HEARTBEAT

A Newsletter For Past Players and Officials of the West Perth Football Club

FALCONS
WEST PERTH FOOTBALL CLUB
JOONDALUP

Welcome to our first edition of HeartBeat for 2021.

After a disrupted and shortened 2020 and a minor hiccup in the early rounds of 2021, a full season is in full swing and at the halfway mark, our team is well and truly in contention for a flag.

Since our last edition, we have lost some of the great players and people of our football club. Wally Price, Fred Buttsworth, Lizard Porter and Trevor Schofield have all passed. We recognise in this edition the enormous contributions they have made to West Perth.

We also mark 70 years since we won the 1951 premiership. We'll stroll down memory lane with Neil Garland, who shares stories of his time both at our club and career in the football media, and we'll also look back at the recollections of Neil, Wally Price and South Fremantle's Tony Parentich.

They share their memories of an intense rivalry between West Perth and South Fremantle in the decade immediately following the Second World War.

We celebrate two further premiership anniversaries, for 1901 and 1941, and we go back to the 1980s, with a look at the career of Corry Bewick and some of the other players who wore our jumper in the late 1980s.

There are also our usual segments, 'From the Vault',' Remember when' and 'Future Past Player' plus much more.

We hope you enjoy the read.

Club president Dick Fletcher with the Jubilee 1951 Premiership Trophy

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Celebrating the premierships of
1951
1941
1901

Marking the passing of Wally Price and Fred Buttsworth

Neil Garland recalls his time at West Perth and in the media

The first WA Football Budget

Flashback to the late 1980s

My First Game with Corry Bewick

Future Past Players
Mitch Peirce
Michael Mallard

... plus much more!

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The Greatest Year

The triumph of 1951

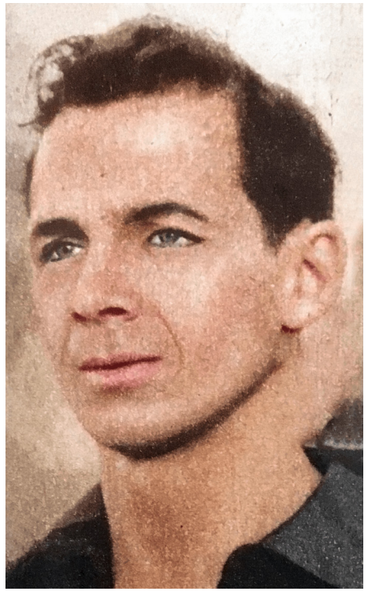
The 1951 premiership was something special. With it went the Commonwealth's special Federation Jubilee trophy and it all wound up as probably the greatest year in the history of the West Perth Football Club... we won everything!

And yet, on the eve of the 1951 final series, such a prospect seemed impossible. It was the "same old four" clubs, West Perth, South Fremantle, Perth and East Fremantle, to contest the final round of fixtures but only after one of the WANFL's fiercest ever seasons. The reigning premiers, South Fremantle, had finished at the top of the table at completion of the qualifying rounds but West Perth, East Fremantle and Perth all finished with 14 wins. Percentages determined final finishing positions.

Perth met East Fremantle in the first semi-final, the Demons emerging victors by eight points. South Fremantle beat West Perth by the same margin a week later, setting up a preliminary final between the Cardinals and Perth. West Perth won easily, by 40 points, and went into the grand final chock full of confidence, as did Souths, and the result was one of the greatest grand finals in WA football.

West Perth got the jump, racing to a six goal lead in the first term but from then on it was all South Fremantle, who gradually pegged back the Cardinals' lead. With three minutes to go, South Fremantle were within three points... and 30,000 spectators held their collective breaths while West Perth held on.

The club's victory was all the sweeter when Don "Mary" Porter was awarded the Simpson Medal. It meant the club had completed a clean sweep of football awards for the season... Ray Scott was leading goal kicker with a then post-war record of 141 goals. And Fred Buttsworth had won the Sandover Medal. At centre half-back, Fred had dominated week after week and in the lead up to the medal count, the court of public opinion suggested the winner of the count was never in contention. Public interest was more so focused on the margin by which Fred would win. He received 25 votes, winning by seven votes from South Fremantle half-back Frank Treasure and East Perth's Frank Allen (16 votes). Fred had also been awarded the Simpson Medal for his performance against Victoria earlier in the season.



