

NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2026



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President's message- David Collins



Welcome to the first newsletter of 2026.

It has certainly been a busy start to the year, with a number of successful events already held. These included our annual EFCPP&OA/DRC Golf Day on 4 February at Sandhurst Golf Club, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Our first monthly EPPOCH (Essendon Past Players & Officials Coffee Hour) for 2026 was also held in March and featured new EFC CEO Tim Roberts, who shared valuable insights into his involvement with the Club and his vision for the future.

Our 2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place at Windy Hill on Sunday 29 March. I would like to warmly welcome Tom Cutler and Kaine Baldwin to the EFCPP&OA Committee, and sincerely thank our outgoing Treasurer, Ken Gilbertson, for his outstanding service over the past five years. I would also like to acknowledge Graham Leydin for his significant contribution as a Committee member over the past 19 years. The dedication and commitment of our Committee members are greatly appreciated and continue to play a vital role in the ongoing success of the Association. A summary of the AGM, along with a comprehensive overview of what lies ahead for the EFCPP&OA in 2026, is included elsewhere in this newsletter.

Looking ahead, other key EFCPP&OA events for 2026 include the Dick Reynolds Club Luncheon at the RACV Club on Wednesday 10 June. This special occasion will also mark the launch of a book celebrating 30 years of the Dick Reynolds Club, written by Nicki Lever. The EFCPP&OA Annual Dinner will be held on Wednesday 23 September at Windy Hill.

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

EFCPPOA/DRC Golf Day 2026

It was another fantastic on EFCPPOA/DRC Golf Day on Wednesday 4th February 2026 at Sandhurst Golf Course. Seventeen teams participated with strong support from our sponsors.

This year we played on the South Course, which was in great condition. Almost all teams included a current EFC AFL player, EFC Board member, EFC Executive official or an EFC Past Player.

EFC/EFCPP&OA attendees/participants:

- **EFC representative** - Andrew Welsh (President), David Wills (Treasurer), Nick Ryan (acting CEO), Brad Scott (Head Coach), Samantha McKelvie (Executive Assistant).
 - **Past Players** - Terry Daniher, Simon Madden, Barry Young, Joel Reynolds, Joe Misiti, Ben Haynes, David Flood, Paul Vander Haar, Marc Bullen, Gavin Wanganeen, Gary Grainger, Jason Johnson, Tom Cutler, Kaine Baldwin, Barry Besanko, Sean Wellman, Howard Staehr & Kelvin Steel.
 - **Current AFL players** -AFL :Kyle Langford, Mason Redman, Archie Roberts, Jaxon Prior, Nate Caddy, Sam Durham, Max Condo,
 - **Current AFLW players** - Bonnie Toogood, Sophie Van De Heuvel, Georgia Clarke, Mia Busch.
- Winning Team** - Kevin Dale Team – Don Abell, Dan Kniepp, Sean Wellman, Raff Toperoso
- **Winning Individual Player** - Terry Daniher



Following lunch, Kevin Dale (MC) introduced EFC President Andrew Welsh, Coach Brad Scott and then Acting CEO Nick Ryan, all of whom provided insights in what was happening in their areas of responsibility. Kevin also conducted interesting interviews with, Bonnie Toogood, Kyle Langford and Mason Redman.

The raffle was then drawn and Barry Young conducted a very successful auction. This event is a major fundraiser for the EFCPP&OA and assists in providing support to our members who may need assistance.

Special thanks also to event organiser Kevin Dale, along with Charlie Italia, Ken Gilbertson, Gary Grainger, Iain Findlay, Barry Young, John Della, Barbara Cullen, Samantha McKelvie, Susie Norton, and Ray Sneddon who assisted on the day.



