

DICK REYNOLDS CLUB

November 2022



EFC Administration and Training Facility, Melrose Drive, Tullamarine

DRC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to the 2022 DRC Annual Newsletter. Thankfully, after a few years of severe disruption to our activities due to COVID, we have finally had a full year of events. Sincere thanks to all those DRC members who patiently stuck with us throughout this difficult time. Your loyalty is very much appreciated.

Each of our main events is covered in some detail elsewhere in this Newsletter so I will not go into detail in this report, except to say that each of the events namely the DRC Golf Day, the RACV Lunch "Bombers in the Media" and our DRC Cocktail at Windy Hill were all regarded as extremely successful and much enjoyed by all who attended.

Successful events do not just happen. They all require an enormous amount of planning, preparation and effort. We are extremely lucky to have people such as Kevin Dale, Barbara Cullen OAM, Jane Lee, John Della, Glenn Shepherd and Susie Norton involved. They are all true professionals in what they do and the way they do it. In addition to the above, we have Charlie Italia (EFCPPOA Secretary), and Ken Gilbertson (EFCPPOA) who also make great contributions. And of course, we are enormously grateful to the EFC Past Champions who assist us where ever possible.

Planning has already commenced for DRC functions in 2023. We are looking to have the DRC Golf Day at Sandhurst Golf Club on Wednesday, 8 February, the DRC lunch at the RACV on Wednesday 24th May and the DRC Cocktail function on Wednesday 2 August at Windy Hill.

Of course we will keep you posted in 2023 about these events.

The cost of DRC membership will remain at \$50 and advice regarding payment arrangements will be forwarded to you in early 2023.

As you are aware, there have been many changes within the EFC in last month or so. I can advise that the EFCPPOA have already established a strong connection with EFC as a result of those changes including the fact that EFC Board member Melissa Green has been appointed as our main point of contact. Our meetings with her have been very productive and we are establishing a productive working relationship.

Thanks again for your continuing support. The functions we conducted have been very productive in terms of financial returns and this of course puts the EFCPPOA in a strong position to provide support and benefits to our members.

Special thanks to Kevin Dale for his work in putting this Newsletter together.

Finally, I hope you all have a great Christmas and New Year. I look forward to seeing you at the DRC functions in 2023.

Keep safe and well.

David Collins

Chair, DRC



DRC HISTORY BOOK

The DRC committee is continuing to produce a book to record the activities since its inception 27 years ago in 1995. There have been in excess of 80 events over that time, featuring the Past Players and highlighting EFC successes and individual achievements. The Anzac Day luncheons were particularly poignant and memorable.

The intent is to record the content of those events and provide a legacy for the EFC. The very nature of a football club is a constant change of the personnel both on and off the field. So a historical record of events and the identities involved at that time will be a valuable record.

Nicki Lever (nee Heymanson) has been working tirelessly to type all the information that has been compiled. It is intended to release the book in 2023.

DRC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Collins Chair; He is also President of the EFC Past Players & Officials Association, a Past Player, former Chairman of Selectors and Kevin Sheedy's right hand man in the coaches box for many years.

Ray Sneddon is our Patron and was the Founder of the DRC in 1995. **Barb Cullen OAM** is an EFC Life Member and was curator of the original Hall of Fame. **Kevin Dale** is a founding member and a former DRC Chairman, he is also Co Convener of the Collins Street Dons and Convener of the annual EFC, PP&OA Golf day. **Glenn Shepherd** is a member of the Collins Street Dons, he has been welcomed onto the DRC Committee and accepted the position of Secretary.

Susie Norton is an EFC Life Member, foundation member of the DRC and an EFC volunteer for over 30 years. **Ken Gilbertson** is the DRC Treasurer; he is a former EFC Board Director and EFC Social Club Director. **Charlie Italia** is secretary of the EFC, PP&OA, he continues to be a trainer with 36 years' service. **John Della** is a generous benefactor with all our printing needs and digital designing. **Barry Young** and **Joel Reynolds** are both Past Players and continue to assist the committee.

