



# Essendon Football Club Past Players & Officials Association

## Newsletter – April 2023

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### President's message- David Collins



Welcome to the first EFCPP&OA Newsletter for 2023. Much has been happening in the early part of this year and there are also a number of other separate articles on various developments elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Thanks to our Admin Assistant (Jane Lee) who does a mighty job in putting together and editing this Newsletter and also to everyone who has made contributions to it. Special thanks to Jo-Anne Albert (Former EFC Director and EFC Life Member) for contributing articles on EFC Vietnam War Veterans, Boar War Honour Roll and Brian Sampson.

It's great for the EFC to make such a successful start to the 2023 season. Although there is still a long way to go, it is obvious that there is a great feeling of togetherness among the players and this gives Bomber fans real hope and enthusiasm for the future.

Our first main event for 2023 was the DRC Golf Day held at Sandhurst Golf Course on 8<sup>th</sup> February - a great day which is always well run.

The EFCPP&OA's 70<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 26 March 2023. Thanks to those that attended. There is a brief report on the meeting in this Newsletter. For those wanting more information about the meeting, a copy of the minutes will be available on our website soon.

In other developments, plans and financing of the refurbishment of the Barry Capuano Room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor at Windy Hill (formerly the Legends Room) have been approved. The room will be totally renovated and feature an array of EFC memorabilia. A program of events for the room is being prepared and will be circulated in the near future. I am happy to advise that The Essendonians have been fully involved in the refurbishment process and will have joint use of the room. Special thanks to Iain Findlay and Mark Harvey for their great contributions.

Plans for the DRC Lunch (How to win a Premiership) on 24<sup>th</sup> May at the RACV Club in Melbourne are well advanced. A full update on this event is featured in this Newsletter.

As everyone is well aware, there had been some major changes at the EFC in the latter part of 2022 including the appointment of Craig Vozzo as the new CEO. Both I and other members of the EFCPP&OA Committee have had a number of very productive meetings with David Barham, Craig Vozzo and Nick Ryan. It is very clear to us that the EFC wanted to fully embrace and value the history and culture of the EFC, the fans, the members, the Coterie Groups and very importantly the EFCPP&OA. Already there was evidence of very good progress on a number of long standing and difficult issues. These include the following:

- ✓ Clarity on entitlements and benefits for EFC Life Members and potentially EFC Hall of Fame Members
- ✓ Barry Capuano Room at Windy Hill
- ✓ EFCPPOA Display Cabinet in Hall of Fame at The Hangar
- ✓ Past Player Profiles
- ✓ Past Players Room at The Hangar

There has also been significant changes in regard to the EFC/EFCPPOA Trust Agreement. This agreement provides the mechanism through which we assist EFCPPO members in need of financial assistance. The Trust will in future be administered by David Wills (EFC Treasurer), Kevin Dale (Independent) and David Collins (EFCPP&OA). The Trust has been administered by Barry Capuano, Greg Brown and the late Ray Horsburgh for many years and our sincere thanks goes to them for their great work in this regard.

David Collins  
President

***TELL US YOUR NEWS ...*** We welcome news, articles and photographs from all our members. If you have experiences, insights and/or photos that you think may be of interest to other EFCPPOA members, please feel free to send them to [admin@efcppo.com.au](mailto:admin@efcppo.com.au) so we can include them in future newsletters editions.

## 2023 AFL Guernsey presentation

Great to see some EFC Past Players present the Essendon AFL playing group with their 2023 guernseys before the start of the season.

The small event at the Hangar involved the 2023 team and their families and a few EFC Past players including two-time premiership player Garry Foulds, 1962 Premiership player, Barry Capuano, 1993 premiership Player David Calthorpe, 2000 Premiership Player Blake Caracella, Dean Rioli, Brent Stanton and Michael Hurley.



