



Essendon Football Club Past Players & Officials Association

Newsletter – August 2024

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President's message- David Collins

Welcome to the EFCPP&OA's August Newsletter. We are well into 2024 and it has been a good year so far for the Association.

Quite a number of events have already been held in the recently refurbished Barry Capuano Room at Windy Hill and more are planned. We will notify you in advance of future events to be held there. The feedback we receive on how the room now looks is fantastic and it is a tribute to the enormous work done by those who organised the refurbishment of the room.



Our monthly coffee club (EPPOCH - Essendon Past Players & Officials Coffee Hour) is held on the first Monday of each month in the Barry Capuano Room at Windy Hill. Attendances continue to be very good, and our guest speakers have been outstanding. Many thanks to David Barham, Craig Vozzo and Gerard Dillon (Essendonians) who have attended as guest speakers so far this year. Scheduled to attend in the next few months' catch ups are Natalie Wood (AFLW), Mark Bolton and Tony Elshaug. Special thanks to Graham Leydin for his work in organising these events.

As previously advised, EFC Past Player profiles are now available on our website - essendonfcpastplayers.com.au. Thanks to Charlie Italia and Caroline Larson on creating profiles for recently retired/delisted EFC players. To access player profiles, head to our [website](#) and click on **PROFILES** on the main menu. If any past player would like to provide any changes or updates to your individual profile, then please email suggestions or updated photo to admin@efcppo.com.au

This year's DRC Luncheon held at the RACV City Club went very well. A separate article in this Newsletter provides an overview of the event. There is also a small article on the recent DRC Cocktail function.

A highlight for the Association was the inaugural catch up for EFC past players based in South Australia which was organised by Charlie Italia and Andrew Underwood. The catch up coincided with the EFC v Adelaide match. Hopefully this event becomes an annual event like the fantastic events held by the WA based EFC Past Players.

Our working relationship with the EFC continues to be excellent and we are extremely grateful for all the support and assistance provided by the EFC. I recently had the opportunity to address the EFC Board meeting and received an excellent hearing.

Our Newsletters are widely distributed, and we receive very good feedback. Special thanks to those who contribute articles and other content and also to our Admin Assistant Jane Lee who does a great job in putting everything together and arranges newsletter distribution.

As always, if any members are in need of assistance, or hear of other members who may be in need of assistance, please contact me. All approaches are strictly confidential.

David Collins
President

2024 Dick Reynolds Luncheon



The 2024 Dick Reynolds Club (DRC) luncheon to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the 1984 Premiership took place at the RACV Club Melbourne on 22 May. The event was very well attended, and it was clear that everyone who attended enjoyed themselves very much. The atmosphere in the room was terrific from the start.

Tim Watson did a magnificent job as MC, and he interviewed three panels of people closely involved in the Grand Final.



Tim Watson

- Kevin Sheedy and Terry Daniher
- Gary Foulds, Kevin Morris and Mark Harvey
- Paul Weston, Peter Bradbury, and David Collins



Terry Daniher & Kevin Sheedy



. L-R: David Collins, Peter Bradbury & Paul Weston.



L-R: Kevin Morris, Mark Harvey and Garry Foulds

Special thanks to all the panellists for making their time available to attend and participate in such an entertaining and informative manner. Tim as always, asked some probing questions which often resulted in insights into the victory which up until now had remained untold.

Special thanks to the brilliant Barb Cullen OAM and to Jane Lee for their outstanding efforts in organizing this event and making it so successful. Thanks also to the EFCPP&OA and DRC Committee members who assisted on the day. Your efforts made it all work extremely well.



DRC Members L to R: Ian Meggs, Denis Moroney, Jeff Richards, Russell McNeil.



L-R: Mark Harvey, Kevin Sheedy, Greg Sewell, Barry Besanko, Fred Lehmann, Peter Bradbury, Garry Foulds, Paul Weston, Tim Watson, Terry Daniher, David Collins & Kevin Morris.