Jason Johnson & team



Archie Roberts & team



Chris Scott, Sean Wellman & team

The Association gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions of our 2026 DRC Golf Day sponsors and raffle donors:



Bendigo Bank Strathmore



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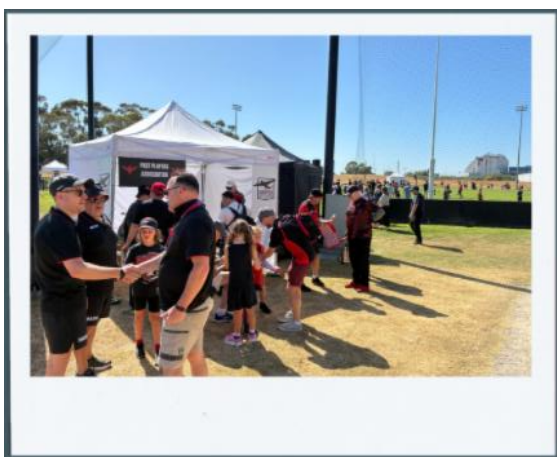
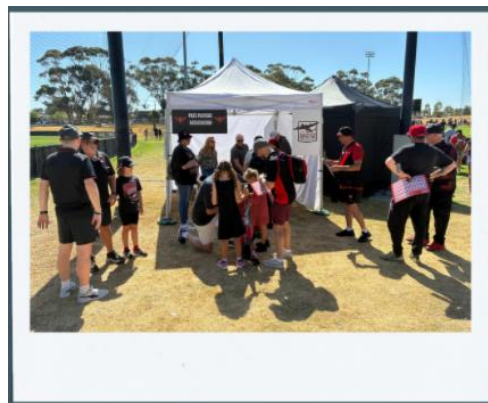
Essendon BMW



EFC 2026 Family Day

The Association participated in EFC's 2026 Family Day on Saturday 7 February at the NEC Hangar. It was a great opportunity for EFC Past players to interact with the Essendon FC community.

Our marquee was very popular and visited by many Essendon supporters including Brad Scott! EFCPP&OA merchandise was also available to purchase. A huge thank you to Barry and Fotoula Besanko, Simon Madden, Ken Fraser, Gary Grainger, David Collins and Ryan O'Connor for your contributions on the day and meeting & greeting our supporters.



Mental Health Assistance Program

The EFCPP&OA Mental Health Assistance program is fully funded by our Association and the Biasin Family.

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.

Full information can be found on our [website](#).

If you need assistance, please simply click [HERE](#) and the selected provider will take care of the rest.

Please be assured that strict confidentiality will always be maintained.

EPPOCH – Essendon Past Players Officials Coffee Hour



The EPPOCH (Essendon Past Players & Officials Coffee Hour) is back for 2026!

Join us on the first Monday of every month from 10:30am to 12:00pm at Windy Hill. Enjoy a complimentary coffee while catching up with fellow Essendon people and associates. It's a relaxed opportunity to talk footy, hear from special guests, share stories, discuss mutual interests, and, if you like, continue the conversation over lunch in the bistro afterwards.

Tim Roberts (new EFC CEO) was the guest speaker at our recent March catch up and provided great insight in this involvement with EFC and what he hopes to achieve in this role as CEO.

March catch up



Be sure to lock the following 2026 EPPOCH dates into your calendar:

- Monday 4 May
- Monday 1 June
- Monday 6 July
- Monday 3 August
- Monday 7 September

Hope to see at a Coffee Club catch up in 2026!

SAVE THE DATE - Dick Reynolds Club Luncheon



Dick Reynolds Club Luncheon

“ High Flying Bombers”

“Celebrating 30 years of the Dick Reynolds Club”

Wednesday 10th June 2026

RACV Club

501 Bourke St Melbourne

Further information and booking details to follow

2026 EFC Hall of Fame inductees

EFC hosted its 2026 Season Launch at Crown Palladium on Monday 2 March 2026, coinciding with the induction of three champions into the Club's Hall of Fame.

Premiership Captain Mark 'Bomber' Thompson, dual Crichton Medallist & EFCPP&OA Committee member Jason Johnson and 'Mosquito Fleet' Premiership rover Frank Maher were unveiled as the three newest members of the Club's decorated Hall of Fame.

Thompson and Johnson were on hand to address the crowd following their inductions, with Maher's family accepting his posthumous recognition for a career which held two Premierships (1923-'24) and four seasons as skipper.

The past legends spoke to their pride in being recognised as Essendon people.



Jason Johnson with Andrew Welsh



Andrew Welsh and Frank Maher's daughter

The Dons also celebrated the efforts of a group of volunteers for their long and devoted service to the Club.