*David Calthorpe & Jayden Davey*



*Dean Rioli & Anthony Munkara*



*Barry Capuano & Will Setterfield*



*Garry Foulds & Sam Weideman*



*Blake Caracella & Alwyn Davey Jr*



## 2022 DRC Golf Day

A great 2022 DRC Golf day was held on Wednesday 8 February 2023 at Sandhurst Golf Course. The weather was excellent, the course in splendid condition, and the golf enjoyable whatever the score. Overall it was a great DRC/EFCPP&OA event, with EFC Past Players, valued sponsors, members from the EFC Executive Management Team, Coterie groups and supporters all playing golf together.

The luncheon and prize presentations were highlighted by the attendance of three current EFCW players, along with new CEO Craig Vozzo and retired AFL players, Devon Smith and Martin Gleeson.



***Sofie Alexander, Bonnie Toogood & Kaitlin Sergeant***



***The Winning Team - TMS***

The Winning Team "TMS" was headed up by well-known EFC identity, Mos Kassaby. Team members were Devon Smith, Mark Gostlow and Pete Lynagh with a score of 102 points.

They won on a countback from the Mahers Maulers team whose team members included well known EFC Corporate supporters, Dennis Anderson and Stephen Day. They were joined by Martin Gleeson and Mark Nievaart.



***Runners Up -Mahers Maulers team***



***Australian Skilled Migration team***

Third Prize on 101 points, was the team from Australian Skilled Migration headed up by Past Players Mark Bullen and Ben Haynes, who were joined by Paul Cox and Matt O'Sullivan.

The Winning Individual score on 47 points was won by Aaron Hawkins. He was representing the Strathmore Branch of the Bendigo Bank who were one of our Sponsors. He won on a count back from Mark Gostlow from the TMS team.



Over \$2000 worth of raffle items were distributed, and Past Player Barry Young conducted a very successful auction. The event is a major fundraiser for the EFC Past Players, who provide support including financial assistance to some of our older past players who find themselves in difficulty or hardship.

A big thank you to all of our premium partners for their support and also to everyone who participated on the day. Thanks also to all the EFC Past Players who played in the various teams.

Special thanks also to event organisers Kevin Dale and Barbara Cullen along with Charlie Italia, Ken Gilbertson, Darryl Gerlach, Gary Grainger, Barry Besanko, Susie Norton, and Ray Sneddon who assisted on the day.

## **Essendon Football Club Past Players & Officials Association Official Merchandise –**

Order online - <https://essendonfcpastplayers.com.au/shop/>



**Golf Towel & tees**

**\$20 + Postage**



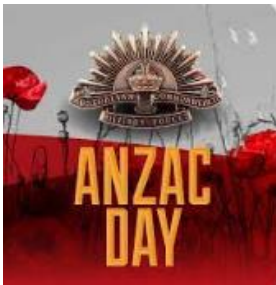
**Cap**

**\$20 + Postage**



**Beanie**

**\$20 + Postage**



## 25 April 2023 – Anzac Day

*On this day, and every day we remember  
and thank all who served*

### Vietnam War 1955-1975 : Acknowledging the 19s/Reserves players (Associate EFCPP&OA members) who served in Vietnam

*Author: Jo-Anne Albert - former EFC Director, EFC Life Member.*



#### **Iain 'Fingers' FINDLAY**

**Vietnam Veteran**

**AFL Tribunal Advocate**

**U19s player - 1966: 1967**

**#16**

Known to many simply as 'Fingers' or 'E', Iain Findlay played for Essendon U19's in 1966 and 1967. Coached by legendary Alan 'Basher' Thaw, Iain played on the half-forward flank.

Twice weekly, after school, he would hitchhike to join teammates training at *Windy Hill* and hitchhike back home to Forest Hill in Melbourne's east. Those were the days of recruitment zones in the VFL. Essendon's patch was Nunawading/Ringwood/Mitcham and some legendary footy names emerged to Don the Sash: Paul Salmon, Gary O'Donnell, and Darren 'Daisy' Williams to name a few.