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 so if appropriate, we can include them in future newsletters editions.

MCG committee room

At a recent Essendon home match, the Club invited some players across different generations to attend a function in the MCC Committee room alongside members of the First XVIII coterie group.

Phil Carman and Des Tuddenham were also in attendance but unfortunately missed the photo.



L-R: Kevin Walsh, Mark Bolton, Adam Ramanauskas, Kevin Sheedy OAM, David Zaharakis, Mark Harvey, Alan Ezard, Paul Salmon, Jason Johnson, Cale Hooker, Darren Bewick, Garry Foulds, Sean Denham & Paul Weston.

Reg Burgess – 70th anniversary of his debut at Essendon

Article highlighting the 70th anniversary of Reg Burgess's debut at Essendon featured in the Wimmera Mallee News on 24th April 2024 prior to Reg's passing.

Web link to article: <https://www.wimmeramalleenews.com.au/70th-anniversary-of-a-champion-essendon-debut-2024-04-23>

SA Past Players

It is with great please that we launched the South Australian Past Players contingent event in Adelaide during round 6 of the 2024 AFL Season. Organised and run by past player Andrew Underwood, approximately 7 past players (plus partners) and EFC executive and past player Mark Bolton attended our inaugural SA past player event at an Adelaide bar prior to the Essendon v Adelaide match at Adelaide Oval. The group then all walked over to Adelaide Oval to watch the game together. Past players who attended included - Kieran Sporn, David Grenvold, Tony Antrobus, Jay Nash, Henry Slattery, Andrew Underwood and Craig Barbary. The group then caught up with Greg Anderson and Paul Salmon after the game.

The Club have granted us 25 tickets to each year's away game against Adelaide in Adelaide. Thank you to Maddy Lancaster and the Membership team at Essendon football Club for this initiative.



L-R : Andrew Underwood, David Grenvold and Kieran Sporn



L-R : Tony Antrobus, Craig Barbary & Henry Slattery

Stock up on Essendon Football Club Past Players & Officials Association Official Merchandise!

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



EFCPP&OA Adults Cap – Grey
\$20.00



Beanie
\$20.00



Golf Towel
\$20.00

EFC Life Members Dinner

Approximately 120 attended the recent EFC Life Members Dinner in the Premiers Room at Windy Hill. This was the first Life Members Dinner for a few years and was very much enjoyed by all who attended.

Mark Bolton assisted by Jason Johnson did a great job as MC. Many current EFC players were interviewed including Zach Merrett, Darcy Parish, Nic Martin, Nic Cox and Jayden Laverde.



L-R: Greg Sewell, Ken Gilbertson & Kevin Parks



L-R: Nic Martin, Jason Johnson, Mark Bolton, Nic Cox and Jayden Laverde.

President Dave Barham and CEO Craig Vozzo were also interviewed, and both gave very interesting insights in what was happening at the Club and its plans for the future.

Thanks again to the EFC Board, Executive and all those that did a great job in arranging the function. It is much appreciated.



L-R: Paul Wise, Paul Lew and son, & Colin Hooper



Joe Misiti & Charlie Italia

Keith Gent



2 June 2024

Past player and Vietnam Veteran
Keith Gent (#2) enjoyed watching the Bombers
take on the Gold Coast Suns in Round 12.

Keith expressed his thanks to the Essendon
Football Club and Past Players Association for
making the trip to the game possible for him and
his wife Lorraine.

15 May 1965

Half forward, Keith Gent (#2)

Debut game
Dons vs. St Kilda at Moorabbin



Keith's photograph was featured in the Herald Sun following
the announcement of his elevation to the senior side.

EPPOCC – Essendon Past Players Officials Coffee Club



Essendon Past Players Officials Coffee Hour (EPPOCH) has had some fantastic guest “hosts” over the past few months, including

The EPPOCH were most appreciative of our guest “hosts” for giving up their time to speak to attendees and give an insight to their involvement in football and the EFC.