DRC OBJECTIVES

1. To provide Essendon Football Club supporters with a Club outside existing coterie and official EFC activities which enable them and their guests to have a closer engagement and foster the spirit of the Essendon Football Club
2. To provide funds to the Essendon Past Players and Officials Association to support their ongoing involvement with the Essendon Football Club and to enable them to be recognised for their contribution to the history of the club.
3. To continue contributions to the Essendon Past Players Foundation Inc, to provide benefits to those Past Players who are suffering financial, health of lifestyle hardship.



Statue of Dick Reynolds at the MCG

DRC GOLF DAY 2022

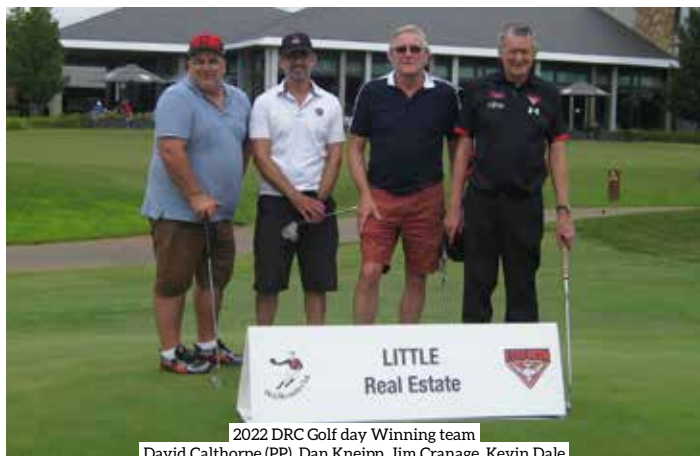
By David Collins

The DRC, EFC Past Players & Officials Golf Day was held at Sandhurst Golf Club on Wednesday 9th February, and was again, an outstanding success. The weather was perfect for golf and 23 teams participated. A big thank you to all who participated to make this such a great event. Special thanks to our sponsors, namely PMD Financial advisors, Essendon BMW, NEC, Little Real Estate, TMS Mos Kassaby, Infrabuild and Drummond Golf.

Event Convenor Kevin Dale ably assisted by Barb Cullen OAM, once again did a superb job in bringing everything together.

The format was a Gentsomes event and the winners were as follows.

Winning Team: David Calthorpe, Jim Cranage, Kevin Dale, Dan Kneipp (Kevin Dale team)



Runners Up: Joe Misiti, Ferzi Bekiri, Pasquale Di Virgilio, Sean McIlroy (Melbourne Cleaning Supplies)

3rd Place: Xavier Campbell, Russ Fynmore, Stephen Fynmore, Don Abell (Russ Fynmore Team)

The individual winner on the day was Jason Smith, he is regular player in this event.

EFC were represented by a team of current day players comprising Darcy Parish, Devon Smith, Jayden Laverde and Dylan Clarke. Jake Stringer attended but did not play this year. EFC Executive management were also represented by Xavier Campbell, Brenton Humphries, Nick Ryan, Adrian Crawford, Alex Kater and Cassie Grubb.



Past players who participated in the day were; David Calthorpe, Steve Alessio, Marc Bullen, Paul Vander Haar, Graeme Shultz, Barry Young, Ben Haynes, Terry Daniher, David Flood, Kelvin Steel, Dustin Fletcher and Joe Misiti. Past DRC Chairman, EFC Board member, Premiership player and PP&OA Foundation Trust member Greg Brown joined the event for Lunch and the presentations.

Following completion of play, Kevin Dale hosted a lunch which included interviews with Devon Smith and Darcy Parish. Xavier Campbell provided all present with a comprehensive insight into the Bombers situation as we head into the 2022 season. 400 game past player, Dustin Fletcher spoke about the success his sons Mason and Max were having in the USA College NFL competitions. The raffle and the auction conducted by Barry Young were again very successful and ably assisted by Premiership past players, Terry Daniher and Paul Vander Haar. Our thanks go to the EFC, Victoria Golf Club, the Essendonians, and individual supporters for their donations of prizes.