After leaving school Iain entered the Victorian Police Academy, passing out in October 1968. For the young men of that era, it was the time of conscription and National Service. Iain found himself graduating one day and drafted into the army the next. Training camps in Puckapunyal, Indooroopilly (Qld.) followed before being deployed to Vietnam in 1970. His tour of duty would last for 13 months.

As a Corporal trained in policing, Findlay was attached to the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps, serving in the Australian Force Vietnam Provost Unit. Working from Vung Tau, Nui Dat, and Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) in addition to military policing, the unit's personnel utilised their skills to support members of the Australian Embassy Defence Liaison with security matters.

During his tour of Vietnam, Iain was severely injured, when the vehicle he was travelling in ran over a land mine. Six months of surgeries and rehabilitation followed.

Returning home in 1971 to return to his chosen career in the police force, Iain worked undercover as a member of the Drugs Squad. Again Iain was on the receiving end of the unfriendly fire, this time in Heidelberg. He spent over two decades on cases involving some of Melbourne's worst criminals.



Many will know of Iain's role as an advocate representing players before the AFL Tribunal. Recalling his first case in 1978 where he represented EFC Reserves player Michael Doyle, Iain proudly notes that: "I got him off". "I've represented every single club in the AFL at the Tribunal and also worked with Tassie and Victorian country leagues." Iain's final case as an advocate was in 2022, when he analysed the Channel 7 tapes on behalf of Carlton FC/Patrick Cripps and their legal team.

Iain turned his hand to team management during State of Origin campaigns in the 1980s: "I was Team Manager for the Victorian side, and later Team Manager for the NSW side. Working with the likes of Teddy Whitten, Bobby Skilton, and Billy Goggin was memorable."

As a Director of Rule Prostate Cancer and the E J Whitten Foundation Iain, has for many years played an active role in fundraising via the E J Whitten Legends Game. Awareness programs for men's health, leading-edge research, and treatment clinics have been beneficiaries



A long-time, generous supporter of the EFCPPOA, each year Iain generously sources memorabilia and golf experiences to support the Association's fundraising efforts.

Iain has family connections linked to Essendon. His father-in-law, Allan 'Bunny' Woods is the EFC oldest living player, having played with the reserves pre-WWII. Iain met his wife Samantha when both were members of the EFC Cheer Squad. Today they are active members of the Essendonians coterie.

## **John 'Jock' HASLETT**

**Vietnam Veteran**

**Reserves grade player 1964, 1965**

**#40**

Jock was coached by Bill Hutchison in '64 and Greg Sewell in '65.

Playing as a full back, Jock recalls Collingwood's very young Len Thompson as a tall streak and formidable opponent.

Following his 30 games with the Bombers, Jock played a season with Redan in the Ballarat League.

Conscripted into National Service in 1967 – the same army intake as EFC's Ian Payne - Jock was posted to Vietnam in 1968. Stationed at Nui Dat, Private Haslett served as a Rifleman in the Royal Australian Infantry Corps (4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian

Regiment). At the end of his tour of duty, Jock was thankful to return home to family and friends "in one piece".

Six degrees of separation: As a member of the Kyneton High School football team, Jock recalls a match played against Essendon High on their home ground. Following the game, Jock was billeted to have dinner with Essendon's Whitbourne family. As young men, Peter Whitbourne and Jock's paths would cross again, playing for Essendon and both would be called up for National Service, which included tours of duty in Vietnam.



## Peter Graeme WHITBOURNE

Vietnam Veteran

U19s and Reserves player: 1964: 1966

#43

Peter attended Essendon High. The Whitbourne family lived in Birdwood Street North Essendon. Connections with EFC are many. Club Secretary Bill Cookson was a neighbour; a young Alec Epis boarded with Mrs. Hickey down the road, in all 7 players lived in the street. Peter played schoolboy footy against Kyneton High, hosting his future EFC teammate and fellow Vietnam Veteran, John 'Jock' Haslett at the family home, after the game. Coached by Alan 'Basher' Thaw and Greg Sewell, Peter proudly notes a memorable reserves game kicking 4 goals against Melbourne on the 'G'. He adds wryly, he is still owed \$3 in unpaid wages for games played! Peter, we'll be sure to let the EFC CEO know there'll be a claim heading the club's way!

