

# NEWSLETTER



**DECEMBER 2025**



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## **President's message- David Collins**

Welcome to our final newsletter for 2025. Firstly, congratulations to EFCPP&OA member, Andrew Welsh on his recent appointment as EFC President. Andrew has had many any notable achievements and this is up there with the best. He has already displayed great leadership and I have no doubt this will continue.



In my last Presidents report, I listed all EFCPP&OA members who had been awarded Australian Government Honours. Unfortunately, I omitted to include Kevin Sheedy (AO), Ray Sneddon (OAM) and Alan Murphy (OAM). Apologies to Kevin, Ray and Alan.

Recent EFCPP&OA functions include our outstandingly successful Annual Dinner in September and our Life Members Annual Brunch held in October (see separate articles in this newsletter).

Our monthly coffee club (EPPOCH) catch ups at Windy Hill on the first Monday morning of each month from March to October continues to be enjoyed by all who attend them. Recent guest speakers include Charlie Italia and John Birt.

Other recent initiatives include our Mental Health Assistance Program and our Baby Bombers Drive. The Mental Health Assistance Program invites members and partners who may need assistance to check our [website](https://essendonfcpastplayers.com.au) (https://essendonfcpastplayers.com.au) with details on how to make a booking with a one of our aligned professional psychiatric companies. This is all done in strict confidence. The Baby Bombers Drive offers a free EFC baby membership to new babies of former EFC players & officials.

Recently I was invited to make a presentation to the EFC Board. It was a great opportunity to update Board members with what's happening with the EFCPP&OA and also to personally thank the Board and EFC Executives for their outstanding support of our Association.

Finally, I want to thank all EFCPP&OA Committee members for their great contributions during 2025. Their work is very important and much appreciated. Also, a special thanks to Treasurer, Ken Gilbertson, who has advised he is retiring from the role at the next AGM. Ken, who was

recently was awarded EFCPP&OA Life Membership has done an outstanding job as Treasurer and has made significant improvements in modernising the role. Work is well underway in finding a replacement for Ken.

As always, if anyone of our 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

## **EPPOCH – Essendon Past Players Officials Coffee Hour**

The EPPOCH (Essendon Past Players Officials Coffee Hour) catch ups have successfully been held in the Barry Capuano room at Windy Hill.



Thank you to Graham Leydin who has led organising the catch ups, along with Charlie Italia, Samantha McKelvie (EFC) and Alan Burton (Windy Hill Venue).

The catchups feature an EFC identity who shares insights into their involvement with the Club and engages with the group through a lively Q&A session. These events provide a unique glimpse into various aspects of the Club's inner sanctum, while also giving members the opportunity to meet regularly in an informal and relaxed setting.

Thank you to all of our 2025 *EPPOCH* guests:

- February- Dustin Fletcher
- March- Matt Rosa
- April- David Barham and Tony Howard
- June- Chris Byrne
- July- Iain Findlay
- August – Charlie Italia
- September – John Birt

Members will be emailed dates and details of 2026 EPPOCH catch ups in the new year.



***Hope to see at our Coffee Club catch up in 2026!***

## **Life Member & Committee Brunch**

This year's annual Life Members & Committee brunch was held in the Barry Capuano Room at Windy Hill on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October. An enjoyable time was had by all who attended with many stories from years gone by told to much amusement.

A feature of this years' brunch was the presentation of EFCPP&OA Life Membership to our Association's Treasurer, Ken Gilbertson. Congratulations Ken and many thanks to Ken on his great work in this very important role.



*Kevin Parks, Greg Sewell, Val Parks & Glenyce Sewell*



*Ken Gilbertson presented with EFCPP&OA Life Membership by David Collins*



*Gary Grainger, Graham Leydin, David Collins, Iain Findlay & Ken Gilbertson*



*Margaret Grainger & Susie Norton*

## **2025 Annual Dinner**

Over 140 members and guests attended this year's Annual Dinner which was held in the Premiers Room at the Windy Hill Venue on Wednesday 24 September. Jason Johnson was this year's MC and did a fantastic job in making the event an outstanding success.