All monies generated from the golf day, amounting to around \$10,000, are directed to the EFC Past Players Foundation Trust, which is used to assist past players suffering financial hardship following their playing days. We are greatly appreciative of all of those participating and all sponsors for their contributions.

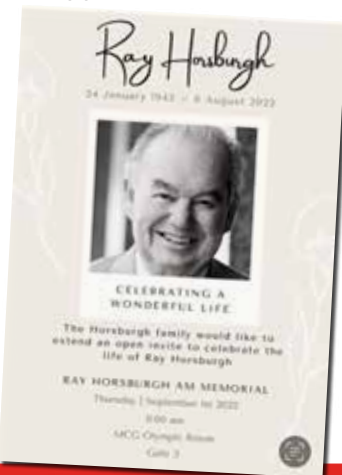
Thanks also to the following people who gave up their time to assist with this event: Ken Gilbertson, Charlie Italia, Graham Leydin, Gary Grainger, Barry Besanko, Ray Sneddon, John Della, Susie Norton, Barb Cullen OAM, Sue Anderson and Cassidee Grubb.



VALE RAY HORSBURGH OAM

The EFC has lost one of its most passionate respected members. Ray passed away after a fall while on an overseas business trip in July 2022. He joined the Essendon Football Club Board in 2003, served as President from 2005-2009 and was a passionate supporter with a great understanding of the game. Ray had extensive involvement with the EFC administration and the playing group, he provided endless corporate support and was a significant benefactor.

Ray was a wonderful Club man, EFC Life member, member of the Collins Street Dons, the Essendonians, EFC First XVVIII, Coleman Club, Dick Reynolds Club Trustee of the EFC Past Players & Officials Association. He was involved in the VFL administration with suburban and country football, along with the Williamstown Seagulls Football Integration Development Association (FIDA) team. FIDA is an Australian football competition for players with intellectual disabilities.



Ray was a mentor to many and gave unheralded support to so many people. He never chased the limelight or recognition for the assistance he provided to so many in all walks of life. Ray had an impressive business career as the CEO of ACI and then Smorgon Steel Pty Ltd. He had immense personal contacts across the broader business network and had a life time of community and charitable involvement which was recognised by his OAM award.

He was a larger-than-life personality, who will be remembered by all of us for his enthusiasm, friendship, openness and ongoing support. Ray was a friend who will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts go to his wife Pam, his sons Andrew, Justin and Derek and daughter Johanna and their families.

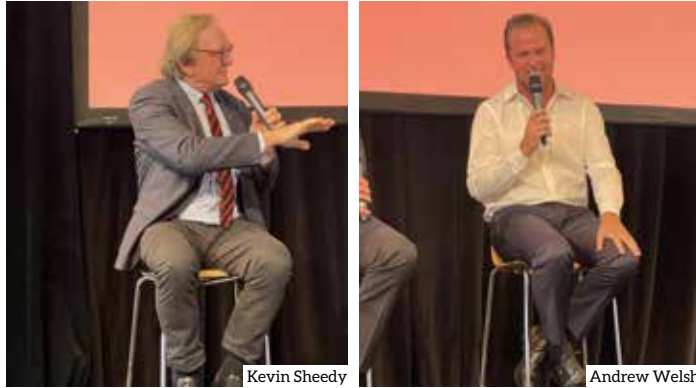
It was great honour for me to be Master of Ceremonies for his Memorial service at the MCG which attracted 500 people.

Kevin Dale

STAR BOMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

After being postponed a number of times due to COVID, the Dick Reynolds Club luncheon, "Bombers in the Media" finally took off on 29 March at the RACV. All of the 170 plus people who attended would agree that it was worth the wait.