In 1966 Peter was conscripted. Attached to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps, Private Whitbourne was sent to Vietnam in 1968. Stationed at Nui Dat, he was a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment's mortar platoon. Peter fought in the Battle of Coral-Balmoral in May 1968.\*\*

\*\*Awarded 13 May 2018 (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle), The Battle of Coral/Balmoral citation states ... *in recognition of extraordinary individual and collective gallantry ... displayed on numerous actions... the **Unit Citation for Gallantry** was awarded to units and men.*"



*The **Unit Citation for Gallantry** is a collective group decoration awarded to members of Australian military units. It recognises extraordinary gallantry in action. The actual citation is a warrant presented to the unit. Insignia are worn by individuals to denote their membership of a unit that has been awarded a citation. As of June 2018, only six awards have been made.*



# EFC Honour Roll - Boer War

This Honour Roll commemorates the  
Essendon Football Club players who died on active service



These men paid the ultimate sacrifice,  
leaving family, friends, and football  
to fight for the right for all of us to live in freedom.

***We will remember them  
Lest We Forget***



(The honour board has recently been retrieved from storage and will be displayed at *The Hangar*)

## **2023 Annual General meeting**

Below is a brief overview of the outcomes of our 70th AGM held on 26 March 2023.

One minute's silence was observed in recognition of the passing of the following members since the last AGM. Robert Horgan, Ray Horsburgh, Merna Slattery, George Spero, Terry Rodgers, Graham Mendola, Alan Gorgan, John Towner, Alby Wilson, Alan Gordon - RIP

The Minutes of the previous AGM were accepted without amendment. The reports by the President, Secretary and Treasurer were also accepted. The recommendation that John Della and Susie Norton be granted EFCPPOA Life Membership due to their outstanding contributions to both the EFCPPOA and the DRC were accepted.

All 2022 Committee members have chosen to seek re-nomination for the Committee in 2023 and no new nominations have been received.

### **2023 EFCPP&OA Committee:**

**President:** David Collins  
**Secretary:** Charlie Italia

**Deputy President:** Darryl Gerlach  
**Treasurer:** Ken Gilbertson

**Committee Members:**

Barry Besanko  
Ryan O'Connor

Gary Grainger  
Jason Johnson

Graham Leydin  
Mark Fraser

## Where Are They Now?

### *Michael Hartley*

**Years played:** Essendon 2016-2019 / Hawthorn 2020-2021

**Games:** 49 (44- Essendon / 5 – Hawthorn)

**Goals:** 2 (1- Essendon / 1 – Hawthorn)

**Number/s worn:** 36 -Essendon / 27 - Hawthorn



#### **What did you do, football wise, following your playing days at Essendon?**

I spent two years on Hawthorn FC's list. The year after that, I played/coached in the VFL with Collingwood and was aligned with Seymour in the Goulburn Valley League. I also was a AFLW Development Coach at Collingwood FC. In 2023, I'm playing full time at Seymour.

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

I worked at Ladder (main charity of the AFL Players' Association) as a mentor and support worker. I then moved into disability support work where I worked giving one-on-one assistance. Now I run an under 18's competition in Bendigo called the CVFL U18's (Central Victorian Football League). I'm also a Dad to two (soon to be three) flat out kids.

#### **Have you suffered with any port football injuries and have required surgery?**

I broke my nose badly in 2016. I really go see about it now as I can't really smell very well. It's ruined my modelling career post-football also.

