

FITZROY-BRISBANE LIONS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER *EDITION 11: DECEMBER 2024*



Brisbane Lions - 2021 AFLW Premiers



Fitzroy - 1922 VFL Premiers



Senior Coach Chris Fagan and the Brisbane Lions' 2024 Premiership team celebrate their Grand Final win over Sydney



Fitzroy - 1944 VFL Premiers



Brisbane Lions - 2003 AFL Premiers

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - MELBOURNE



First of all, what a wonderful effort produced by both the Brisbane Lions AFL and AFLW teams again in 2024. It was great also to see the Fitzroy Football Club take another positive step forward by appearing in the 'Premier' division of the VAFA.

It is my great pleasure to provide an update to members on the happenings in Victoria this season.

Your Fitzroy-Brisbane Lions Historical Society conducted two fabulous evenings at the Brunswick Street Fitzroy Bowls Club in 2024 - the first of which featured Colin Hobbs and Greg Booth, then followed later by Alex Ruscuklic and Renato Serafini.

They ALL were entertaining, and it was particularly good hearing their varied and passionate delivered talks on the Club they so adored.

We revisited the great Junction Oval - a place we remember warmly as the Club's home for many years - for a special 'Players of the 90s' event, which saw a collection of key individuals from Fitzroy's final years in the AFL attend a luncheon to recount their stories.

Each individually spoke proudly about their times spent with the 'Mighty Lions' with valuable funds also raised to assist former player, Jason Baldwin, who had undergone serious health problems.

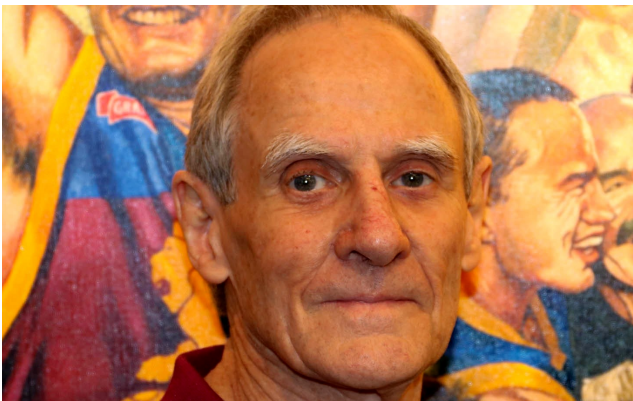
If you haven't done so already, I encourage you to visit our Museum at Marvel Stadium. It truly is an outstanding showpiece of our history, and a lasting legacy of the tireless work done by Arthur Wilson and George Coates to preserve Fitzroy's history in Victoria.

A special thank you to current Museum Curator and Club Historian Brenden Campbell who continues to give an amazing amount of time and effort in carrying forward the high standard of presentation. Also, to his partner Rhondda, who assists him maintaining this high standard for us to gain enjoyment from.

Thank you all for your continued support and contribution, it is greatly appreciated.

Ian Crawford
Chairman (Melbourne)
Fitzroy-Brisbane Lions Historical Society

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - BRISBANE



It was a very successful year for the Lions in 2024, with both the AFL and AFLW teams once again competing in Grand Finals. Our congratulations to Chris Fagan and his team for their fantastic achievement in taking out the Flag. As a football club, you can not do much better than winning the Grand Final, and they did just that - well done!

We hosted a very successful Historical Society Dinner at Morningside Football Club on 11th July with a good attendance of 71 diners. Our special guest speakers, past players Simon Black and Dion Scott, provided some entertaining stories expertly guided by Peter Blucher, who did a great job on the night as MC. We were very pleased that our Club Chairman Andrew Wellington was able to accept our invitation to attend the function, and Andrew gave some interesting insight into the Club's progress and future plans.

The Dinner and facilities provided on the night by the Morningside Club were excellent, and may lead to further use of that venue. Special thanks go to Committee Member Marie Short for arranging a Silent Auction and Raffles which contributed some good Funds for the Historical Society.

The Society's Brisbane Division are still pursuing the possibility of further displays of memorabilia items at the Springfield facility, and a recent meeting with Club Management has brought this closer to fruition.