Don "Mary" Porter
Simpson Medallist 1951

Fred Buttsworth (left) with Ken Ashdown (centre) and Ray Scott

GRAND FINAL

SOUTH FREMANTLE
VERSUS
WEST PERTH

Subiaco Oval.

The Football Budget

Official Organ of The Western Australian National Football League (Inc.)

Vol. 16, No. 30. Saturday, October 13, 1951

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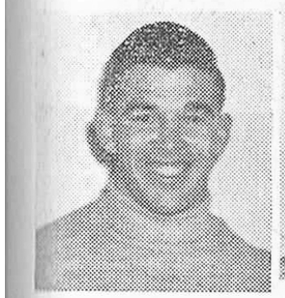
WEST PERTH

L. Harman (W.P.)

J. Larcombe (WP)

F. Buttsworth, WP



R. Schofield (WP)

R. Scott (WP)

D. Lind (WP)

K. Clarke (WP)

E. Kershaw (WP)

W. Price (WP)

G. Pozzi (WP)

W. Gregory (WP)

T. Schofield (WP)

L. Hoft (WP)

K. Ashdown (W.P.)

B. Humphries (WP).

THE FOOTBALL BUDGET Page Thirteen

What the papers said ...

The Sunday Times
Sunday, 14th October 1951

West Perth Sealed 1951 League Premiership With Great First Quarter

By Jack Sweet (Subiaco captain and ex-carnival player)

West Perth's brilliant first quarter, in which they ran away to a 38 point lead won them the 1951 Premiership Pennant and the Jubilee Trophy for 1951.

Lewington won the toss for South and opened up against the breeze, a decision which has been common to "toss-winning" skippers in these major games. Both captains claim that their teams are slow to wind up and prefer the use of the breeze in the last quarter.

Game began in fiery spirit, typical of a grand final. West immediately went into attack. Strong rucking by Porter and Garland and clever scouting by rover Trevor Schofield soon put the Cardinals in front. Full forward Scott was in devastating form and fought tenaciously for three well-earned goals. Wests demoralised South with superior pace and intelligent handball and were much better in the air. South had no answer to this first quarter brand of football served up by the Cardinals. Frayed tempers involved a number of players in a clash, which was responsible for slowing down the tenor of West Perth's attack. The quarter ended with seven goals on the board for West Perth. South were really in trouble when the Cardinals brought up another goal early in the second term.

Lewington tried in vain to steady his team, but Wests still played the better game. Wingers Humphries and Fisher were on top and gave great drive to a winning ruck. South looked well out of it but a brilliant angle goal from Naylor gave his team renewed hope. This was followed soon after by another from Green. South fought back desperately but inaccurate kicking and their tendency to play the wrong wing were costly.

Wests were still nearly three goals up at half-time but several players were showing signs of the strain of last week's rugged game. Although West Perth began the third term strongly, South ruckman Ingraham set an example to his team. Assisted by teammate Smith, Ingraham played brilliantly. South lacked their usual drive from rovers Marsh and Carbon and many prominent players fumbled badly and were caught out of position. Treasure and Eriksson combined well but attack after attack broke down in the forward line.

West's good defence work was led by Harman, Price and Buttsworth. Latter had been subdued by the pace and vigour of South's Laurie Green, but was now prominent. Full forward Scott, who received plenty of attention in front of goals, was moved to centre half-forward in the last quarter.

Move paid dividends because Scott was responsible for many forward moves from this position. Brilliant work by rover Trevor Schofield put West Perth on the move. Cardinals forced South into many mistakes. South came back fighting with plenty of vigour and gradually made up the leeway. With time running short, it was obvious that South would have to make a supreme effort to pull the game out of the fire.

They made the effort but so did Wests. Defenders went in heavily. With two minutes of play left the difference was only three points. Many scrimmages took place in the teeth of South's goals, but Wests met every demand made of them.

West Perth won the best grand final since the war. Wests had many fine players. It was difficult to separate Wally Price and Trevor Schofield. Former defended stoutly all day and the diminutive rover Schofield not only capitalised on the thrusts from his ruck, but kicked three good goals. Fisher started many moves from his wing. He dominated throughout and was responsible in checking South's Eriksson when moved on to that player. Porter starred in the ruck. Scott started admirably at full forward and continued to do well when moved to centre half-forward.