55-year stalwart **Colin Hooper** was acknowledged as a winner of this year's prestigious Jack Titus Award, while the efforts of **Charlie Italia**, **Murray Spargo** and **Robert Destradi** were also acknowledged in a special presentation.

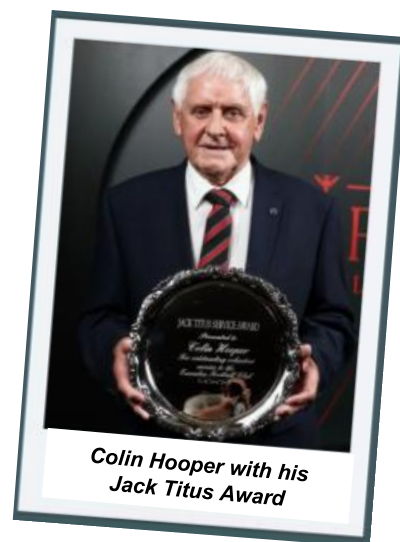


Charlie Italia, Murray Spargo and Robert Destradi

Colin Hooper – Jack Titus Award

The Association congratulates Colin Hooper on being awarded the 2026 Jack Titus Award.

- 54 years continuous volunteer service at Essendon FC in various club football department roles
- 1972-1980: Essendon runner and club sprint coach
- 1981–2020: Club interchange steward, while maintaining roles assisting players in pre-game warm up
- 2020–current: assistant property steward
- First appointed by Des Tuddenham in 1972, then worked with successive coaches Bill Stephen, Barry Davis, Kevin Sheedy, Matthew Knights, James Hird, Mark Thompson, John Worsfold, Ben Rutten and Brad Scott.
- In addition to his roles, Hooper has been a constant in providing support for players and staff alike on gamedays and during daily training sessions.



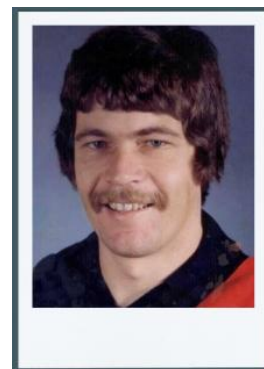
Graham Moss & Gary Zimmerman – AFL Life Membership

The Association would also like to congratulate Graham Moss and former Club doctor Gary Zimmerman on their induction as an AFL Life Member:

Graham Moss - AFL Life Membership

Moss enjoyed four stellar seasons with Essendon between 1973-76 after coming from Claremont, earning three Crichton Medals over his 84-games and winning the 1976 Brownlow Medal.

- 254 games for Claremont 1969-72, 1977-83
- 84 games for Essendon 1973-76
- 23 games for WA
- Five games for Victoria
- Three-time Essendon best and fairest
- Four-time Claremont best and fairest
- 1976 Brownlow Medal
- 1981 premiership captain-coach
- Administration: West Coast inaugural Chief Executive 1986-88, WA Sports Centre Trust CEO 1988-2008, Claremont FC Chief Executive 2015-18, ongoing roles as Claremont past player association and Chair, Claremont FC centenary committee.



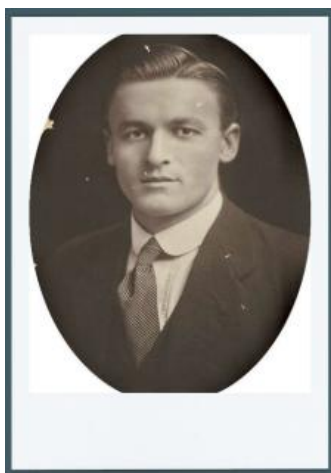
Dr Gary Zimmerman - AFL Life Membership

- Essendon club doctor 1981-87
- Richmond club doctor 1987-93
- Western Bulldogs club doctor 1993-current.
- Senior match day official role at more than 1000 AFL premiership and pre-season matches.



A controversial Legend of the EFC- Tom Fitzmaurice

Contributed by Barry Capuano OAM, EFC Legend.



Tom Fitzmaurice was one of the greatest of all Essendon players.

He was a superb player, versatile, with a terrific leap and marking ability. He was both tall and fast and superbly built. He was once the Victorian high jump champion.