We will be making plans for a couple of functions next season and would like to see all Historical Society members in Brisbane attend these functions where possible. Details of functions will be published at a later date and we would encourage members to discuss with their friends regarding attendance.

A heartfelt thank you to my fellow Committee Members - Judy Eddington (Secretary), Marie Short, Ian Hawke, Des Lavey, Kerry and Kay Dowsett, and our newly appointed Committee Member, Robert Verhoeve.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Great New Year.

Laurie Hayes
Chairman (Brisbane)
Fitzroy-Brisbane Lions Historical Society

2024 AFL PREMIERS!



After falling agonisingly short 12 months earlier, the Brisbane Lions reclaimed their position as 'Kings of the Jungle' by dominating Sydney by 60 points in the 2024 AFL Grand Final.

The 18.12 (120) to 9.6 (60) win delivered the Lions their first flag since 2003 and 12th through its combined VFL/AFL history.

The premiership decider was a triumphant finish to a memorable Finals campaign that saw the Lions do it 'the hard way' after finishing 5th at the end of the home-and-away season and travelling in each of their last three matches.

Forward pair Kai Lohmann and Callum Ah Chee each kicked four goals in the Grand Final, while Chris Fagan silenced any doubters by becoming the oldest ever V/AFL premiership coach.

Will Ashcroft - the son of former triple premiership player, Marcus Ashcroft - was awarded the Norm Smith Medal as best afield, making him the youngest recipient of the prestigious honour in the AFL era.



The Lions' 2024 AFL win was the Club's 14th senior premiership, when combining VFL/AFL/AFLW.

Only Carlton, Collingwood and Essendon have more (16), while Melbourne also boast 14.

Brisbane Lions Senior Premierships (14)

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1898 (Fitzroy VFL) | 1899 (Fitzroy VFL) |
| 1904 (Fitzroy VFL) | 1905 (Fitzroy VFL) |
| 1913 (Fitzroy VFL) | 1916 (Fitzroy VFL) |
| 1922 (Fitzroy VFL) | 1944 (Fitzroy VFL) |
| 2001 (Lions AFL) | 2002 (Lions AFL) |
| 2003 (Lions AFL) | 2021 (Lions AFLW) |
| 2023 (Lions AFLW) | 2024 (Lions AFL) |



The freshly-engraved 2024 Premiership Cup made a special visit to Club Legend Kevin 'Bulldog' Murray, who said watching his beloved Lions win another premiership was one of the "happiest days of his life".

MUSEUM

LEN WIGRAFT CAP



One of the wonderful new additions to the Museum in 2024 was a Premiership Cap presented to Club Hall of Famer Len Wigraft after Fitzroy's 11-point win over Collingwood in the 1922 VFL Grand Final.

Many thanks to Fred Irwin for loaning this rare item to the Museum for supporters to enjoy.

DONATION CONTACTS

If you have an old Fitzroy/Bears/Lions item that you would like to either donate to the Historical Society or place on loan for display in the Museum, then please contact:

VICTORIA

Brenden Campbell - brendenc1966@gmail.com

QUEENSLAND

Ian Hawke - ian@hawke.info

THANK YOU DONORS

Thank you to all those individuals who have either donated or loaned items to the Historical Society over the past 12 months.

Thanks also to everyone who has helped us source photos of past Fitzroy players for the 'Player Wall' housed in the Museum that features players that represented Fitzroy from 1897-1996.