For South, Dave Ingraham, although quiet on occasions, played an inspiring game. Had the remainder of Souths followed his example they would have won. Frank Treasure stood out as South's greatest defender. Apart from the tenacious Mason, he played a lone hand on the back line.

Eriksson's third quarter effort was responsible for South's fightback. He combined well with Treasure. Laurie Green also played well on the day and won honours from 1951 Sandover Medallist Fred Buttsworth. †

Neil Garland gets his kick away in the 1951 grand final.

What the papers said ...

The Sunday Times
Sunday, 14th October 1951

Cardinals Did Damage Early

Journalist unknown

Lewington won the toss for South and the Port side opened up against the breeze. Pace was on from the opening bounce. South's right wing moves were repulsed and West's broke through for a single to be quickly followed by a major from rover Schofield. South came back strongly but found the Cardinals half-back line hard to pass. A snap from follower Garland found the target for West Perth's second goal. South's rovers were damaging to the West Perth attack and useful when on the offensive. West's drive came from their centre line and ruck. Left wing Fisher recovered from an early leg injury to become the spearhead of his team's attack. Full points from full forward Scott and a near miss from rover Trevor Schofield increased West's lead. Within minutes these two players figured again. Good handball from Schofield to Scott was finished off with a dashing goal from the latter.

Had Edge

Although Wests had the advantage of wind, their lead was mainly due to their all-round edge over South in a 10-minute period of championship football in which Souths were forced back on their last line of defence. Naylor failed after South attacked strongly along their left flank. Cardinals covered and follower Porter brought up a brilliant goal from the left half-forward position. From the bounce it was Souths again. Ruckman Hickman "soccered" between the big sticks from a goal mouth tussle. Sterling work by South Fremantle half-backs kept Wests down but they came again just before the end of the quarter. Rover Lind took the ball through on his foot for a goal and Scott brought up another soon after. Wests had the run of the ball and made no mistakes. South found themselves outpaced and lagging to the tune of 38 points at the change-over. It was a great opening for the Cardinals.

Bad luck dogged West Perth when ruckman Clarke retired injured just before the end of the quarter.

Second term opened up in grand style. Wests attacked from the bounce but South Fremantle's defence held. Fortunes changed rapidly as the game see-sawed up and down the field in vigorous style. West opened up the scoring with a single. Centre half-forward Ashdown put another goal on the board and South's position became serious. Ruck and centre line strength were match-winning features for Wests. Pozzi did a grand job at centre and wingmen Fisher and Humphries continually slammed the ball into the forward area. South found their feet after about 10 minutes. A pass found full-forward Naylor at a difficult angle. Naylor's kick turned corners to find the target, South's second goal of the match. Lost opportunities by forwards and great defence by backs Schofield and Price were costly to South.

Centre half-forward Green starred to bring up another goal and was prominent in further offensives by the Port side. There was little between the teams now but West Perth's defence enabled them to hold on to their lead. Steadier forward work led by centre half-forward Green, and good ruck and rover understanding saw South improve considerably. Marsh raced through for full points. Naylor failed from a fairly easy shot. Another single and then Green figured again only to miss the target. Game slackened for a time but picked up again with renewed vigour. South made the costly mistake of clearing to the wrong wing but eventually broke through.

Much needed

Crabbe brought up a badly-needed goal from the windy pocket. Southerners were still 16 points in arrears at half-time although they had one more scoring shot than Wests. Wests began the third quarter in fine style. Garland gathered from the bounce, passed to centre-half-forward Ashdown. Rover Lind gathered in from a fumble and brought up a snappy goal. South came on confidently but impassable West Perth backs, particularly Price, turned them. Fisher (wing) and Pozzi (centre) continually put Wests into attack and Trevor Schofield's intelligent roving gave the needed support to rucks whose position play was good. South rucks were the driving force behind their moves. Had Carbon and Marsh been roving well they would have been more successful. Both rovers were patchy. Some weak defence let the Port side down but wild kicking in attack was equally costly.

Another goal to West Perth (from Kershaw) saw South lagging by 30 points. By using the correct scoring wing Wests had the greatest success in attack. Wingman Fisher played a big part. He continually swung his team into attack. South came into the limelight when Naylor goaled but it was hard won success. A brick wall could not have been more damaging than West Perth back pocket player Price. This player continually turned back the Port side right in the goal mouth.

continued on page 11...