MC Tim Watson put on a 3 vote performance as he always does. His questions and comments to the first panel (Matt Lloyd, Andrew Welsh and Kevin Sheedy) about their experiences working in and dealing with the media resulted in numerous extremely funny, interesting and often perceptive responses. A number of hitherto "untold stories" also revealed much to the amusement of all present. It became obvious very quickly that to be successful in the media, you need to have a quick wit and be able to defend yourself on the spot.



Kevin Sheedy

Andrew Welsh

The second panel (Scott Lucas, Mark Harvey, and Jobe Watson) also had many very funny moments including some from the father/son duo. Their conversation later took on a more serious tone with all 3 panelists providing insightful information about the experiences of both current and recently retired players as a result of public media pressures and particularly by social media.



Mark Harvey, Steve Alessio, Jobe Watson and Tim Watson

The atmosphere in the room right from the very start was fantastic and it became very clear that everyone was extremely happy to finally be able to catch up with each other in a friendly and relaxed environment

Thanks goes to Barb Cullen OAM and to Jane Lee for their outstanding efforts in organizing this event and making it so successful.



Tim and Jobe Watson

DRC COCKTAIL FUNCTION 2022

This year's function was conducted on 3 August in the recently renovated Premiers Room on the first floor at the Windy Hill Venue. Over 100 people attended the event which featured Debut Jumper presentations to a number of past EFC players. Kevin Dale was again outstanding in his role as MC which went a long way in ensuring everyone there had a great time.



Cale Hooker and Jake Carlisle receiving their Debut jumpers

Cale Hooker (EFC Number 12) received his debut jumper from former EFC Number 12 Barry Capuano. Barry outlined many of the highlights and achievements of Cale's long and distinguished career and it was clearly evident from Cale's response how much he loved his time with the Bombers.

John Barnes (Number 20) was at his entertaining best in presenting Jake Carlisle (Number 20) with his debut jumper. In his accepting his jumper, Jake stressed how proud he was to receive his jumper and to have been able to with play the EFC.

Kevin Dale also conducted a number of very informative interviews with past EFC champion players focusing to a large extent on their memories of the premiership wins they were part of, namely Barry Capuano (1962) and Jason Johnson, Steven Alessio and John Barnes (all 2000).

All in all, it was a most enjoyable and entertaining evening.



Panel members John Barnes, Jason Johnson, Steve Alessio and MC Kevin Dale

EFC HANGER

Essendon Football Club has the best training facilities in the AFL with two Ovals, one the size of the MCG and the other the size of Marvel Stadium. The main indoor training facility is the size of an Aircraft Hanger (hence the name).

Supporters are encouraged to visit the facility to watch training and enjoy a coffee.



NEW BOOK - COLEY'S CHAMPS

The purpose of the Dick Reynolds Club is to celebrate the success and achievements of the Essendon Football Club. Now two supporters have gone one step further and written a book about the 1962 and 1965 Premierships. It is a good read, that will appeal to all Bomber supporters interested in the history of the EFC. Two lifelong supporters, Michael Kearney and Phil Hoey from Ballarat felt there was very little media or literature on the 62 and 65 era. They had a chance meeting with Kevin Sheedy, who encouraged them to proceed with a book to record the personal stories of those ageing Premiership players. With the assistance and encouragement of those former champions, they commenced their planning.

The basis of the book was to interview all the players of the 1962 and 1965 Premierships. Michael Phil said it was the humility, candor plus the overall enthusiasm of the former players which was heart warming and confidence boosting for the authors.

The book provides first hand recollections and memories of those playing years. It includes interviews with over 40 players and their families over a period of two and a half years. The foreword is written by Kevin Sheedy who was keen to see the EFC history remembered. He believes it is important that the personal stories of those players are recorded.