Kaye Adolphson

Les Bartlett

Rhett Bartlett

Deborah Batty

Bob Beecroft

Lynda Boyne

Emmanuel Camilleri

Nancy Cain

Stephen Canals

John & Alan Chipp

Phil Deavin

Bill Donnellan

Ray Earles

Elms Family

Rita Eramo

Valmai & Svante Forster

Wayne Harmes

Geoffrey Harris

Craig Huggins

Keith Humble

Fred Irwin

Steve James

Jean Keane

Ben Keays

Matt Keays

Malea Kneen

Judy Mills

Brad & Jill Moore

Kevin O'Keeffe

Guy & Brenda Potts

Steve Prousiak

Michael Reeves

Robyn Schintler

Andrew Shanahan

Tony Spassopoulos

Pam Walker

Simone Walker

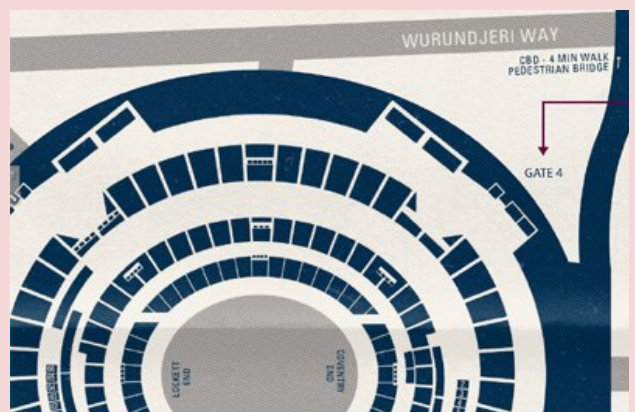
Julie Wilkinson

Jan Wright

VISITING OUR MUSEUM

The Historical Society Museum is located in the Arthur Wilson Room (Gate 4, Level D) at Marvel Stadium - 740 Bourke Street, Docklands.

Guided tours of our Historical Society Museum are available by **appointment only** on particular dates throughout the year. Please contact Chairman Ian Crawford on 0419 508 309 to find a time.



ALF WILKINSON CAP

Julie Wilkinson (on behalf of her two sisters) generously donated her Great Uncle, Alf Wilkinson's, 1905 Premiership Cap to the Historical Society Museum in May.

Alf Wilkinson played 80 VFL matches with Fitzroy between 1901-1908 and was a member of the Club's 1905 premiership side.

He also led the Maroons' goal-kicking in their premiership year, with 30 goals!



BILL WALKER CAP



The 1913 Premiership Cap of former Fitzroy Captain, Bill Walker, is now proudly on display within our Museum at Marvel Stadium - together with the football used in that particular match!

Walker's Great-Granddaughter, Simone Walker, has kindly placed both items on loan to the Historical Society.

The 111-year-old artefacts look magnificent within our display.

ONLY 46 PHOTOS LEFT!

The Historical Society is inching towards completing the Fitzroy Football Club Player Pictorial Photographic Display at the Museum at Marvel Stadium.

Only 46 player photographs (out of 1,157) are yet to be sourced from ALL players that played at least one senior game with Fitzroy from 1897-1996.

A full list of the missing 46 players can be found on the Historical Society's Facebook page.

If you think you might be able to assist us in finding some of these missing photos, please email Brenden Campbell at brendenc1966@gmail.com



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

With more than **5,000** followers, the Fitzroy-Brisbane Lions Historical Society Facebook page is the best way to keep up-to-date with the latest news, events, milestones, donations and even past player birthdays!



FITZROY-BRISBANE LIONS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

facebook.com/fitzroybrisbanelionshistoricalsociety/



THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 2023

LIFE PATRONS HONOUR ROLL 2024

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| KEN BANNON* | JOY DEW | MATT KEAYS | BRIAN PERT |
| IMRE BENCICS | TONY DEW | DAVID LEYDON | TOM REYNOLDS* |
| IVAN BROOK | DANIELLE DI PILLA | STEVEN LONEY | JOHN SCHINTLER* |
| IAN CAIRNCROSS | SUSAN DOUGLAS | GEOFF LORD | DOREEN SCHINTLER* |
| LEIGH CALLAGHAN | IAN EWING | JOANNE MAHONEY | ROBYN SCHINTLER |
| SHANE CALLAGHAN | BOB FORREST* | STEVE MANIATAKIS | DION SCOTT |
| STEPHEN CALLAGHAN | HAROLD FOSTER | TAS MANIATAKIS | BETTY SINNOTT |
| DES CALVERLEY* | MARSELE FOSTER | BERNARD MATISI | DR. ALLAN SMITH* |
| BRENDEN CAMPBELL | WAYNE FOSTER | DENISE MCCLUSKEY | ADRIAN STIN |
| GEORGE COATES* | PETER GARRIGA | PETER MCGREGOR | BARRY SYMES |
| BEN COLLINS | JARROD GIBSON | SHIRLEY MCWHINNIE | MAC TOLLIDAY* |
| LEN COX* | LAURIE HAYES | GRAHAM MUIR | ADRIAN VERROCCHI |
| IAN CRAWFORD | KEITH HICKLING | JASON MURNANE | MARIO VERROCCHI |
| VICKI CROWLEY | STEVEN HICKLING | GEOFF MYERS | RAFAELLE VERROCCHI* |
| PAUL DAVIES | KEITH HOAD* | NOEL NYE | PETER WILLIAMS |
| MICHAEL DELVES | LINDSAY JOHNSON | STEPHEN O'CONNOR | ARTHUR WILSON* |
| IAN DENNING | RUSSELL JOHNSON | JOHN PEARCE | KEVIN WISE* |
| ELAINE DENNING | | | KEN WOOLLEY |