A mark to the safe Len Harman opposed to South's Norm Smith. Neil Garland and Trevor Schofield look on.

South's Bob Mason appears to be directing traffic while teammate Des Kelly marks near the West Perth goal. This was the one occasion when champion goal sneak Ray Scott was caught flat footed.

...continued from page 6

The Sunday Times
Sunday 14th October 1951

At the other end of the ground it was South Fremantle half-back Treasure who starred. Treasure and wingman Eriksson (now well on top on the left) gave South a sound avenue of attack which slowly but surely wore away the margin. A goal from Crabbe just before the close of the term brought the Port side within 17 points. It was a hard fought quarter with the honours in South's favour over the last 15 minutes.

Final term saw a major change in the West Perth side. Scott went to centre half-forward and Ashdown to the goal mouth. South failed from an early forward move but West Perth came back confidently. Follower Porter scored a valuable goal after Scott failed to make the distance from a mark. A poor kick-off by full-back Ray Schofield went to South's Green whose kick was right on the button.

From the bounce West came again. Up they went to the forward area and a great effort by rover Trevor Schofield brought up another goal. South full-back Mason was a solid backstop against following West Perth attacks.

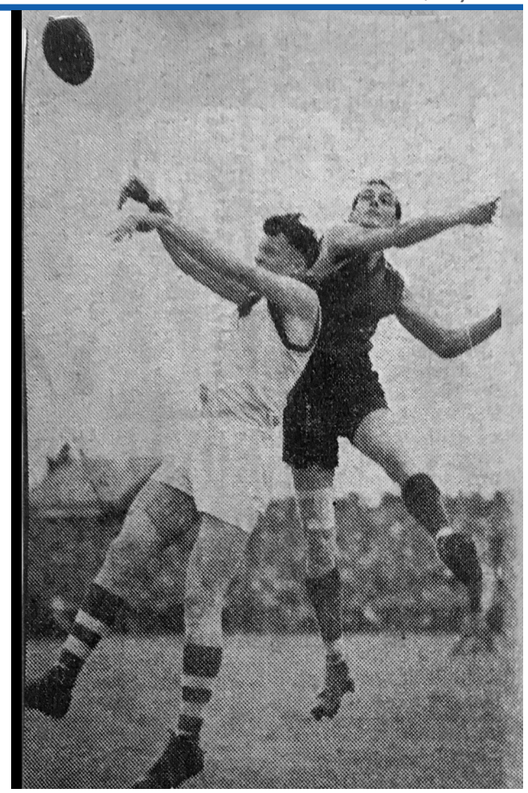
A costly penalty against Cardinals' full-back Schofield put South into attack again. A snappy goal from Marsh was followed by a single to West Perth. Naylor marked about 30 yards out for Souths and the resulting goal brought the Port side to within 11 points. West Perth stocks began to fall but they came again with the confidence of a winning team. Rover Schofield again figured to finish off with a snap-goal. With half the quarter played Wests had 15 points to spare.

It was kick-for-kick with nothing between the teams. Timely starring of Buttsworth at centre half-back for Wests added greatly to their defence. Scott's brilliant exhibition at centre half-forward gave great impetus to their attack. Rules went by the board for a time.

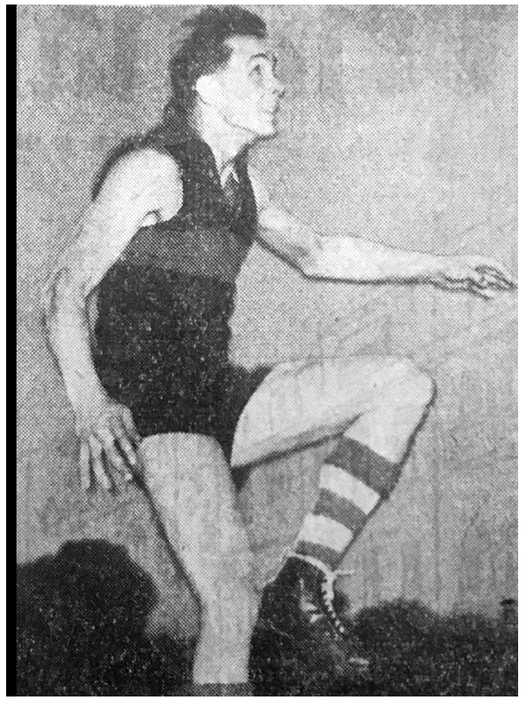
West Perth full-back Schofield gave away a costly penalty to South's Naylor. Naylor's goal, followed by a near-miss from Western and full-points from rover Marsh brought South to within three points with three minutes to play. South had the run on the ball. West Perth brought nearly all their team down to pack the goals.

