



NEWSLETTER

Wednesday 24 March 2021

Footy is back for 2021, with the Brisbane Lions' AFL and AFLW seasons now under way.

While it's terrific to be able to witness the on-field action again, clubs are also aware that things could change at short notice depending on each State's COVID situation.

There are some new processes surrounding matches in 2021, so please email us at pastplayers@lions.com.au if you're seeking clarification on anything.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fri 16 APR: AFL CPPOA Golf Day
Settler's Run Golf Club, Cranbourne
From 8:15am
[FULL DETAILS](#)

Sat 17 APR: QLD Reunion
The Gabba (Round 5 v Essendon)
From 5:30pm
[FULL DETAILS](#)



It's Footy Season!

The 2021 AFL Premiership Season kicked-off last weekend, with the Brisbane Lions losing their first home-and-away game at the Gabba since Easter 2019 against the Sydney Swans last Saturday night.

It sets up a mouth-watering clash this Friday night against Preliminary Final opponents Geelong at GMHBA Stadium.

Meanwhile, the all-conquering Brisbane Lions women's side are sitting pretty atop the AFLW ladder with one match to play in the regular season.

2001: 20 Years On

2021 marks the 20-year anniversary of the Brisbane Lions' breakthrough premiership - when they overcame Essendon at the MCG by 26 points.

The Club plans to celebrate the occasion at our Round 5 match against Essendon at the Gabba (Sat 17 April) with a range of activities - including a [past player reunion](#).

We will also be in touch soon with all the players/officials from that remarkable season separately, with plans for some additional private get-togethers.



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



QLD Reunion Function

All Fitzroy/Bears/Lions past players and officials are invited to attend our annual reunion function in Brisbane, to be held around the team's Round 5 clash against Essendon at the Gabba on Saturday 17 April.

The match will double as a celebration of the 20-year anniversary of the Club's breakthrough 2001 premiership.

We are still waiting to finalise details for the Melbourne reunion function with the Victorian stadiums.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the reunion function details.



AFLW At The Gabba

For the first time in their five-year history, the Brisbane Lions women's team played a senior AFLW match at the Gabba!

What's more, the team overcame North Melbourne to shoot to the top of the AFLW ladder with just one round left to play - against Melbourne at Casey Fields this Saturday.

Rugby convert **Courtney Hodder** received a Rising Star nomination (with [a surprise from Head Coach Craig Starcevich](#)).

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the highlights

Designer Johnson

Triple premiership star **Chris Johnson** lent his creative talents to the Club earlier this year to help design the Lions' 2021 Indigenous guernsey to be worn in Rounds 11 and 12 later this year.

The guernsey will be revealed soon, but looks fantastic!

While I can't give too much away, I can advise that the design recognises our Fitzroy origins, celebrates the Brisbane Lions' famous Three-Peat of 2001-03, and acknowledges the Club's Indigenous history.



CONTACTS

Brisbane Lions

c/- Melbourne Office

740 Bourke St, Docklands VIC 3008

P: 03 8850 5602

E: pastplayers@lions.com.au

AFL Players Association

Brad Fisher

P: 03 8651 4366

E: bfisher@aflplayers.com.au

Another Aker?

We could be seeing more handstands at the Gabba in the future, with **Charlotte Akermanis** - daughter of Club Hall of Famer **Jason Akermanis** and wife Megan - recently joining the Brisbane Lions' AFLW Academy.

Charlotte, who has obviously grown-up since this photo was taken, will now enter the Lions' training program with potential to be drafted in the coming years.

I believe she is the first ever father-daughter inclusion into the Academy, which is exciting for the future.



Cox's Boy At Bombers

Former Fitzroy and Bears player **Darryl Cox** also has reason to be a proud father, with his son **Nik Cox** taken by Essendon with Pick No.8 at the 2020 AFL National Draft.

Nik's impressive pre-season also earned him selection in the Bombers' season-opener last week against Hawthorn, where he collected nine disposals and took three marks.

Nik isn't Darryl's only child to be in the public eye, with his daughter **Montana Cox** already making a name for herself as a famous Australian fashion model.

Boom Recruit

Congratulations also to Club Hall of Famer **Darryl White**, whose son **William McDowell-White** was recently named in the 24-man Australian Boomers squad.

William has just also just signed with the New Zealand Breakers for the remainder of the 2021 NBL season, after completing his second season in the NBA G-League.

The 22-year-old has also attended training camp with the Houston Rockets over the past two seasons.





Past Players and Officials

Incorporating Fitzroy and Bears

Harry Sharp Debut

18-year-old **Harry Sharp** become the 1,465th player to represent Fitzroy/Bears/Lions in a senior VFL/AFL game last Saturday night.

The Ballarat junior took to the field in the #22 guernsey - most notably worn by **Chris Scott** (215 games), **Ken Ross** (129) and **Noel Price** (104).

He was presented with his first Lions guernsey by 2002 Brownlow Medallist **Simon Black**.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the video



Membership Record

The Brisbane Lions broke its Club membership record last week when it ticked over 31,000 members for the first time in history.

It surpassed the Club's previous record of 30,941 achieved in 2004 at the end of the historic 3-peat of Premierships.

As part of the Club total, the AFLW membership record has also fallen this year with 1,502 W Members - an additional 151 than the previous record of 1,351 in 2020.

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

Past Players Membership

Membership of the Brisbane Lions Past Players & Officials has continued to grow, thanks to **Rob Allen** getting in touch with past members to renew in recent weeks.

It's great to see a lot of the familiar names back on board, alongside new members **Andrew Bews**, **Alex Ishchenko**, **Nick Mitchell**, **David Parkin** and many more.

Your support will help us continue to coordinate functions and events exclusively for past players and officials.

[CLICK HERE](#) to complete an application



Become a member of the
Brisbane Lions Past Players & Officials
(incorporating Fitzroy & Bears)
for just \$20 annually
lions.com.au/pastplayers



'Rog' To The Rescue

Former Lions full-back turned Corporate Sales Executive **Daniel Merrett** is always happy to assist any of his fellow past players/officials keen on visiting the Gabba.

Whether you're considering a trip to the Gabba from outside of Brisbane, or reside locally and want to catch a Lions game, 'Rog' can usually accommodate you with special discounts for Past Player members.

Availability is obviously subject to capacity.

[CLICK HERE](#) to shoot Dan an email



Past Players Golf Day

After last year's event was abandoned due to COVID-19, the Combined AFL PP&O Association Golf Day is back on Friday 16 April in Cranbourne.

Rob Allen, **Chris Waterson**, and **Neville Taylor** will return as reigning champs (their team won in 2019) and will be joined by **Ross Thornton**, while **Ken Woolley** and **Bernie Quinlan** are among some of the other past players representing the Brisbane Lions.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the event details

Business Directory

The Brisbane Lions have commenced production on a Business Directory designed solely for past player members to advertise their business or service across the wider network of past players/officials.

So whether you're looking for a builder, lawyer, or real estate agent, we recommend you browse the directory and support your fellow Lions where possible. You can be part of the Directory by emailing pastplayers@lions.com.au

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the Business Directory



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