The next “Coffee Club” will be on Monday 5th August and Natalie Wood (AFLW Coach) will be the guest host.

Please see below the EPPOCH program for the remainder of the year. It is subject to change depending on availability of guests, but you can look forward to some lively commentary and healthy conversations:



Monday 5 August - Natalie Wood (AFLW)

Monday 2 September - Mark Bolton (Chief Strategy Officer)

Monday 7 October - Tony Elshaug (Recruiting)

Milestones and achievements

The following members have or will achieve significant age milestones between the 1st May -30th November 2024:

- Ron Haeberle (80 – 11th June).
- Neil McKissock (80- 14th June).
- Ron Okey (90- 21st June).
- Ryan O’Connor (50 – 27th June).
- Russell Muir (70 -12th July).
- Jim Forsyth (80 – 23rd July).
- Colin Boyd (70 – 27th July).
- Frank Driscoll (90 – 30th July).
- Dean Hartigan (70 – 23rd August)
- Sean Wellman (50 – 20th September).
- Ian Stevenson (80 - 23rd September).
- Joe Misiti (50 – 9th November).
- Charlie Payne (80 – 13th November).
- Hugh Mitchell (90 – 22nd November)

Guard of Honor – Marvel Stadium

On Sunday 23rd June at Marvel Stadium, the Club invited past players that have younger children to participate in a Guard of Honor whilst the team ran out to take on the West Coast Eagles.

24 children and 22 adults participated in the Guard of Honor. Players or their Partners and/or with their children included Gary Moorcroft, Ted Richards, Mark Johnson, Chris Heffernan, Bradley Plain, Mark Fraser, Sean Wellman, Sam Hunt, Joel Reynolds, Sarah Foster Knight, Mark Bolton, Hayley Bewick, Heath Hocking, Shauna Young, Andrew Welsh, Matthew Lloyd and Jason Winderlich.

This was a great initiative by the Club that will be an annual event and is part of the James Hird Academy curriculum.



Chris Heffernan & family



Matthew Lloyd and family

EFC membership tickets

Contributed byCarolynn Larsen (EFC Historian)

The Club began in 1872, but the earliest membership ticket we hold is from 1880.



Each ticket was personally signed by Club secretary, Alex McCracken - it would be a significant task if Craig had to do that today! You'll see some unusual clubs listed, such as South Yarra, Royal Park, and Powlett, as well as regional clubs such as Albury, Kyneton and Gisborne.

There was a variety of designs over the next few decades until the aeroplane appeared in 1948. That design continued until the first shield logo was issued in 1981.



The first plastic card was issued in 1981 and continued, with varying images on the front, until 2021.



In 2022, the AFL decreed that membership tickets would be only available on smart phones. A commemorative card was issued but it didn't give access to games.

Bowing to public pressure, the AFL reinstated the physical card in 2023.

The Hall of Fame has an amazing collection of these membership cards, but we are missing 1899 and 1900. I don't suppose anyone out there holds them, but we can always hope.

Finally, a plea - we only have a couple of examples for each year from 2015 so, if you have some tucked away in a drawer, we'd be very happy to add them to our collection.

DRC Cocktail Function 2024

This year's function was conducted on Wednesday 24 July in the Premiers Room on the first floor at the Windy Hill Venue. Around 70 people attended the event which featured Recognition Jumper presentations to a number of past EFC players. Our MC (Kevin Dale) did a great job and made sure all present enjoyed the evening.

During the evening, Kevin interviewed EFC Club Doctor, Brendan de Morton. Brendan revealed some very interesting insights into his experiences with the EFC over a 17 year period.



Kevin Dale and Brendan de Morton



Kevin Dale and Terry Daniher

Kevin also interviewed Terry Daniher who was at his humorous best when answering questions related to his life in recent years as well as memories of times gone by with the EFC.