Remarkable West Perth defence held up again a barrage of attacks. Price and Schofield stood out. Their cool play under fierce pressure won the game for the Cardinals. A free kick could have cost Wests the game in the all-in melees in front of goals.

Final siren called down the curtain on a great display with the Cardinals still keeping South off and holding onto their three point lead. †



West Perth's Don Porter leaps high above South's Norm Smith and gets the ball away to Trevor Schofield in the grand final. West Perth scored a goal through Ray Scott from the move.



Don Porter at training

West Perth supporters chair players Brian Humphries (foreground) and Trevor Schofield from the ground after the 1951 grand final win.

Team Photo 1951 Premiership Team

Back row (L-R): Don Porter, Merv David, Kevin Clarke, Ted Kershaw, Eddie Lawtie

Third row: Ken Ashdown, Neil Garland, Ken Matthews, John Shaw, Jack Larcombe, Les Hoft

Second row: Vic Fisher, Ray Scott, Fred Buttsworth, Neville Green, Len Harman, Alvan Whittle, Tony Yaksich

Front row: Doug Lind, Bill Gregory, Wally Olds, Ray Schofield, Stan Heal, Guido Pozzi, Wally Price, Brian Humphries, Trevor Schofield

Team Line Up 1951 Premiership Team

Ruck

Kevin Clarke, Jack Larcombe, Trevor Schofield

Reserves

Eddie Lawtie, Merv David

Grand Final Match Summary

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total
West Perth	7.4	8.5	10.8	13.10	**88**
South Fremantle	1.2	5.7	7.9	12.13	**85**

Goals

West Perth

Ray Scott (3), Trevor Schofield (3), Don Porter (2), Doug Lind (2), Ken Ashdown (1), Neil Garland (1), Ted Kershaw (1)

South Fremantle

Bernie Naylor (4), Steve Marsh (3), Len Crabbe (2), Laurie Green (2), Colin Hickman (1)

Best players

West Perth

Wally Price, Don Porter, Trevor Schofield, Neil Garland, Vic Fisher, Len Harman

South Fremantle

Colin Hickman, Dave Ingraham, Laurie Green, Norm Smith, Bob Mason, Eric Eriksson

Umpire

Tony Pitsikas

Free kicks

West Perth (13), South Fremantle (26)

Attendance – 30,300

South Fremantle won the toss and kicked against the breeze to the Subiaco end

Don Porter was awarded the Simpson Medal

Flashback

West Perth's golden era: The 1940s and early 1950s

with Neil Garland

Neil Garland debuted for West Perth in Round 13 of the 1947 season. A ruckman and forward who also represented his state, Neil was an important member of the club's 1949 and 1951 premiership teams.

He hung up his boots on the eve of the 1954 season when work commitments took him to Europe for four years. There he witnessed first-hand and aided post-war migration by Europeans to Australia.

Not long after his return to Perth in 1958, Neil entered the football media, first as an around the grounds caller before forming, with Frank Sparrow, one of football's most memorable commentary partnerships, a partnership that was to last the best part of 30 years. Neil played 78 games for our club and booted 80 goals.

Neil shares his memories of the time he spent at our football club from his earliest time at the Cardinals.

Neil Garland in 1948

When I went down to West Perth for my first training run in about July 1946, I found that the team had gone interstate for a mid-season trip. A few players could not go on the trip for family reasons or because their boss would not give them time off, and they stayed behind and continued training at Leederville Oval. Among these was Bill Kingsbury who worked at Plaistowe's in Perth after coming from Kalgoorlie where he was known by my cousins, the West family. He was an established League footballer, had been an officer in the Army, and was a few years older than me. As it happened, we became firm friends.