President David Collins welcomed all present and thanked everyone for their continuing support of the Association and in particular for making the effort to attend this important event. He noted that a theme of this year's dinner would recognition of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 2000 Premiership.

David also made a special welcome to Justin and Ben Commerford representing Binks & Associates who are now EFCPPOAs major sponsor. Also, to Brent and Angie Biasin who are major donors to our new mental health program.

David also welcomed Lauren Spark and Jacqui Vogt who are past players from EFCW AFL Teams noting that it was great that they had joined us tonight and that we are keen to EFCW past players involved with the Association.

David advised the EFC Board was represented by new President Andrew Welsh, EFC Treasurer David Wills and Board members Kate O'Sullivan, Tony Howard and Dean Solomon. Immediate past President Dave Barham was a late apology and apologies were also received Tim Roberts, Andrew Muir, and Kevin Sheedy. The EFC Executive was represented by CEO Craig Vozzo and his Executive Officer Samantha McKelvie as well as Maddy Lancaster and Maddi Pelletier (EFC Members Department). Presentations were made to Samantha and both Maddys' in appreciation of their outstanding support to the EFCPPOA.



A number of representatives from other AFL Past Player Associations also attended along with representatives from EFCPP&OA sponsors and EFC Coterie Groups.

He also thanked all members of the EFCPPOA Committee for their contributions to the work of the Association in the last 12 months. David noted that both Charlie Italia (Secretary) and Ken Gilbertson (Treasurer) and Jane Lee (Administrative Assistant) in particular had worked tirelessly

and effectively for the EFCPP&OA and their contributions were much appreciated. He also noted the outstanding work done by Barry Besanko with the AFLPA and the CPPOA.

David also thanked both the EFC Board and the EFC Executive for their excellent support, assistance and for really valuing the EFCPP&OA. He noted that our relationship is working very well and is appreciated. He also passed on his thanks to the EFC for once again funding the drinks bill at the dinner.

On a sad note, David advised that the following EFCPP&OA members had passed away since our last Annual Dinner:



- **Past Players:** Hugh Mitchell (EFC LM, EFC Hall of Fame, No 47 in the Champions of EFC, 1962 and 1965 Premiership Player). Also, Fred Gallagher, Frank Driscoll, Fred Payne, Stuart Barclay and Paul Sproule.
- **Past Officials:** Des Freeman, Malcolm Middleton and Kevin Harwood. RIP



*Michael Hurley presented his EFC recognition jumper by Matthew Lloyd*

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of an EFC Recognition Jumper to Michael Hurley by another former EFC No 18 great Matthew Lloyd. Matthew did a great job with the presentation and Michael was obviously very chuffed to receive the Honour. Jason Johnson then interviewed both former Champs much to the amusement of all present.

David noted that it was great to see Gary O'Donnell, Geoff Gosper, Peter Daniel, Russell Ellen and Don Gross, all of whom have travelled from interstate to be with us tonight.

The formal part of the evening finished as planned about 9.30pm and this allowed all present to mingle freely and catch up with each other. It was very clear that this was a fantastic part of the evening and very much enjoyed by all present judging by the laughter and smiles by all present.



*Lorna Birney, Sam McKelvie, Sue Anderson & Julie Hewes*



*Darryl Gerlach, Bruce Connor & Brendan De Morton*



**Dean Solomon, Adam Ramanauskas & Charlie Italia**



**Gary O'Donnell, Scott Lucas, Lorraine Bateman, Steve Carey, Darren Bewick & Peter Bateman**



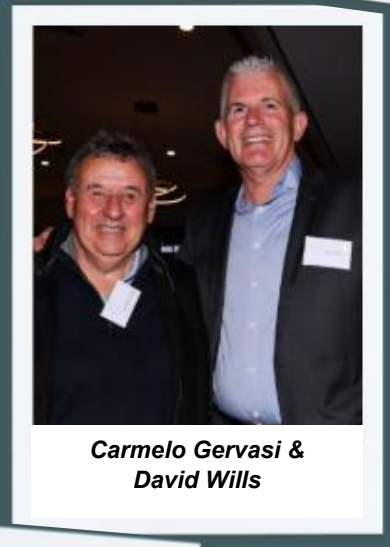
**Jason Johnson interviews 2000 panel – Matthew Lloyd, Robert Shaw, Joe Misiti & Adam Ramanauskas**