**denotes deceased*

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Suzanne Abbott | Eamonn Burford | Jamie Craik | Adam Dwyer | Alex Gough | John Hutchinson |
| David Aisbett | Warwick Burns | Ian Crawford | Margaret Dwyer | John Grandison | Dennis Jackson |
| John Aitken | Joey Busa | Frank Crea | Nick Dwyer | Colin Gray | Ian Jackson |
| Mark Aitken | Neil Butler | Vicki Crowley | Ray Earls | Stuart Greaves | Ken Jackson |
| Phillip Alloway | Diane Byrne | Colin Cruse | Judy Eddington | Hazel Gretton | Damien James |
| Ann Allen | Peter Byrne | Neil Curran | Bill Elms | Ronald Gretton | Sue Jamieson |
| Robert Allen | Tom Byrne | Tracey D'Antonio | Kevin Elms | Jaron Griffiths | Brian Jeffrey |
| Janice Andrews | Ian Cairncross | Paul Davies | George Ermer | Glenda Grigg | Val Jenkin |
| Fulvio Antonelli | Leigh Callaghan | Jeff Dawson | Bradley Evans | Judith Haley | John Jenkinson |
| Rod Appleton | Shane Callaghan | Peter Dawson | Harrison Evans | Tim Hammond | Susan Jenkinson |
| Michelle Bailey | Stephen Callaghan | Gary Dean | Mitchell Evans | Peter Hanlon | Lindsay Johnson |
| Peter Bailey | Ray Calverley | Michelle Dean | Geoffrey Everrett | Toby Hansen | Russell Johnson |
| Barry Baker | Brenden Campbell | Skott Dean | Ian Ewing | Barbara Harris | Colin Johnson |
| Robyn Baker | Lou Cannatta | Peter Delbridge | Andrew Fell | Maureen Harvey | Renae Jolly |
| Janice Barrett | Leigh Carlson | Lorraine Dellow | Paul Ferronato | Ian Hawke | Col Kay |
| Peter Barrett | Brian Carroll | Michael Delmo | Helen Fielding | Simon Hawking | Justin Keane |
| Jason Barrie | Dennis Carstairs | Pamela Delmo | Kerryn Finlay | Laurie Hayes | Matt Keays |
| Sharyn Beard | Denise Carter | Michael Delves | Maree Flaus | Keith Hickling | Bruce Keen |
| Imre Bencsics | Ian Carter | Patrick Delves | Maureen Forrest | Steven Hickling | David Kelly |
| Janice Benstead | Peter Carter | Elaine Denning | Mannix Foster | Phillip Hill | Norman Kerr |
| Norm Benstead | Frank Chiodo | Ian Denning | Harold Foster | Edward Hill | Daniel Kilfoy |
| Joanne Bentley | John Church | Joy Dew | Marselle Foster | Graeme Hislop | Stephen King |
| Peter Blucher | Maureen Church* | Tony Dew | Wayne Foster | Marie Hoad | Doreen Knowles |
| David Bowe | Eamon Clancy | Danielle Di Pilla | Jennie Fraser | Robert Hodgkin | Bill Kouvas |
| Robert Brasher | Bryan Clements | Susan Douglas | Ted Frazer | Russell Holmesby | Kay Laing |
| Frank Breckon | Peter Clift | Kay Dowsett | Dean Frerk | David Hope | Rodney Lamb |
| Yvonne Breitkreutz | Doug Coldham | Kerry Dowsett | Peter Garriga | Justin Horton | Des Lavey |
| Ivan Brook | Ben Collins | Andrew Doyle | Shaun Garrity | Warren Hosking | Pauline Lavey |
| Scott Brown | Rod Connelly | Peter Doyle | Jarrold Gibson | Scott Howell | Gary Lazarus |
| Doug Brownley | Mal Corben | Daryl Draper | Damien Gillman | Gary Hubbard | Sue Lazarus |
| Luke Brownley | Russell Cosier | Ross Dunn | Carmel Girolami | Grant Hughes | Lynette Lee |
| Gerry Bruin | Len Cox | Colin Dunstone | Pat Girolami | Anita Humm | Lachlan Lee-Archer |
| Leigh Bryant | Troy Cox | Mark Durnford | Paul Girolami | Jack Humm | Nicholas Lester |

