



NEWSLETTER

Saturday 25 September 2021

Melbourne and the Western Bulldogs will battle it out this Saturday in what will prove another historic AFL Grand Final - the first ever to be played in WA!

The Brisbane Lions' finished came agonisingly short of advancing to the Preliminary Finals, after falling to the Bulldogs at the Gabba by a solitary point in the Semis.

Please see below a host of other important news items that are relevant for our past players and officials.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Unfortunately all past player and official reunion and anniversary events that were scheduled in Victoria have been postponed due to the current COVID-19 situation.

The Club will continue working through plans to host these either towards the end of 2021 (pending restrictions/lockdown) or most likely next year.



2021 Season Reflection

Brisbane Lions Senior Coach **Chris Fagan** joined the Roar Deal podcast last week to reflect on his team's 2021 AFL campaign, which ended in heartbreak with a one-point defeat in the Semi Final against the Western Bulldogs.

Despite the obvious disappointment, Fagan was proud of the Lions' ability to deal with greater hardships this year than in previous seasons. And with the third youngest list in the competition, he remains confident about the Club's future.

[CLICK HERE](#) to listen to the podcast

Gabba Finals Moments

The Lions' tough one-point Semi Final loss is sure to become just another chapter in a history of memorable finals the Club has played at the Gabba.

Lions.com.au recently took a look back at some of the more memorable finals matches played at the Club's home ground - including the Bears' 73-point win to eliminate the reigning premiers in 1996, and **Michael Voss'** courageous performance in the Lions' win over Adelaide in 2003.

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



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



Reunions Postponed

Unfortunately the COVID-19 situation in Victoria (and Australia-wide) has forced the Club to reconsider plans for its past player and officials reunion/anniversary functions.

The Club had plans to commemorate both the 20-year premiership anniversary and the 25-year anniversary of Fitzroy's final game with special events in Melbourne this year - but the latest lockdown, coupled with interstate travel restrictions, makes this almost impossible.

We are still committed to hosting such events - but only once it's deemed safe to do so.



It's Demons v Bulldogs

After spending most of the season occupying the top two positions on the ladder, the Western Bulldogs and Melbourne will face-off in this Saturday night's AFL Grand Final in Perth.

The Bulldogs will be hoping to claim their third VFL/AFL premiership (and second in five years), while Melbourne have an opportunity to break a 57-year premiership drought.

The Demons' irresistible Finals form sees them head into the match as warm favourites.

[CLICK HERE](#) for a full preview

Ex-Lions Flag Hopes

Some former Bears, Fitzroy and Lions players will play an important role in helping deliver a premiership to their current clubs this weekend.

Stefan Martin and **Josh Schache** are expected to line-up in the match for the Bulldogs, and have a terrific opportunity to become AFL premiership players.

Meanwhile, ex-Fitzroy Club Champion **Gary Pert** (CEO) and former Bears player **Mark Williams** (Head of Development) will be part of the Demons' tilt on Saturday.



Leppa Joins Fly At Pies

Brisbane Lions Hall of Famer **Justin Leppitsch** has reunited with premiership teammate **Craig McRae** at Collingwood - coincidentally the same Club the pair defeated twice in AFL Grand Finals as players.

McRae, who was appointed Senior Coach of the Magpies earlier this month, convinced Leppitsch to return to 'clubland' as Head of Strategy.

Leppitsch had taken a self-imposed year off coaching in 2021 and had become a very popular media performer.



AFL Appoint Scott

Another former premiership Lion, **Brad Scott**, has been unveiled as the AFL's new General Manager of Football.

Scott's main responsibilities will include umpiring, talent pathways, game analysis, the match review office, and the competition committee.

The former Hawks/Lions player and Senior Coach of North Melbourne, had previously been linked to other potential coaching vacancies.

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

Voss The Blues' Boss

Brisbane Lions Legend **Michael Voss** has been appointed Senior Coach Carlton.

After a decorated playing career with the Club that spanned 15 years and 289 games, Voss spent five seasons at the helm of the Lions before more recently developing his craft alongside Ken Hinkley at Port Adelaide.

We wish Voss the very best in his new role - except for when Carlton are lining up against the Lions, of course.

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Farewell Stakes

Inaugural Brisbane Lions AFLW coach **Brent Staker** will depart the Club at the end of the year to embark on his next adventure.

Staker has been a regular fixture at the Gabba since being traded to the Lions from West Coast in 2009.

He went on to play 50 senior games for the Club, and then form an integral of our AFLW coaching program which culminated in a breakthrough premiership this year.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the full story



Staff Changes

The Brisbane Lions have farewelled three key members of our football department upon the completion of the season.

Assistant Coach **Dale Tapping**, Head of Medical **Peter Blanch**, and Lions Academy Coach **Josh Hunt** have all departed the Club.

The Club thanks all these individuals for their enormous contribution to the Brisbane Lions over the years and looks forward to welcoming them back at future reunions.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the full story

Coaching Appointments

The Brisbane Lions were thrilled to announce the appointment of former AFLW premiership captain **Emma Zielke** as the Club's newest AFLW Assistant Coach.

Zielke, who retired after last year's premiership triumph, becomes the first ever female coach in the Club's history.

Meanwhile, former Melbourne Captain **Cameron Bruce** replaces Dale Tapping as the Club's Midfield Coach.

Bruce has previously had extensive coaching stints with both Hawthorn and Carlton.



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Retiring Lions

The Brisbane Lions recognise the contributions of both **Archie Smith** and **Grant Birchall**, who both announced their retirement over the past week.

Recruited via the Lions Academy, Smith spent eight seasons at the Club after choosing to play AFL instead of following a promising basketball career overseas.

After winning four premierships in over a decade with Hawthorn, Birchall played 39 matches over the past two seasons with the Club.



Zorko In Elite Company

Captain **Dayne Zorko** claimed his fifth Merrett-Murray Medal last weekend as the Brisbane Lions' 2021 Club Champion - ahead of **Hugh McCluggage** and **Jarryd Lyons**.

He joins Club Hall of Famers **Allan Ruthven**, **John Murphy**, **Garry Wilson**, **Paul Roos**, and **Michael Voss** as five-time winners of the prestigious award.

Fitzroy Legend still holds the Club (and AFL) record for most best and fairest awards with nine.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the full Club Champion wrap

Brighton Homes Arena

Construction on the Brisbane Lions' new home base in Springfield - the Brighton Homes Arena - is well under way, with completion expected by the end of 2022.

When finished, the Brighton Home Arena will become the Club's new training and administration base and play host to some AFLW and VFL matches.

The facility will incorporate elements of the Club's rich history in both Fitzroy and Brisbane.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the full story