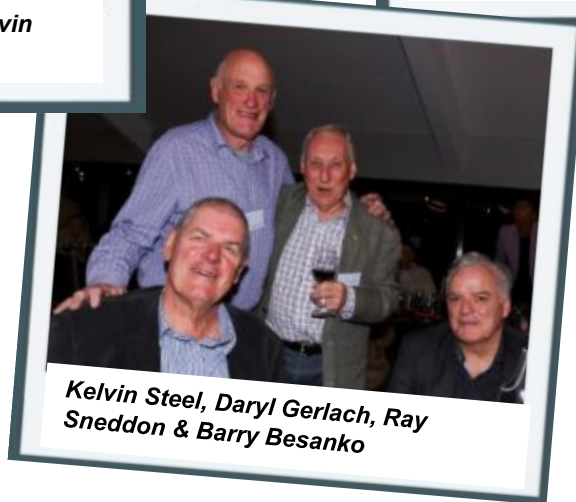
**John Barnes**



**Ken Fraser, Anthony Howard, Kevin Andrews & John Birt**



**Carmelo Gervasi & David Wills**



**Kelvin Steel, Daryl Gerlach, Ray Sneddon & Barry Besanko**

## **2025 EFC jumper presentations**

Two more players made their EFC debut in the last rounds of the 2025 season. Each player was presented with their EFC debut guernsey by a current or past Essendon player:

**Round 21 v Sydney Thursday 31 July**



*Zach Merritt presented debut jumper to Rhys unwin*

**Round 23 v St. Kilda, Friday 15 August**



*David Hille presented debut jumper to Jayden Nguyen*

## **Baby Bombers Drive**



We're excited to announce the launch of the Baby Bombers Drive – a special initiative by the Essendon Football Club Past Players & Officials Association to celebrate the arrival of the next generation of the red and black!

If any past player or official, have recently welcomed a new baby (or are expecting one soon), we'd love to hear from you. As part of this drive, we're aiming to acknowledge and celebrate these special moments with you.

Please email us at [secretary@efcppoa.com.au](mailto:secretary@efcppoa.com.au) with the following details:

- Your full name
- Baby's name and date of birth (or expected date)

We look forward to sharing the joy and building a connection with our future little Bombers!

## **A Great Full Forward Legend- Matthew Lloyd**

*Contributed by Barry Capuano OAM, EFC Legend.*



Matthew Lloyd is destined to be remembered as one of the game's greatest full forwards. Essendon selected him in the 1995 Draft with the compensatory pick that the Club received for losing Tony Delaney, Todd Ridley and Dale Kickett to the newly established Fremantle Football Club. The Bombers certainly had the best of that deal!

In 1995, he made his debut in Round 14 in a 122-point win over Adelaide at the MCG.

He played four games early in 1996, missed the middle of the season, then returned in Round 19 in a game against Adelaide, which he dominated, kicking seven goals and winning a Rising Star nomination.

In 1998 Lloyd kicked 70 goals, the highest individual tally since Sheedy's arrival at Windy Hill in 1981, and he gained his first All-Australian selection.

After another dynamic season in 1999 he stamped himself as one of the stars of the game and was rewarded with All-Australian selection for the second time. His 87 goals was the second highest in the AFL that year.

Lloyd won the John Coleman Medal as the AFL leading goalkicker in 2000 with 109 goals, with a nine-goal haul against Fremantle, his best for the year. It was the first time an Essendon player had enjoyed a 100-goal season since Geoff Blethyn in 1972. He was an important member of the winning 2000 Grand Final team finishing with four goals for the day.