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 2024

David Leydon

Pat Leydon
Sean Leydon
Ward Leydon
Bruce Lincoln
Jai Lincoln
Trevor Lloyd

Steven Loney

Geoff Lord

Sam Lord
Scott Lord
David Lucas
Ben Luiz
Mark Lunn
Trevor Magee

Joanne Mahoney

Tony Mahoney
Fiona Malcolm
Rowan Malcolm
Louise Maniatakis

Steve Maniatakis

Tas Maniatakis

Lucas Manuell
Stephen Manuell
Neil Marks
Maureen Mash
Matt Matheson

Bernard Matisi

Denise McCluskey

Danielle McCubbin

Greg McCubbin

Peter McGregor

Treva McGregor

Mindy McKay-Johnson

Lyne McKay

Patricia McKay

Erica McKenna

Allan McKenzie

Simon McLaughlin

Darren McMenant

Kirk McNamara

Ashley McPhee

Shirley McWhinnie

Bernadette Melvaine

Cameron Middleton

Richard Mills

John Milton

Gary Minahan

Maurice Molan

Graham Muir

Jason Murnane

John Murphy

Patrick Murphy

Geoffrey Myers

Paul Nailer

John Newnham

Ronald Nicholas

Noel Nye

John Oakley

Paul O'Brien

Stephen O'Connor

Kevin O'Keefe

Peter Olm

Mark Opolion

Glenn Oram

Benjamin Owen

John Pearce

Heide Pearsall

Sheldon Peters

Brian Pert

John Petridis

Bradley Phillips

Peta Phillips

Chris Pickering

Josh Pocock

Damien Polglase

Richard Poole

June Popplewell

Brenda Potts

Guy Potts

Jim Poulter

Sam Poulter

John Preston

Graeme Price

Darcy Pritchard

Tony Proudfoot

Cody Quinn

Rachel Radford

Chris Ray

Michelle Reed

Patricia Reeves

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Laurie Richards

Steve Ripper

Tim Robins

Helen Rodgers

Tony Ronalds

Ross Rushton

Andrew Rushton

Ivor Ryan

Leo Ryan

Paul Scagliotti

Robyn Schintler

Crispin Schneider

Dion Scott

Patrick Scullin

Mark Scullin

Jill Seedsman

Neville Segrave

Carlo Serafini

Renato Serafini

Steve Shallies

Rhonda Shanks

John-Paul Shanley

Robert Shaw

Dan Shaw

Haydn Shaw

Maree Sheehan

Marie Short

Betty Sinnott

Debra Smith

Lou Soligo

Tony Spassopoulos

Carolyn Spencer

Brian Spencer

John Stewart

Adrian Stin

Karen Stokes

Karen Stray

Bette-Ann Swanson

Bill Sykes

Barry Symes

Loui Tancredi

Neville Taylor

Robyn Taylor

Simon Taylor

Victoria Taylor

Oanh Thai

Lionel Theobald

Jocelyn Thompson

Joel Thompson

Amelie Thompson

Denise Thornton

Ross Thornton

Chris Timms

Sharon Torney

Philip Trudinger

Wendy Turner

Lance Upton

Debra Vawser

Matthew Veit

Robert Verhoeve

Adrian Verrocchi

Mario Verrocchi

Nick Wakeling

Bill Walker

Pamela Walker

Ross Walker

Scott Walker

Noel Wallace

Mary Wallace-Smith

Rod Walsh

Bradley Waring

Bev Warren

Doug Warren

Mat Warren

Darrin Watson

Charlene Watts

Peter Weightman

Andrew Wellington

Carole Wellington

Kerrie Wellington

David Westlake

Jack Westwood

Heather White

Don Whitford

Carol Whittingslow

Albie Wiegard

Bill Wigmore

Leah Williams

Peter Williams

Timothy Wills

Mike Wilson

Danny Wilson

Terry Wilson

Colin Winder

Fred Wolbers

Marcus Woodfield

Ken Woolley

Deidre Worn