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

Obviously trying to keep the game going fast and being as exciting as possible is always nice. I'd like to see someone bring the torp back into style! Other than that, I really enjoy how footy is being played at the moment.

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

Feels like I played so long ago, Walla and I spent a lot of time together and we catch up when he is not swamped by his adoring fans. Jordan Ridley and Mason Redman are absolutely dominating at the moment - they were young when I was at Essendon, but I really enjoyed playing some VFL games with them, and now to watch them shining at AFL level is great. Taught them everything they know!

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

Michael Hartley- "let the kickers, kick". Nobody listened to that one when I played. No one wanted to give the key backman the ball - I save it for local footy now.

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

**For Essendon:** Mark Baguley. He was a warrior every time he went out to play. Didn't receive as much praise as he deserved. He was tough.

**Other teams:** Josh Kennedy from West Coast. I remember one preseason game we played the Eagles over in the West. It was 40 degrees in the middle of the day. I played on him, and all he did was run, and run. He worked so hard. I lost 10kg that day and was knackered after the game. I just loved how he went about his footy.

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

I loved my time at the Essendon Football Club. The players, coaches, support staff and the fans made it memorable for me. To be a tiny part of such an historic organisation will always mean something to me. I'd love to be involved back at the club in some capacity in the future! I know the clubs in great hands now. Can't wait to see some more success come its way. Thanks for being a part of my journey! Go Bombers!!

## **Dan Eddy – collating EFC's oral history**

In 2022, as part of Essendon's 150-year celebrations, club historian and author Dr Dan Eddy conducted several podcast interviews with past players and officials, including Ken Fraser, Simon Madden, Greg Sewell, Paul Salmon and Gavin Wanganeen. This year, with the support of the EFCPP&OA and the Essendonians, Dan is endeavouring to interview significantly more past players, coaches and officials from our great club, to produce one of the largest oral history collections of any AFL club. As he says, "Ideally, I want to interview *every* living past player, plus children of deceased players and coaches, so we then have everyone's story on tape for current and future generations to learn and benefit from."



A selection of 15 podcasts will be aired via Essendon FC's media channels, but the majority will be released through Dan's and our EFCPP&OA Website and social media platforms. He is intending to record both audio and video where possible, in what promises to be an exciting project that recognises the contribution of figures from all previous generations. Some long-time supporters will also be interviewed.

Whether you played one game or 400, expect a call from Dan at some stage in the weeks and months ahead. Most interviews will be conducted in the subject's home, using Dan's own equipment, and then supplied to our Association to be used as we deem fit. He is also keen to see scrapbooks, photographs and memorabilia that members of our Association have in their private possession.

Dan can be contacted at [daneddy523@gmail.com](mailto:daneddy523@gmail.com) and 0438 584 742. To see more of Dan's work, visit [daneddybooks.com](http://daneddybooks.com).



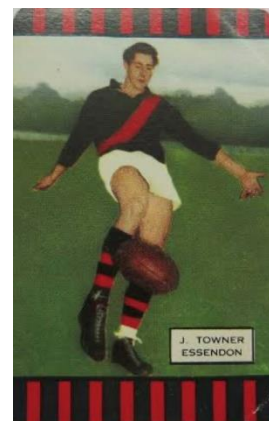
*We were saddened to hear of the passing of EFCPP&OA members:*

### **Vale John Towner**

Past Player John passed away on 19 January 2023. John played 87 games for Essendon between 1953-59 and played full-back for the Essendon 1959 Grand Final team.

After he left Essendon, John played with West Perth and then finished his playing career as captain-coach of Surfers Paradise.

*Rest in Peace John*



### **Vale Terry Rodgers**

Terry passed away on 18 February 2023. A half-forward, he played 38 games for Essendon between 1961-1964. He later taught and played football at Alexandra.