He continued his outstanding career in 2001 with All-Australian selection for the fourth year in a row and came runner-up to Jason Johnson in the Crichton Medal. He also won the Coleman Medal for the 2nd year in a row, with 105 goals, averaging 5 goals per match over 21 games.

In 2003 after recovering from injury he regained his status as the competition's premier full-forward, finishing with 93 goals to secure his third Coleman Medal and his seventh leading goal-kicking award at Essendon. Lloyd also passed the Club's all-time leading goal-kicking record in Round 19 against Western Bulldogs, surpassing Simon Madden's record of 575 goals. He finished fourth in the Club's 2023 Best and Fairest.

In 2004 Lloyd continued to be one of the most potent forwards in the game to finish runner-up in the Coleman Medal with 96 goals and sixth in the Club's Best and Fairest award.



Matthew's achievements for 2005 included celebrating his 200th game in Round 13 and he also topped Essendon's goal-kicking tally again with 59 goals.

His 2006 season was shaping up to be vintage Lloyd when he kicked eight goals and four goals in the opening two rounds. But he tore his hamstring from the bone in round three requiring surgery, and he missed the remainder of the season.

He had a very fine 2008 season roaming up the ground, kicking 62 goals and winning the AFL mark of the year in a game against Melbourne when he kicked eight goals.

On 23rd September 2009, after 270 games and a club record 926 goals, Lloyd announced his retirement from football. On 30 September at the 2009 Essendon Best & Fairest awards night, outgoing CEO Peter Jackson announced that Essendon's leading goal-kicker medal would be named the Matthew Lloyd Medal in his honour.

The key features of his game were his quick leads, his strong and often spectacular marking, and his accurate left-foot kicking. His goal kicking ritual from a set shot rarely changed - going well back from the mark, pulling up his socks and, most famously, throwing a few pieces of grass into the air.

In Round 3, 1999, he kicked a career-high 13 goals against Sydney. But his greatest was probably the famous "Comeback Game" in Round 16, 2001, against the Kangaroos. In 2001 Essendon was 69 points down in the second quarter but stormed back to win by 12 points, the greatest comeback in VFL/AFL history. Lloyd kicked nine goals straight to help secure this famous victory.

Following retirement, he has become a well-respected radio and TV commentator.

Matthew Lloyd was named at number 22 in the Champions of Essendon, and his place is secure as one of the game's best-ever players.

He was awarded AFL Life membership in 2009 and a Legend of the EFC in 2013.



**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 EFCPP&OA members, please feel free to send them to [admin@efcppoa.com.au](mailto:admin@efcppoa.com.au) so if appropriate, we can include them in future newsletters editions.

## **Mental Health Assistance Program**

Our Association, together with our sponsor, The Biasin Family (Brent and Angie), is proud to launch our own Mental Health Assistance program.

Whilst those eligible are encouraged to seek assistance through the AFLPA, we decided to form our own program which will also support family members and includes our "Officials" Members.

Our program is fully funded by our Association and the Biasin Family.

Full information can be found on our [website](https://essendonfcpastplayers.com.au) - <https://essendonfcpastplayers.com.au>

If you need assistance, please simply visit our website, and the selected provider will take care of the rest.

Please be assured that strict confidentiality will always be maintained.

## **Milestones and achievements**

The following members will achieve significant age milestones between the 1 December 2025–31 March 2026:

- Marcus Margliani (40- 5 December).
- Robert Dunlop (90- 8 December).
- Jay Nash (40- 21 December).
- Judd Lalich (50- 26 December).
- Tony Delaney (50- 27 December).
- Max Crow (70 - 7 January).
- Henry Slattery (40 -22 January).
- Alan Reid (70- 29 January).
- Ben Jolley (40- 12 February).
- Barb Cullen (80- 28 February).
- Gavin Keane (60- 5 March).
- David Grenvold (60- 6 March).
- William Dick (60- 16 March).
- Peter Whitbourne (80- 25 March).
- Chris Daniher (60- 31 March).

