was not until a few weeks later that Geoff informed his amazed teammates that he had got through the test ok as he had used his non injured foot to kick the ball.

Geoff had a great personality and character, which meant that following his playing days, he became a radio and television commentator for many years.

A FAREWELL TO SOME TOP PLAYERS

Unfortunately 2021 will see the last of some top Essendon players, namely, Cale Hooker, David Zaharakis, Patty Ambrose and Marty Gleeson. All of these players have performed at a very high level throughout their careers and we wish them well for the future.

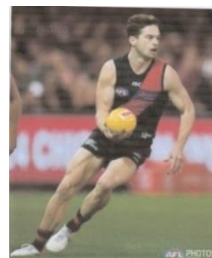
Congratulations on your excellent careers and we now welcome you all as life-long members of the EFCPP&OA.



Cale Hooker



David Zaharakis



Patty Ambrose



Marty Gleeson

Cale Hooker played 219 games between 2008 and 2021.

David Zaharakis played 226 games between 2009 and 2021.

Patty Ambrose played 88 games between 2014 and 2021.

Marty Gleeson played 97 games between 2012 and 2021.

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY AND SOME FORWARD PLANNING.

Most of you would be aware that the EFC will celebrate its 150th Anniversary in 2022 and there will be many functions to recognise this significant event.

2022 also celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the EFC establishing Windy Hill as its home base, having moved from the ground in East Melbourne. Essendon won its first game at Windy Hill, defeating Carlton, 11.14.80 to 9.8.62.



Windy Hill in the 1920's

During the 70 years that Essendon played at Windy Hill, it won 418 games, lost 201 games and drew in 9 games. Not a bad home ground advantage!

It was announced in the Herald Sun dated the 8th November, that the EFC, in conjunction with the Moonee Valley Council, were seeking funding of at least \$50m to redevelop Windy Hill, including reshaping the ground to become the match-day home of Essendon's AFLW, VFLW and VFL teams and elite junior Victorian football programs. The W.H. Cookson stand would be demolished to cater for the re-development, which would eventually include a multipurpose community centre, synthetic running track, children's playgrounds, light towers to enable night matches, a café and parklands. Both the cricket and bowls club would be relocated to other venues.

The first stage costing around \$30m, would allow Windy Hill to open year round for community football, refurbished social and function areas and grandstand upgrades. Construction would start late next year and the first stage is anticipated to be completed in time for the 2024 AFLW season.

The second stage costing more than \$20m, would include the construction of the Windy Hill Community and Sports Centre, outdoor play areas, café, training track and moving the bowls club.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In this our final Newsletter for 2021, I would like to sincerely thank all members for their continued support during the year. It has been another difficult year for everyone because of the COVID situation, but things are now beginning to improve as restrictions are eased. Our major fundraisers for 2021 (Raffle and On-Line Auction) were again

very successful and we also received quite a number of donations from individual members. It was very gratifying to achieve this outcome under the circumstances and we are now looking forward to a busy 2022.

Unfortunately the only event we were able to conduct this year was the DRC Golf Day in February. Once again, this was a very successful thanks to Kevin Dale's great organizational skills and hard work. Plans for the 2022 DRC Golf Day are well advanced and it will again be held at Sandhurst Golf Club on Wednesday 23 February.

Planning is underway for next year's events. We are working closely with the EFC to co-ordinate our events especially as next year is the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of our great club. The AFL fixture should be available soon so this will enable more detailed planning on specific dates etc.

If you haven't already done so, I would strong advise watching "The Bombers: Stories of Our Great Club". It is an 8 part series on Foxtel and is getting rave reviews. Congratulations to all involved in the making of this truly professional, informative, entertaining and historic series.

Planning for the EFC 150th Anniversary celebrations are well advanced and the EFCPP&OA will play its role in keeping you updated on what's happening as well of course on our own events.

Sadly we lost a number of members this year. Our sincere condolences go to the families of the Ian Shelton, Harold Lambert, Ian Marsh, Alan McGillvray, Geoff Rackham and John Robinson. RIP

I would also like to thank all EFCPP&OA Committee members for their contributions across a wide range of activities. Much work was undertaken on organizational arrangements for events etc which will stand us in good stead for 2022. Thanks in particular to Jane Lee (Administration) and Barbara Cullen (DRC Club).

Finally, I hope all members have a great Christmas and New Year as we look forward with much enthusiasm to what promises to be a successful year both on and off the field as we celebrate the EFC's 150th Anniversary.

David Collins- President

SEASONS GREETINGS TO YOU ALL.

The last two years have been very difficult for us all, however there is now light at the end of the tunnel and hopefully next year will be much better for everyone.

The Association has been very frustrated at not being able to present any functions this year but is working hard to ensure that next year will bring us all together again.

2022 will be the 150th Anniversary of the EFC and there are some exciting events and functions being planned by the EFC and EFCPP&OA for next year and you will be informed when planning is finalised.



The EFCPP&OA Committee would like to wish all of our members and readers a very happy festive season and healthy and prosperous New Year.