*Rest in Peace Terry*

### **Vale Alby Wilson**

Alby was well known for his work as a fund raiser for the Essendon FC selling raffle tickets over many years. Alby was on the EFCPP&OA Committee from 1997 to 2009 (13 years) and was awarded EFCPP&OA Life Membership in 2007.

Alby was a keen lawn bowler and was heavily involved as an organizer for the CPPA Bowls events over many years.

*Rest in Peace Alby*



### **Vale Alan Gordon**

Alan was a long-time member of the Essendon Football Club Social Marketing Committee before retiring in 2018. He was awarded EFC Life membership in 2015.

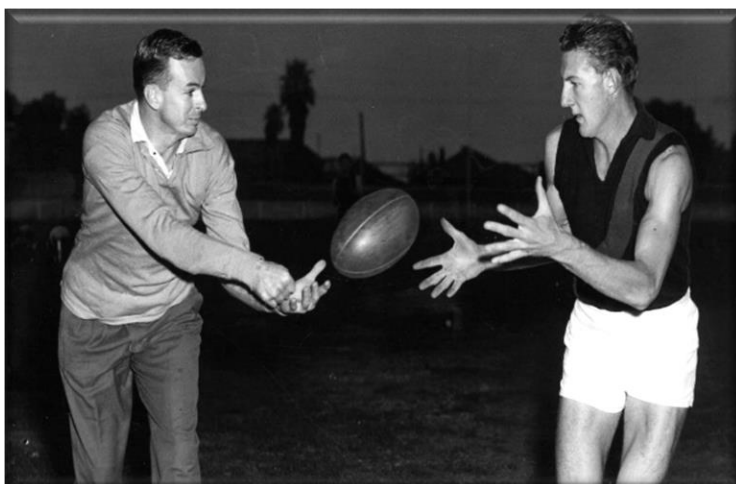
Alan worked for "The Age" for many years and was a truly dedicated Bomber Supporter.

*Rest in Peace Alan*

# The Many Lives of Brian Sampson

Author: Jo-Anne Albert

**Premiership player – 1962 and 1965**  
**Life Member**  
**#34**  
**100 games**  
**45 goals**  
**Club's best team player 1965**  
**Outstanding apprenticeship 1959**  
**Bricklayer – business owner**  
**Most supportive employer 1990**  
**Artist – bonsai, ceramics, painting**  
**Speaker**  
**Author**



Coach John Coleman and Brian Sampson on a training run at *Windy Hill*, Essendon 1960s.

Recently over a coffee with Premiership Captain Ken Fraser, Ken showed me his copy of a book written by teammate Brian Sampson.

The Essendon footy community knew Brian Sampson best through his playing days in the 1960s when he played in the memorable premierships teams of '62 and '65.

Standing at 192cm (6' 4") tall, with great reach Sampson began his career at Essendon in the U19s in 1958. A career-threatening knee injury loomed in this his first season but he overcome the challenge and was promoted to the senior side in 1959. Consistency saw him retain his place in the senior side and he was selected to play in the losing Grand Final team against Melbourne, but injury loomed once again. In *Flying Higher*, author Michael Maplestone notes: "... in the second quarter ... disaster struck when big ruckman, Brian Sampson suffered a shoulder injury and had to be replaced." Returning in 1960 Brian re-injured his knee, finding himself on the sidelines for most of the season. In 1962 Essendon played off for the premiership against Carlton, Brian was the team's, 19<sup>th</sup> man. The highlight of Brian's career came in 1965. In the Bombers successful premiership campaign, he would be acknowledged as one of Essendon's best players throughout the finals series. Shoulder injury plagued his 1966 season. In 1967 Sampson sought clearance from Essendon to join West Perth in the WAFL.

Lesser known were Brian's other talents and passions. Brian excelled in all that he undertook. After leaving school, he took on a 5-year bricklaying apprenticeship and was awarded the most outstanding apprentice in the State of Victoria for that year.