Presentations of Recognition jumpers were also made to the following Past Players:

Player

Sam Grimley
Michael Hartley
Josh Begley

Presenters

Barry Besanko
John Barnes
Barry Capuano



Barry Besanko and Sam Grimley



Michael Hartley and John Barnes



Barry Capuano and Josh Begley

All presenters made very good presentations with informative descriptions of their recipient's career details including the highlights and achievements. All the players presented with jumpers expressed their delight in receiving these very individual mementoes of their careers with the EFC and also of their great experiences with and love for the EFC.

Special thanks to the DRC Committee for their great work in organizing the function. Kevin Dale, Barb Cullen OAM, Jane Lee, Charlie Italia, Ken Gilbertson, Sue Anderson, Susie Norton and Glenn Shepherd.

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



L-R: Michael Hartley, Sam Grimley and Josh Begley

Obituary

Vale Brian Gilmore

From Koondrook, Brian came to the Essendon Seconds in 1949, playing 11 games between 1950 and 1953 and a member of the Seconds premiership side in 1950 and 1952.

Post Essendon, Gilmore played 10 games with St. Kilda in 1955 and also played with Richmond Seconds, Kyneton, St. Kilda Seconds, Belgrave and Echuca.

Brian also concentrated on professional athletics winning several major races including the quarter mile at Stawell.

Condolences to the Gilmore family.

RIP Brian



Vale Reg Burgess 1934–2024

A superb fast moving, high-marking wingman and centreman from Apsley.

EFC Best and Fairest 1957 & 1960, State side representative in 1957, 1958 & 1960 and All-Australian in 1958. Reg was ranked at #13 in the Champions of Essendon and also an EFC Life Member.

He played in the 1957 & 1959 losing EFC Grand Final teams.

Post Essendon, he captain-coached Casterton to premierships from 1961 to 1963 and played with Apsley in 1964 & 1965.

A great man much loved by everyone.

Condolences to the Burgess family.

RIP Reg



Vale Barry Davis 1943-2024

Barry Davis was one of the game's greats. A superb half-back flanker and then ruck rover who played over 200 games and played in EFC's 1962 & 1965 Premierships.

Barry captained Essendon in 1970 and 1971 and won EFC's Best and Fairest award in 1968, 1969 and 1971 and runner-up in 1972. He was also twice runner-up in the Brownlow Medal in 1969 and 1971 and State side representative in 1967-1972.

Barry was awarded Victorian Football League Life Membership in 1976 and was inducted as a member of the Australian Football Hall of Fame in 1997. Barry was named at number 15 in EFC's Champions of Essendon in 2002 and elevated to Legend status in EFC's Hall of Fame in 2006.

An amazing player and person.

Condolences to the Davis family.

RIP Barry.



Born To Play: The Barry Davis Story

In response to many requests following the passing of Barry in May, Dr. Ken Davis has arranged for a paperback edition of his book "***Born to Play – The Barry Davis Story***" to be published and made available to purchase via [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com.au/Born-Play-Barry-Davis-Story/dp/0992522897).

Born To Play: The Barry Davis Story

The cost is \$28.60.

Purchase via Amazon - <https://www.amazon.com.au/Born-Play-Barry-Davis-Story/dp/0992522897>

Dr. Davis has advised proceeds from the sale of the paperback edition will be donated to dementia research.

Vale Jack Spargo

60 year EFC member Jack Spargo recently passed away aged 94.

Jack was father to Murray Spargo (right in photo) whom is a current trainer at the club and associate member of our association. Jack's funeral was held on 10th May 2024 was themed all things black and red.

For respect to Jack, the Club provided the 2000 Premiership Cup for the occasion. Jack was farewelled by the tune of " See the Bombers fly up".



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 and Special Effort raffle. If you are able to donate potential prizes for any of these efforts in 2024, please email us admin@efcppo.com.au