"I made many life-long friendships from my playing days. It feels that it was only yesterday that we battled together for the glory of the West Perth Football Club"

Ross Hutchinson was the coach. At that time he was a schoolteacher who could not get time off for the trip so he also stayed behind. Ross had been at Wesley College way before I schooled there, was a very good footballer for East Fremantle and Western Australia, and then as a playing coach for West Perth and South Fremantle. He was a great coach and took each club to premierships. "Hutchie" had been a Bomber pilot in the RAAF. He brought a refinement in both style and attitude to football coaching. More academic than "blood and guts". Later on he became a Member of Parliament for the seat of Cottesloe and held it for many years until he retired as Sir Ross Hutchinson.

I trained with this group for a week or two until the remainder of the team returned from their trip. When full scale training resumed I became very much a "new chum". Very little interest was shown in me and I was largely ignored. I found it difficult to get a clothes peg to hang my clothes on because the "regulars" did not welcome newcomers. It wasn't as if they were unpleasant, just that they knew each other well and weren't about to go out of their way to settle me in. In addition I was coming up against my first real dose of competition and I took a while to adjust to it.

After a while Joe Brooker, the coach of the West Perth seconds team, got in touch with me and asked me what progress I was making with the League team. It was obvious that I wasn't making any at all and he was angry that they hadn't referred me to him so that I could at least try out for the Reserves and start to play football matches instead of training and not getting anywhere. Each football club had a League and a Reserves team, each involved in a keen competition playing for a premiership. The ambition for each Reserve grade player was to become a regular League player. We all knew that very many of the Reserve players would never make it to the exalted ranks of the League team.

The Reserves played on the same day as the League team against the same opponent but played earlier, finishing just before the League game started. Thus we were supported by a big crowd waiting for the "big game" to start, and subject to the barrackers both for us and against us who were exercising their vocal chords in preparation for the main game. Naturally the players in the Reserves saw themselves as a team and not spare parts for the League. Players on the League list, who were not picked for the League team and not injured, were named to play in the Reserves. There was ill feeling in the Reserves about League "has beens" automatically getting a game in the Reserves to the detriment of younger players.

I played a few games in the Reserves before the finals in 1946 and continued to the grand final played at Subiaco Oval before the League grand final in which West Perth was also involved. Both teams were beaten, both by East Fremantle. In fact East Fremantle's League team went through the entire season undefeated. This was my first taste of playing in front of a big crowd.

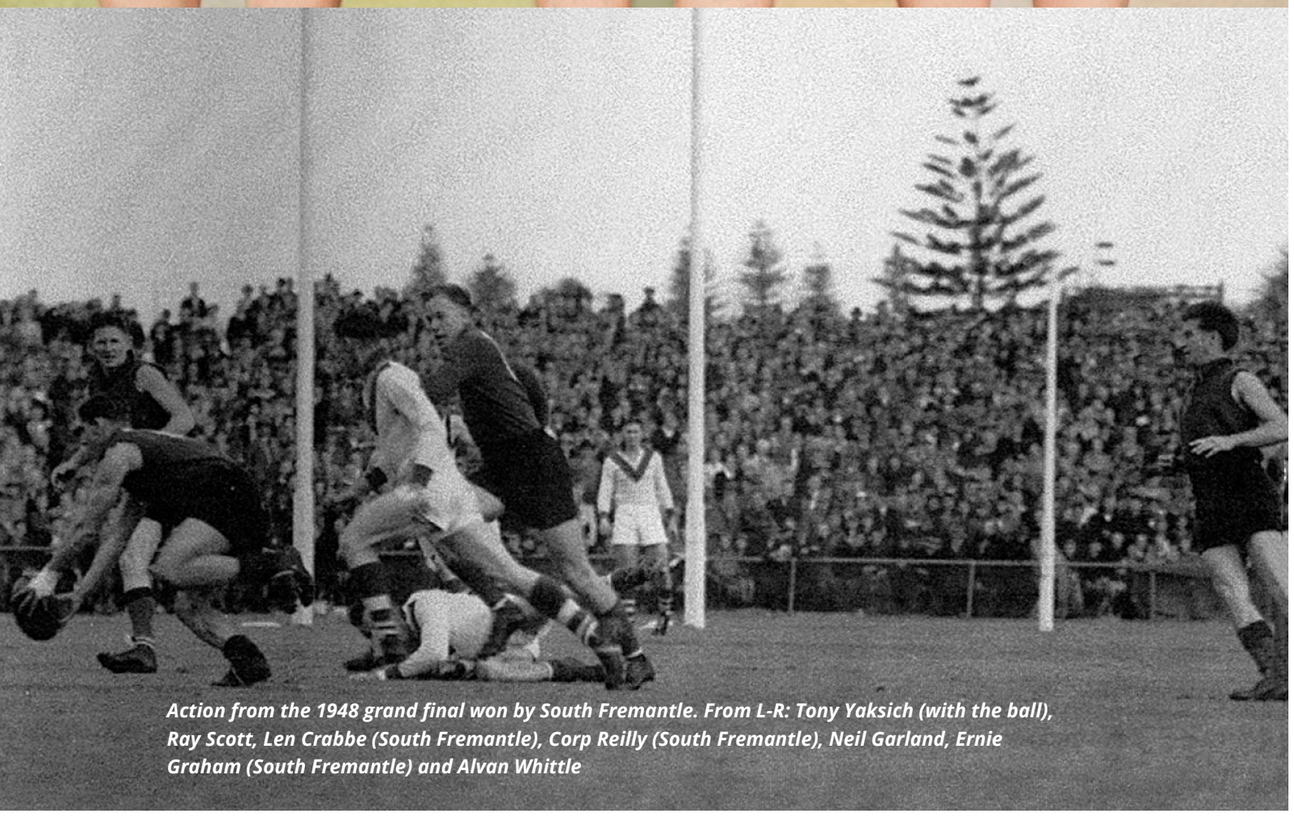
Next season, 1947, I was well and truly cemented in the West Perth Reserves team and began to learn the craft as a ruckman. My experience in football had been rather limited compared to many of my team mates who had been playing hard football for many years. I was on a learning curve and grateful to my team mate, Ray Bonser, who was never a great footballer himself but who had a good knowledge of the game and took the time to teach me. Afterwards he became a trainer for the League team when I was a regular member.

