



NEWSLETTER

Friday 18 September 2020

After some stops and starts, the 2020 AFL home-and-away season will conclude this weekend as sides jostle for positions within the opt eight.

The Brisbane Lions are secured a top two spot, meaning they will host another Qualifying Final at the Gabba.

For any past player-related queries or questions, please email us at pastplayers@lions.com.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

NB: All scheduled Past Player & Official events and reunions have been postponed until further notice due to the COVID-19 virus precautions.

Only limited seating has been available so far at our home games at the Gabba. Unfortunately there will be no more AFL matches played in Victoria this season.



Vale Bill Stephen

The Brisbane Lions were deeply saddened by the passing of **Bill Stephen**, one of the Fitzroy's all-time greatest servants, who sadly passed away on Sunday 23 August aged 92.

The Club formally recognised Stephen's enormous contribution their Round 15 match against Collingwood by wearing black armbands and featuring with a tribute video on the Gabba big screen.

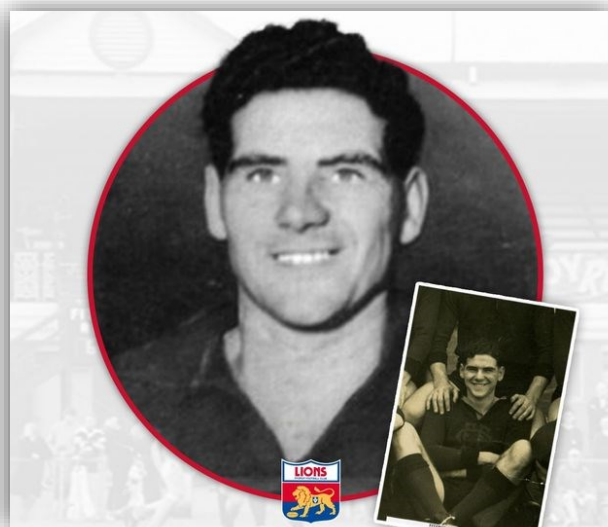
The man Kevin Murray labelled "Mr Fitzroy" leaves a lasting legacy on our Club that will forever be celebrated.

Stephen: A Lions man

It was a love affair that lasted 26,791 days. From his very first day as a member of the "family" until his sad passing, **Bill Stephen** was a Lions man.

It started on Saturday 19 April 1947 when a 19-year-old Stephen, recruited from the Thornbury CYMS Football Club, made his debut for Fitzroy at Victoria Park.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more of the wonderful Bill Stephen tribute piece written by **Peter Blucher** that featured on lions.com.au following his recent passing.



AFL Players' Alumni members get access to a range of benefits, services and support surrounding:

• Health and Wellbeing • Financial Prosperity • Continued Education • Social Connections

Find out how you can join by contacting AFLPA Alumni Manager **Brad Fisher**:

T: 03 8651 4300 **E:** bfisher@aflplayers.com.au **W:** www.aflplayers.com.au/alumni



Help During COVID

Discussions and concerns around the coronavirus outbreak and practising self-isolation can be stressful and impact our mental health and wellbeing.

Any past players from Fitzroy, Bears, or the Brisbane Lions that might be suffering distress from the COVID-19 pandemic are encouraged to take advantage of the free, confidential, and member-based services on offer by The AFL Players' Association.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information



Vale Jack Hancock

The Brisbane Lions mourned the loss of another Life Member in July, following the passing of long-time and much loved Fitzroy trainer, **Jack Hancock**.

Hancock was a highly respected member of Fitzroy's support staff during his time in the VFL/AFL, and even continued working as a trainer with Fitzroy FC's VAFA side in more recent years.

He was a Fitzroy man through and through. We extend our deepest condolences to his family.

Minor Premiership?

The Brisbane Lions will have an outside chance of claiming the Club's first minor premiership in over 100 years when Round 18 concludes the 2020 AFL season this weekend.

Not since Fitzroy finished on top of the ladder at the end of the 1913 season has the Club claimed a minor premiership.

The Lions currently sit second, and would need to beat Carlton on Saturday night and rely on Port Adelaide losing to Collingwood for this to eventuate.

Either way, it's been a terrific effort by the team in 2020!



Gabba Grand Final

The Gabba will host the first ever VFL/AFL Grand Final to be played outside of Melbourne, following a landmark announcement by the AFL and earlier this month.

The match will be held on Saturday October 24, and will be played in the evening for the first time before a crowd of approx. 30,000.

The decision was obviously made due to the inability to play the match at any Victorian venue.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full story



New Faces

Since our last newsletter, a total of four (4) new players have donned the maroon, blue and gold for the first time.

Connor Ballenden (#38), **Tom Fullarton** (#47), **Jack Payne** (#40), and **Keidean Coleman** (#18 - pictured) have all had their opportunity to experience AFL football for the first time recently.

It takes the total number of players to have represented Fitzroy/Bears/Lions in a senior men's match to **1,463**.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view their profiles



100 With Two Clubs

Lions fan favourite **Mitch Robinson** played his 100th senior game for the Club recently - after playing 100 with Carlton earlier in his career.

He joins the likes of **Michael Rischitelli** (Lions and Gold Coast), **John Blakey** (Fitzroy and North Melbourne), **Bernie Quinlan** (Fitzroy and Footscray), **Roger Merrett** (Bears and Essendon), **Stephen Paxman** (Fitzroy and Port Adelaide), **Tim Pekin** (Fitzroy and St Kilda), and **Matthew Clarke** (Bears/Lions and Adelaide), among others, to have played 100 games with two separate VFL/AFL clubs.



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