Down the track, one of his employees, whom Brian mentored, replicated his boss's success by also achieving recognition as Victoria's outstanding apprentice. Several of Brian's apprentices over the years became successful builders and another a teacher at one of the trade colleges. A tribute to his tutelage.

A career highlight was when he was named Employer of the Year by Holmesglen TAFE. Brian enjoyed the ability to earn a good living for his family and give something back to his trade.

Always creative, Brian enjoyed drawing and making models during his school years. He had considered studying architecture after high school but in the end, decided to pursue a trade.

After retiring from professional football, Brian and his wife Margaret visited a garden show. He was fascinated with the display of miniature native figs (bonsai – the Japanese art of miniature trees) and keen to try his hand. Some 15 years on when he had fulfilled his role as coach of his daughters' various sporting teams, worked at perfecting his trade and growing his business, and played golf, it was time for a new interest. The scene was set when Margaret bought him a set of bonsai tools, encouraging him to "Go for it".

Brian found a nurseryman who was an expert in native Australian bonsai, his favourite species, to teach him the horticultural aspects. Later, others taught him the art of Japanese bonsai.

Creating ceramics – pots and figurines followed as did landscape painting - watercolours. In the Sampson garden, Brian amassed a collection of 20,000 bonsai plants. Each taking 10-15 years to mature, he handcrafted ceramic pots, pruning, tending, and nurturing each plant. He also painted watercolours of Australian native bush. Invitations to speak and demonstrate at international conferences and a guest appearance on ABC TV's Gardening Australia followed. (<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/native-bonsai/9428012>).

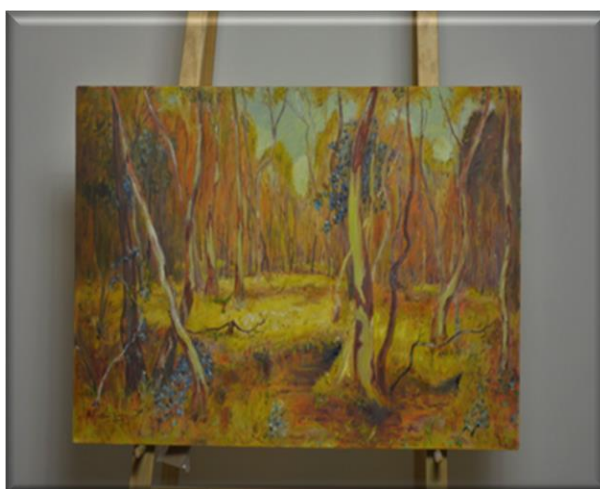
Brian's book, '*Miniature tree with imagination*' was published by his beloved wife Margaret following his death in 2012. His living legacy of beautiful creations remains and are exhibited.

Ken Fraser recalls: Visiting Brian several months before his ill health became very serious, he proudly showed me his wonderful bonsai garden, encompassing nearly all of his backyard.

As we walked, I asked him a question about his football career which had always intrigued me. I said "Brian, through the football seasons you played quite well in the 'Home and Away' matches but in the several final series on the big MCG you played **outstandingly** and were always in our best players. Why was this so?"

Brian's answer: "That's easy to answer Ken. As a bricklayer I worked physically very hard Monday to Friday, and combined with footy training, by the end of the week I was very tired ... when the finals were on, my boss, a keen Essendon supporter, gave me the Friday off, so I was fighting fit on the Saturday!!"

My comment to Brian was ... "It's a pity your boss didn't give you every Friday off in the footy season Brian, ... you would have won several Brownlow Medals!!" Brian responded with a wry smile!