Fitzmaurice came to Essendon from East Melbourne CYMS. He started in the ruck and very soon became an idol to supporters. After only three seasons he was transferred to Sydney in his employment and joined North Sydney. He captained N.S.W. in a game against Victoria while there.

On his return in 1922 Fitzmaurice he was appointed Essendon vice-captain and continued to perform superbly in the key defence role.

Fitzmaurice starred in the 1923 and 1924 premiership victories and was the Club's Best and Fairest in three consecutive years 1922-24.

He was selected in the Victorian State side in 1919, 1920, 1922, 1923 and 1924.

Fitzmaurice left Essendon under controversial circumstances immediately after the 1924 season. With the 1924 Premiership decided by a round robin competition, Essendon had already accumulated sufficient points to win the flag regardless of the result in their final game against Richmond. Against expectations Essendon lost this game and Fitzmaurice suspected some of his team accepted bribes to lose. The following week in a charity match against VFA Premiers Footscray, Essendon again lost amid more accusations of bribery.

Incensed, he quit the Club and joined Geelong where he owned a hotel. He won his third consecutive premiership there in 1925, only the second player in League history win consecutive premierships at two different clubs. (The first one was also an Essendon player - Jim Martin - who won with Essendon in 1912 and Fitzroy in 1913.)

Fitzmaurice played 47 games for Geelong between 1925 and 1928 and was their captain-coach in 1928.

He then joined Mortlake in 1929 and Yarraville in 1930 before playing 54 games with North Melbourne between 1932 and 1935. He was captain-coach of North in 1934 and 1935 before resigning after eight successive losses. He was their leading goalkicker from 1932 to 1934.

He finished his career at Brunswick in 1935. He later spent a year on Essendon committee in 1936 before accepting position as captain-coach in Penguin in Tasmania in 1937. From there, he went to Canberra and played for Manuka in 1938 and 1939. He played brilliantly in the 1938 grand final, setting a new record of ten goals in the game.

When Fitzmaurice returned to Melbourne, he spent many years in the hotel industry and at one stage ran the Phoenix Hotel in the city.

He was named at number 10 in the Champions of Essendon (2002), was an inaugural Legend in Essendon's Hall of Fame in 1996 and was named in the back pocket in Essendon's Team of the Century. He was inducted into the Australian Football Hall of Fame in 1996.

Tom Fitzmaurice died on Christmas Day, 1977, at the age of 79.

2026 Annual General Meeting

The 73rd EFCPP&OA Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 29 March 2026 at Windy Hill Venue.

David Collins (President) reported the following at the AGM:

- Another very good year for our Association.
- Sound financial position.
- Very successful functions since last AGM
 - 2026 DRC Golf day
 - Annual Dinner
 - EFCPP&OA Life Members function
 - Operation of the Barry Capuano Room
 - EPPOCH monthly coffee catch ups at Windy Hill
- The great work of our Admin Assistant (Jane Lee) in producing such high-quality newsletters and her other excellent administrative work including on our social media accounts. Thank you also to all those who have contributed to the newsletters.
- EFC Past Player profiles including photographs have been updated on the EFCPP&OA Website.
- Charlie Italia is working 2 days at The Hangar organizing the total restoration of the EFC Hall of Fame (Museum). It is planned that it will be completed by 2028.
- Charlie is also working another day at The Hangar on EFCPP&OA matters and is doing a great job.
- Excellent working relationship with the EFC Board and Executive.
- Excellent work by Barry Besanko on his dealings with the AFL, AFLPA and CPPOA regarding CTE/Concussions injuries.
- AGM approved the continuation of the current free annual membership subscription arrangement and subsidisation of the cost of the EFCPP&OA Annual Dinner.
- Ken Gilbertson has advised that he is not re-nominating for the Committee in 2026. David thanked him for his great work as EFCPP&OA Treasurer of the last 5 years. Graham Leydin is also stepping down for the Committee after 19 years of service. Thank you Graham and Ken for your wonderful contributions.
- Thanks to Tom Cutler and Kaine Baldwin who have now joined the EFCPP&OA 2026 Committee.
- David also noted the great work of DRC Committee members namely, Kevin Dale, Charlie Italia, Ken Gilbertson, Barbara Cullen OAM, Glenn Shepherd, John Della and Susie Norton. He also noted that most of those named above had advised that they were standing down from the Committee after the planned Dick Reynolds Club Lunch in June 2026 and launch of the book on the history of the 30 year history of the DRC. The Committee would therefore not continue in its current format. Work is underway to form a new Committee.
- David thanked all members of the Committee for their loyalty and contributions to the work of the Association during 2025.
- Finally, thanked all members who had made the effort to attend this AGM.