**FUNDRAISING ASSISTANCE** - As you are aware, the EFCPPOA and Dick Reynolds Club run a number of funding raising efforts each year and the Special Effort raffle. If you are able to donate potential prizes for any of these efforts in 2026, please email us [admin@efcppoa.com.au](mailto:admin@efcppoa.com.au)

## **EFC award retrospective Crichton Medals to former EFC champions**

*Article & photos courtesy of Essendon FC*

*Full story & photos- [Bombers award retrospective Crichton Medals for former champions](#)*

Essendon has paid tribute to nine former Crichton Medallists by retrospectively presenting each player and their families with actual medallions to commemorate their past Essendon best and fairest wins.

Prior to 1973 – despite the award still being acknowledged as the Crichton - Essendon’s best and fairest winners were often awarded with material gifts in place of the medallion we see annually these days.

After a long wait, Windy Hill played host for emotional scenes this week as John Birt, Ken Fraser, Darryl Gerlach, Don McKenzie, Barry Davis, Reg Burgess, Jack Clarke, Hugh Mitchell and Neville Fields were all honoured with retrospective medals at the Club’s spiritual home.

In the cases of Davis, Burgess, Clarke and Mitchell, who have each sadly passed on in recent years, family members were in attendance to receive the award, giving heartfelt speeches in the memory of true greats who defined an entire generation of the Bombers from the 1950’s through to the early ‘70’s.

Former players and administrators such as Jason Johnson (MC), David Collins, Greg Sewell, David Shaw and Greg Brown were all involved in the lunch as presenters of the medals.

Touching and often teary stories of on-field and off-field exploits gripped the room, whether they were reflecting on the supreme football intelligence of Clarke, the elusiveness of Mitchell, the leadership of Fraser, the athleticism of Davis or the safety teammates felt in McKenzie’s presence against some of the more 'rugged' opponents of the ‘60’s era.



**Don McKenzie with David Shaw**



**John Birt with Barry Capuano**



**Ken Fraser with Darryl Gerlach**

# **Interview with Ted Fordham – 1962 Premiership Player**

*Interview conducted by Michael Kearney, co-author of Coleys Champs book.*



**Ted Fordham**

**Years played: 1961-1969**

**Games: 128**

**Goals: 214**

**Your 7 goals in the Grand Final equaled the record number of goals kicked in a Grand Final at that time. How did the change of playing position from back to forward in the middle of that season come about?**

I had an up and down sort of season and Coley (John Coleman) came to me at training and suggested I play at full forward. I sort of liked the idea and with plenty of his guidance I made a success of that position. I see forwards today who would benefit from some of his advice.

**How would you have described yourself as a full forward (style) during your time at Essendon, especially during the 1965 Finals Series?**

As a full forward I was strong bodied , good mark, good leader to the ball, which led to my success in the 65 finals. Yet kicking was not one of my strengths.

**What impact did the John Somerville /Duncan Wright incident in the Prelim with Somerville missing the Grand Final, have on the playing group going into the Grand Final?**

The '65 team had a great bond and the Somerville incident bonded us even further. We were very confident of winning that grand final after smacking Collingwood in the prelim.

**Do you think 'Bluey' Shelton was fortunate to play in the GF after leg injury and eyesight problem leading up to the game?**

You really had to play with Bluey to understand his value to the team. We grew bigger, the opposition grew smaller when Bluey was present. Bluey was worth his weight in gold.

**Describe the impact that Alec Epis, returning from injury, going to a Wing in the Grand Final had on the team – considering he had probably not played anywhere but in the backline during his long career at Essendon.**

This was a great move by Coley, which upset the St Kilda team. Alec played the wing as if he had been playing there all of his career.

**If the Norm Smith medal was awarded in that era, who would have been in contention from the '65 Grand Final?**

I was at work one day when I received a phone call from Stephen Phillips, The Sun sports reporter, to say the AFL had sanctioned the TV and Press to view past grand finals and select a Norm Smith medallist. I was selected the winner. It was a great honour to become a retrospective Norm Smith medallist. I might add the AFL did not give an actual medal.