Jo-Anne Young

Jaxon Zietz

Lachlan Zietz

ZORKO IN ELITE COMPANY



Brisbane Lions veteran Dayne Zorko didn't just become a first-time premierships player this season, he now also sits 8th overall on the Club's all-time games list after appearing in all 27 matches in 2024.

Zorko now boasts a career total of 277 senior AFL matches - a remarkable achievement considering he was a relative late-bloomer who didn't make his AFL debut until he was 21.

Only Kevin Murray (333 games), Simon Black (322), Marcus Ashcroft (318), Alastair Lynch (306), Michael Voss (289), Luke Power (282) and Nigel Lappin (279) have played more matches for the Club than Zorko, who will continue playing into 2025.

JOHNSON JOINS LIONS BOARD

Former Fitzroy and Brisbane Lions star Chris Johnson has been appointed to the Club's Board of Directors.

Johnson replaces Ross Thornton, who sadly passed away in April this year, as the Victorian-based representative on the Club's Board.

Lions Chairman, Andrew Wellington believes Johnson will be a terrific appointment for the Club.

"Chris has been around the club for nearly three decades and has a great connection with Fitzroy and pride in the club's Victorian heritage.

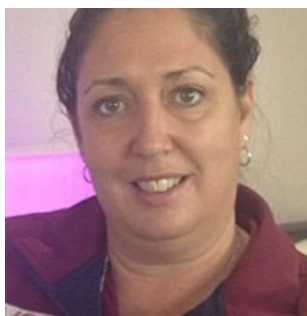
"He's worn the Fitzroy guernsey on 59 occasions and was a key part of the triple Premiership success.

"He has served the game in a variety of roles through his work in the AFL and has terrific knowledge of our talent pathways and community football."



IN MEMORIAM

The Fitzroy-Brisbane Lions Historical Society mourns the loss of many key individuals who sadly passed away throughout 2024. We acknowledge their enormous contribution to the Club and extend our sincere condolences to the families of the following past players, officials, and friends of the Historical Society. They will be sorely missed.



NICOLE DUNCAN

Bears/Lions Staff
(1993-2024)



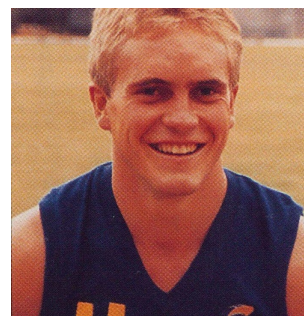
STEWART DUNCAN

Fitzroy Player (1960-64)
30 games, 7 goals



ROSS THORNTON

Fitzroy Player (1980-89)
146 games, 26 goals



PETER DAVIDSON

Bears Player (1990)
7 games, 3 goals



GRAEME CLYNE

Fitzroy Player (1962)
6 games



ALBERT GOAD

Life Member



LEN COX

Life Member
Life Patron



LES HUGHSON JR

Fitzroy Player (1958-62)
28 games



JOE HEWATT

Historical Society
Volunteer



WAYNE DUKE

Fitzroy Player (1977-79)
9 games, 1 goal



KEITH BROMAGE

Fitzroy Player (1958-61)
41 games, 48 goals



KEVIN DARRIGAN

Fitzroy Player (1953-56)
34 games, 6 goals

CONTACT US

VICTORIAN & MUSEUM ENQUIRIES

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P: Brisbane Lions Victorian Office - 03 8850 5600
Email: melbourne@lions.com.au

QUEENSLAND ENQUIRIES

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P: Brighton Homes Arena - 07 3335 1777
Email: melbourne@lions.com.au

Web: <https://www.lions.com.au/club/history/historical-society>