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@efcppo.com.au

Discounted Cold Compression for Members and Families Post-Surgery

Incoming committee member, Kaine Baldwin, has organised a 20% discount on GameReady device hire. This device is for post-operative compression and icing - after any knee, ankle, shoulder or hip-related surgeries, using the GameReady helps to reduce swelling and relieve pain, which is a fantastic offer for any members, or family members undergoing surgery in the future. The device can be hired for up to 6 weeks, delivered directly to you, with in-person or phone support included for set-up guidance.

More Information:

The Game Ready System is a recovery device that combines cold therapy with intermittent compression. Chilled water circulates through a wrap placed around the injured area while gentle compression is applied, helping reduce swelling and improve fluid movement away from the joint. Following surgery, this approach can assist with pain management and control post-operative inflammation. Research on cryotherapy with compression has shown reductions in swelling, pain scores and analgesic use (fewer drugs needed) compared with standard icing, while also facilitating earlier movement during the initial stages of rehabilitation.

To enquire, please get in touch with kaine@thehpcgroup.com or fill out the form on the website <https://www.thehpcgroup.com/gamereadyhireadelaide>

**Please note this applies Australia-wide, not just in Adelaide. When enquiring, just mention you have been referred through our Association to access the 20% discount.*

Baby Bombers Drive

The *Baby Bombers Drive* is 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 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!

2026 EFC jumper presentations

Five players made their EFC debut in the first rounds of the 2026 season. Each player was presented with their EFC debut guernsey by a current or past Essendon player:



Darren Bewick presented debut jumper to Brayden Fiorini



Adam McPhee presented debut jumper to Hussien El Achkar

Round 1 v Hawthorn - Friday 13 March



Gary Moorcroft presented debut jumper to Max Kondogiannis



Allan Ezard presented debut jumper to Dylan Sharp

Round 3 v North Melbourne - Saturday 28 March



Gary O'Donnell presented debut jumper to Jacob Farrow

GRAHAM LEYDIN.SPORTING JOURNEYMAN.

Contributed by Kevin Hill

Full story & photos-

<https://kbonreflection.wordpress.com/2026/03/05/graham-leydin-sporting-journeyman/>

It seems an eternity since Graham Leydin fleetingly passed through my sporting life.

I was an impressionable lad, going on 15.....He was 23; a newly-arrived Phys-Ed Teacher, District cricketer and League footballer whose already considerable achievements had preceded him.

“Yabbie” grew up in the leafy northern Melbourne suburb of Ascot Vale, indoctrinated as a passionate Kangaroos’ footy and cricket fan from an early age:

Our side of Kent Street, Ascot Vale was Essendon’s territory.....” he recalls. “If you lived over the road, you were in North Melbourne’s zone. So, I regarded it as my misfortune, at the time, to be tied to the Bombers”.

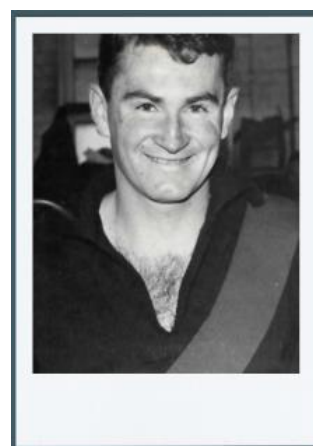
Nevertheless, he progressed through Essendon’s Under 19 system for a couple of seasons: taking out their B & F in 1958 and winning a spot on the senior List the following year, whilst also performing capably as an upper-order batsman in North Melbourne’s First XI side.

It was handy to have a second string to his bow at North, and he often deputised for wicket-keeper Len Maddocks when he was away on Test, or Sheffield Shield duty.

“North was a good club....We had a couple of solid years but always seemed to be off the pace a little bit.....Paul Sheahan coached us at one stage, and Ian Chappell even led the Club later on.”