**Essendon came from 4<sup>th</sup> (final 4) at end of the home & away to win the grand final. This had only been done twice before up until that year (including Ess). The team on paper looked very strong. It was a close competition that year. Thoughts?**

The competition was strong, but the love and warmth in our team shone through. I believe as the finals went on, we got better and better, indicated by our decisive win in each final.

**Can you describe the impact of John Coleman's coaching on the result, especially during the Finals series? Do you have any special memories of his moves or his addresses during that time?**

John coached us to perfection. I remember vividly on the Thursday night at training prior to the grand final, he only allowed us to train for about 20 minutes. He realised we had played two hard games prior and we were fit for the grand final.

**Comment on captain Ken Fraser's leadership during the 1965 season.**

I played with Ken Fraser in under 17 football at Essendon Baps St. John's. Ken was a great captain and leader at all times. Yet it took some time to teach him to swear and play poker!

**The premierships sides of 1962 and 1965 were similar in personnel. How good was the culture back then and your relationship with your teammates now after all those years?**

You ask about the culture of the 62 and 65 premierships sides, the love and warmth and mateship with the players, coaches, trainers, committee, was huge. Sorry to say as an outsider looking in, I don't see that today. All my teammates from those years enjoy lunch together to this day.

## **Honouring Barry Capuano - a lifetime of contribution recognised**

On Tuesday 9 September 2025, Essendon Football Club Legend and AFL Life Member Barry Capuano was formally recognised for his outstanding service to Australian Rules football, receiving the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) at Government House.

The Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, presented the honour.

The ceremony was not only a celebration of Barry's individual achievements but also a reminder of the values that unite our club community. Proudly watching on were Barry's wife, Anna, together with his daughters, Leah and Julia, who shared in the joy of this milestone moment. Their presence reflected the importance of family, legacy, and connection, qualities that Barry has embodied throughout his life in football and beyond. We are honoured to share in recognising his contribution and to celebrate this well-deserved recognition.



## **Obituary**

### **Vale David Starbuck**

A wingman, David played 13 games for EFC in 1970 and 1971. He was a member of the EFC Reserves premiership side in 1968. Post-Essendon, David played with Coburg (1972 & 1973), Romsey (1974), Pascoe Vale (1975 -1979), Reservoir-Lakeside (1980-1982), and Woodend (1983 & 1984).

Condolences to the Starbuck family.

RIP David



### **Vale Fred Gallagher**

Fred played 84 games for EFC between 1952-1958. He started as a half-forward and then played full-forward. Career highlight was kicking twelve goals in a match.

Condolences to the Gallagher family.  
RIP Fred

### **Vale Paul Sproule**

A talented half-forward, rover and centreman from Hobart, Paul debuted in 1968 and played a total of 60 games for EFC.

Paul also played 86 game for Richmond (1972 and 1975) and part of the 1973 and 1974 premiership sides

Paul went home to Tasmania to coach and then coached Richmond for a season in 1985. Paul was an inaugural inductee in the Tasmanian Football Hall of Fame and also a member of the Tasmanian Sporting Hall of Fame.

Condolences to the Sproule family.  
RIP Paul



## **“Hutchy” – Bill Hutchison**

*Contributed byCarolynn Larsen (EFC Historian and EFCPPOA member)*

As the latest AFL National Draft takes place, it's interesting to look back and see how it was done years ago. Essendon had obviously heard about a talented young player, Bill Hutchison, from local club Essendon Stars as Club secretary, Bill Cookson, wrote him a note inviting him to train with the Seconds (dated 5 June 1941). Imagine starting your football career by getting a letter in the post! How times have changed!

The young Bill Hutchison came second in the 1940 Essendon District League Junior Grade Best & Fairest to Tom Baker of Old Coburgians. They both polled 22 votes but apparently Hutchy lost on a count-back. This was the first, but not the last, time this would happen to him, as he famously lost the 1955 Brownlow Medal that way, although it was later awarded to him posthumously.

Tom Baker's football career was ended by World War II. He enlisted in July 1941 (he was only 19) and was reported missing on 26th March 1942 before being reported as a POW more than a year later on 9th June 1943. He spent the rest of the War in Changi and took part in the famous Changi Football League, playing for Essendon (one of the four teams in the League). He survived his imprisonment and returned home late in 1945.