(L) Bonsai with ceramic figurines (R) Australian Native Bush watercolour Artist Brian Sampson.  
Photography Tricia Ziemer

## Is this our most successful player?

*Written & researched by Carolynn Larsen -EFC History & Glory and Fame Museum Volunteer.*

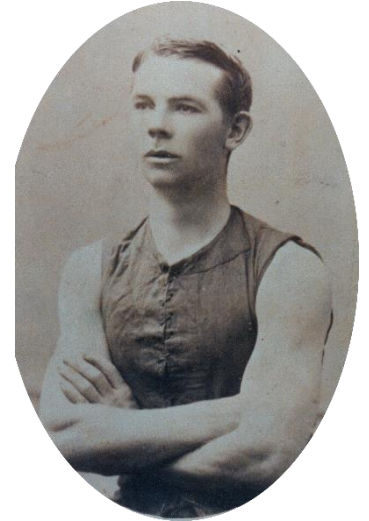
Because of Essendon's long and successful history, many players have enjoyed multiple successes, but none have come close to William "Pos" Watson's record. From his first win in 1885 he seems to have played in at least 17 premierships in just 20 seasons!

His first taste of success was as a 14-year-old playing with South Warrnambool juniors in 1885. He graduated to Warrnambool seniors the following year and they were premiers every year from 1886 to 1894.

He joined Essendon in 1891 and played 69 games, including the 1891-1894 premierships. He then left for Western Australia to captain the very successful South Fremantle club in 1895 and played in the 1896 and 1898 flags.

That only adds up to 13 wins. His total jumps to 17 because from 1891 to 1894, he played for Warrnambool mid-week and travelled to Melbourne by train to play with Essendon on Saturday. As Essendon won four successive flags, from 1891 to 1894, that gave him the extraordinary record of eight premierships in four years!

Watson was described by Grif John (the founder of South Fremantle) as second only to Albert Thurgood as the greatest player Western Australia had seen. It is unlikely that his winning record will be surpassed.



*William "Pos" Watson*

***69 Games -Essendon  
Football Club 1891-1894***



## 2023 DRC Luncheon – bookings now open!



The Dick Reynolds Club presents



# HOW TO WIN A PREMIERSHIP!

Inspired by Kevin Sheedy, who has won 7 premierships as a player and coach, the *How to Win a Premiership!* luncheon will bring together a collection of Essendon Football Club greats, who will share their insights into the art of winning premierships.



With living legends in attendance from our last 6 premierships across 1962-1965, 1984-1985, 1993 & 2000, our popular Master of Ceremonies, Tim Watson, will keep the day entertaining and revealing.

Along with Kevin Sheedy, the following premiership players have been invited:

1962 & 1965: Ken Fraser, John Birt, David Shaw, Barry Capuano

1984 & 1985: Simon Madden, Paul Weston, Garry Foulds, Mark Harvey

1993: Joe Misiti, Dustin Fletcher, Gary O'Donnell

2000: Steve Alessio, Jason Johnson, Blake Caracella, Scott Lucas,  
Adam Ramanauskas

Join us to discover how it was done from those premiership players who were involved and what it will take to achieve a 17th Premiership.

Venue: RACV Club, 500 Bourke Street, Melbourne.

When: 11.30am - 3.00pm, Wednesday, 24th May 2023.

Cost: DRC Members **\$140**  
EFCPP&OA Members **\$140**  
Non DRC Members/ Guests **\$150**

Luncheon includes a two-course meal and beverages.

**BOOK HERE**

Dress Code: Business Suit or Jacket (tie optional), no denim.

The Dick Reynolds Club is part of the Past Players and Officials Association. The purpose of the DRC is to foster the support and spirit of the Essendon Football Club by celebrating its proud history and culture. All funds raised go to the Past Players Foundation to provide benefits for those who are suffering financial, health or lifestyle hardship.

**Don't miss out !**

Booking link - <https://www.trybooking.com/CGJCA>

Thank you to our 2023 DRC Golf Day

Premium Partners



Essendon BMW



**FUNDRAISING ASSISTANCE** - As you are aware, the EFCPPOA and Dick Reynolds Club run a number of funding raising efforts each year and also an Online Auction. If you are able to donate potential prizes for any of these efforts, please email us [admin@efcppo.com.au](mailto:admin@efcppo.com.au)