“It’s remarkable when you look back on it, that in 126 years as a separate entity, we were never able to win a First XI District premiership. In my time we were always around the middle of the list.”

Graham cracked it for his debut VFL game at Princes Park, as first rover in the opening round of 1959. The Bombers’ champion roving duo, Jack Clarke and Johnny Birt, were both missing through injury, as the Blues’ hung on to win by 10 points. He knew he’d probably struggle for regular game-time when the classy small-men returned, but managed 16 games in his debut season, including two bags of three goals, mainly coming off the bench.



1959 Essendon team celebrate a victory with coach Dick Reynolds.

After missing several games in the latter part of the season he returned for the Finals and played in front of 103,000 in the Grand Final. The Bombers were right in the contest at three-quarter time but were unable to survive a six-goal to one Melbourne blitz in the final term.

It was a similar scenario the following season. Graham figured in the majority of the games, mainly coming on as 19th or 20th man, and playing his part when the opportunity arose.

“An ankle injury played havoc with my ‘61 season, and when the Education Department called me in and suggested that they’d like me to go to the country, I said: ‘Sure....Whereabouts?’ Well, we’d like to send you to Wangaratta.”

“It was a terrific job opportunity. In summer I’d take kids for Swimming in Pools in Wang, Benalla and Yarrowonga. In the winter I worked at the three Wang Primary Schools, as well as the High and Tech.”

“Funnily enough, they spoke to me on the Friday. First thing Monday morning, I get a ‘phone call from the Wangaratta Rovers.”

Graham capped a brilliant season by taking out the Rovers’ Best & Fairest. Over the summer months he’d knocked back an attractive assistant-coaching offer from Corowa Football Club.

The Education Department transferred him back to ‘the big smoke’ at year’s end, and he resumed Generalist Teaching. He returned to District cricket with North Melbourne, and was also keen to play footy at Arden Street. Essendon didn’t come to the party when mention was made of it.

He managed just one more League game, then moved over to Brunswick, where he was to play 120 matches over the next eight years, including a stint as captain of the VFA Magpies.

His succeeding career, in coaching and Player Development, was to span 17 years.

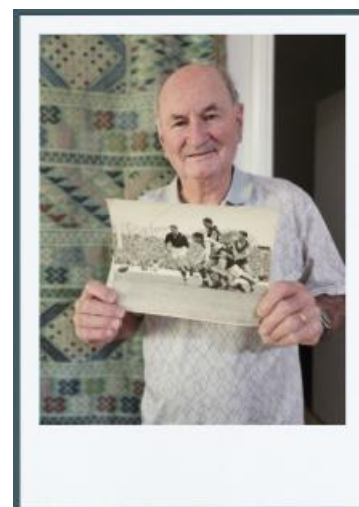
Graham guided Doutta Stars to a flag in his first season as playing-coach in 1972. They were runners-up in the following two years, and finished third, in his four seasons at the helm.

His old junior side, Moonee Valley, enticed him back as coach in 1976 and then Strathmore came knocking in 1978. “They were a very good Club (still are) and I had a couple of good years there before Essendon asked me to coach their Under 19’s. I was enjoying the job, but Sheedy wanted his coaches to be full-time, so that put me out of contention after one season, as my Teaching career was pretty well-established.”

He moved over to North Melbourne for the next seven years: overseeing their Metropolitan recruiting zone and doing recruiting at matches throughout the nation.

Graham’s final detour was back to Strathmore for a couple of seasons, where he was fortunate enough to coach them to a flag in 1989.

Graham maintained his strong link to Essendon through their Past Players’ Association and was inducted as a Life Member of the EFCPP&OA in 2017.



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

Milestones and achievements

The following members will achieve significant age milestones between the 1 April 2026 – 31 July 2026:

- Gary Moorcroft (50- 16 April).
- Paul McDonald (70- 27 April).
- Brent Stanton (40- 1 May).
- Fred Lynch (90- 10 May).
- Garry Foulds (70 – 13 May).
- Greg Anderson (60- 14 May)
- Bruce Waite (80- 22 May).
- Morton Diston (90- 28 May).
- David Collins (80- 31 May).
- Victor Papp (80- 31 May).
- Fred Lehmann (70- 21 June).
- Geoff Burdett (70- 4 July).
- Chris Johns (60 -14 July).
- Matthew Banks (50 – 20 July).