The book is hard bound, beautifully presented, coffee table style and was funded entirely by the Authors. To obtain a copy go to; coleyschampsbook.com.au

GOLF DAY 2023

Next years event is booked for Wednesday, 8 February at the Sandhurst Golf Course at Sandhurst Golf Club, Sandhurst. This is a popular annual event, it includes current players, past players, sponsors, supporters and the EFC Management team. The format is a teams event and includes a Hole In One prize of a BMW Series 1 car valued at \$60,000. There are \$3000 worth of prizes. Please let us know if you wish to join us. The fee is \$265 per person or \$795 per team and includes all fees, motorized cart, breakfast, and sit-down luncheon. The funds raised go to the EFC PP&OA to assist Past Players who are suffering financial hardship and are not able to maintain their normal living standards.

Contact the DRC Golf Day Convener, Kevin Dale 0411 284 020 kevinfdale46@gmail.com

or book direct online www.golfdays.com.au/efc2023

1993 PREMIERSHIP REUNION

Wednesday 24 May 2023

This will be a great opportunity to celebrate the success of the "Baby Bombers", an exciting era for the Essendon Football Club. Several of the players won a Premiership at a young age then went on to have celebrated careers. Bomber Thompson was Captain and Kevin Sheedy was Coach. James Hird was only in his second year as a player. Other notable players just starting their careers were; Mark Mercuri, Ricky Olarens Shaw, Dustin Fletcher, Paul Hills, David Calthorpe, Joe Misiti and Gavin Wanganeen who also won the Brownlow Medal that year. Veterans in the team included Tim Watson, Peter Somerville, Dean Wallis, Sean Denham, Chris Daniher, David Grenvold, Mark Harvey, Gary O'Donnell, Darren Bewick, Paul Salmon and Michael Long who won the Norm Smith Medal in the Grand Final.

Crowd favourite Tim Watson had come back to play after a one year retirement and was pivotal to the success of the team. They finished on top of the ladder that year however in the preliminary final against the Crows, were 42 points down at half time. They went on to win in a nail biting finish by one kick. The team went on to have a comfortable win by 44 points in the Grand Final against Carlton in front of a crowd of 96,862 spectators.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We wish to make a personal request for all DRC members and supporters to renew or take out a DRC membership for 2023. The DRC has a proud history of conducting 80 events over the past 27 years recognizing and celebrating the highlights and success of the Essendon Football Club. Particularly highlighting the outstanding achievements of our Past Players who give the club its success.

As you will note the Past Players and Officials Association have taken over the administration of the DRC and all the monies generated are directed to the EFC Past Players fund, which is used to assist Past Players suffering financial hardship. The Fund is administrated by three trustees, David Collins, Past Player and EFC, PP&OA President, Melissa Green, EFC Board member and Kevin Dale Past DRC Chairman, Collins Street Dons Co convener, and EFC First XXVIII member.

APPLICATION FOR DRC ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP OF EFCPP&OA

I

wish to apply for a DRC Membership which will include an Associate Membership of the EFCPP&OA, and in so doing, agree to be bound by the Constitution of the EFCPP&OA.

I understand and agree with the benefits available to me as an Associate Member and agree to pay the amount of \$35 (the current fee for this membership which may change in future years) to the EFCPP&OA for my Membership.

My details are as follows:

Male/Female (Cross out not applicable)

Address:

Email address:

Main phone contact:

Date of birth (not compulsory):

Signed:

Date:

METHODS OF PAYMENT:

Cheque/Money Order: Made payable to EFCPP&OA.

EFT: Bendigo Bank
BSB 633 000, Account no. 158 469 734,
in the name of the **EFCPP&OA**.
Please use your name as the reference.

CREDIT CARD:

MasterCard Visa

Total Amount: \$..... (incl GST)

Name on card:

Card No:

Expiry date: /..... CCV:

Please return this form to the Treasurer, Ken Gilbertson,
by email, to kengilbertson@bigpond.com

or by post, to P O BOX 455, ESSENDON NORTH, VIC 3041