Hutchy received his permit to play in the VFL on 6th May 1942 and debuted 10 days later in round 2, on the 16th May v Footscray. Essendon won a close game by only four points, thanks largely to Footscray's poor kicking (Essendon 14.8.92 - Footscray 12.16.88). He was a last-minute replacement in the team but almost didn't make it because he was nearly ejected from the club rooms by an official due to his baby-faced appearance - he had just turned 19.

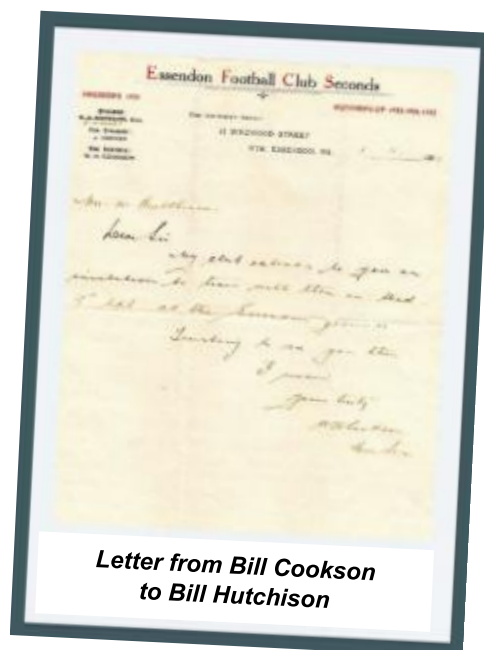


His first mention in the media came the following week. The newspaper report noted that he "performed creditably" and "deserves credit for a good performance" against experienced Carlton player Fitzgibbon. It also noted that he and Keith Rawle "combined cleverly on several occasions". Another early report said his chief weakness appeared to be his "faulty disposal" but he soon remedied that and became a fine stab kick and an accurate kick for goal.

He came to the Club as a wingman and played there and as a half-forward early in his League career but soon developed into one of the finest rovers the game has seen. He played in his first premiership in only his 11th game.

Although his superb record is well-known, it sometimes seems that he is over-shadowed by the top three Champions of Essendon - Reynolds, Coleman and Hird - so a brief summary is appropriate.

He played 290 games and kicked 496 goals in 17 seasons from 1942 to 1957. They included 28 finals games (the most by an Essendon player) and 10 Grand Finals for four premierships. He stands 7th in most games played for Essendon and 5th for most goals kicked. He also played 30 Interstate games (again the record for an Essendon player).



**Letter from Bill Cookson  
to Bill Hutchison**

On a personal level, he won seven Crichton Medals, a record he shares with Dick Reynolds, and two Brownlow Medals. He won his first Brownlow Medal in 1952 and lost the 1955 Medal on a count-back. He was later awarded that medal when the rules were changed in 1989, but he had sadly passed away seven years earlier.

It is perhaps not so well known that he tried to leave Essendon in 1954. Footballers were not well paid in those days and an offer to become playing-coach at North Melbourne was too good to turn down. However, the Committee refused his request for a clearance because, as the *Annual Report* noted, "it was not in Essendon's best interests to have him in an opposing team".

This didn't affect his form however, as he played on for another three seasons, remaining as captain, winning two more Crichton Medals and a second Brownlow Medal. His last game was the 1957 Grand Final loss to Melbourne, but he stayed on at the Club as coach of the Thirds (Under 19s) and later the Seconds (Reserves). He also served on the Committee from 1966 to 1971.

His sons, Bruce and Ray, played in the Under 19s in the early 1970s.

When Dick Reynolds was named Essendon's greatest-ever player, he famously said: "I don't deserve this honour... Bill Hutchison was the best player I've seen". Hutchy was named Number 4 in the Champions of Essendon and is a Legend in Essendon's Hall of Fame. He was finally named a Legend in the AFL Hall of Fame in 2003.