Obituary



Vale Bob Taylor

Bob was a half-back flanker from the North Essendon Methodists and played 34 games for Essendon. Bob was a member of the Reserves' premiership side in 1952.

Condolences to the Taylor family.

RIP Bob

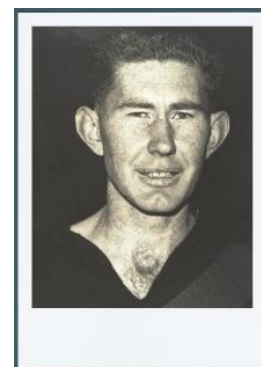
Vale Robert Dunlop

Robert Dunlop was a follower and forward from Rupanyup and played 27 games for EFC in 1960 and 1961. Robert played in every game in his first year in 1960, winning Essendon Best First Year Player award.

He returned home to Rupanyup in 1962 and played there until 1968.

Condolences to the Dunlop family

RIP Robert



Essendon's strong connection with the Stawell Gift

Contributed byCarolynn Larsen (EFC Historian and EFCPPOA member)

This year will see the running of the 144th Stawell Gift, Australia's richest and most prestigious foot race. It was first run in 1878 and has been run every year since with the exception of four years during World War 2 and the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

Twelve senior VFL/AFL footballers have won the Gift. Essendon has been the most successful club, with three winners from the Seniors - George Stuckey, Clarrie Hearn and Lance Mann - and Seconds player, Roy Barker. Essendon stalwart, Fergie Speakman, is one of only two men to have trained five winners.

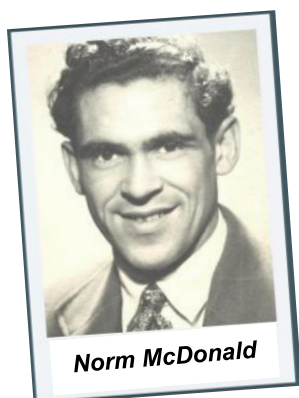
In 1897, George Stuckey won in 12.2 seconds, running off a handicap of 12 yards. His win was just a few weeks before the start of the 1897 football season in which he led the Dons to the inaugural VFL premiership. A five-time premiership player (1892, 1893, 1894, 1897 and 1901), he was an inaugural member of the Hall of Fame and was named number 57 in the Champions of Essendon.



Clarrie Hearn

Essendon's next winner was Clarrie Hearn, who won in 1929 off a handicap of 10 yards and winning in 11 and 15/16ths of a second. He played 92 games from 1929 to 1935 and kicked 90 goals. Like Stuckey, his win was just weeks before the football season.

Lance Mann was Essendon's third winner, beating his team-mate Norm McDonald, in 1952. A speedy wingman, he played 55 games before being troubled by knee injuries and returning to his original club, Albury. He was invited back to Essendon in 1958, and although he had lost a bit of pace, he became a tough back pocket player and played a further 25 games.



Norm McDonald

Norm McDonald was one of Essendon's greatest-ever half-back flankers and the first of the Club's many Indigenous players. As a professional runner, he won the backmarkers' race at Bendigo in 1952 and was runner-up to Lance Mann in the Stawell Gift the same year. He missed the first four games of the year due to his running commitments.

Roy Barker played in the Seconds in the early 1930s before transferring to Coburg in May 1936. He was trained by Fergie Speakman to win the Stawell Gift in 1932, beating the favourite Bert Hyde, a Hawthorn player.



George Stuckey



Lance Mann



Roy Barker

Fergie Speakman was a long-time Essendon official and recruiter, serving on the Committee from 1946 to 1975, but is one of the most important in the history of the Stawell Gift. He was an inaugural inductee of the Stawell Gift Hall of Fame and later elevated to Legend. From 1991, the winner's trophy has been known as the Ferg Speakman Trophy. He competed in the 1920s, then turned to coaching and coached for more than 50 years. His first winner was Roy Barker in 1932 and his last was in 1985 when he was 85 years old. There was another Essendon connection with John Bell, his 1963 winner - John's father, George, played 120 games for Essendon from 1933 to 1942.



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Official Merchandise!



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