Towards the end of the 1947 season, the simmering discontent at the "has beens" from the League training list being imposed upon the Reserves each Saturday, came to a head. We didn't mind some of the younger ones, but we were fed up with those who had no interest in our premiership ambitions.

One memorable Saturday at Leederville Oval, we all agreed not to take the field unless a limit could be placed on the number of League list players being sent down to us each week. We were all in our football togs and ready to take the field. The League selectors did not believe we were serious until the field umpire came down the race to just outside our rooms, blowing his whistle as a final notice that we were holding up the start of the game. It was unprecedented, in our memory, that a team would forfeit a game when physically able to play. Grudgingly, for the honour of the club, agreement to our demands was reached and we went out to win.

In 1947 we were in the grand final of the Reserves again and this time we were the premiers. People at the club were kind enough to predict that I would make the League team in 1948. Actually, I had technically played my first League game during 1947 when I played in the Reserves at Fremantle Oval and then, after a quick shower, had to get into football togs again and sit on the bench as 19th man for the League team. A car accident had injured one of the League players on the way to the game and he was unfit to play, hence I was pressed into service. Just as well I wasn't called upon to take the field and play a second game straight after the first and at a higher level.

Doug Lind, John Loughridge and Jack Pola circa 1947



Action from the 1948 grand final won by South Fremantle. From L-R: Tony Yaksich (with the ball), Ray Scott, Len Crabbe (South Fremantle), Corp Reilly (South Fremantle), Neil Garland, Ernie Graham (South Fremantle) and Alvan Whittle

I started the 1948 season in the League team. We played against Perth and I knew most of the Perth players from my time training with them in 1946. We won easily. My contribution was four behinds, hardly auspicious!

In those days and for many years after, four ruckmen were picked in each team. Usually one ruckman changed with another out of the forward line and one out of the backline. In my career as a ruckman I changed out of the forward line.

There was no interchange of players. Once a player came off the ground, he could not return, so you did not leave until you were injured. Ideally the ruckmen changed with each other about every five minutes so as to keep the pace going. The job of the second ruckman at the bounce downs and the throw ins was to shepherd out the knock ruckman from the opposition. This required heavy bodywork and aggression. In addition, there was no centre square and no line across the centre circle. This meant that there was usually congestion at the centre bounce and plenty of opportunity to use whatever weight you had.

Readers may be mystified to read of the low scores in some games particularly at the WACA ground in the middle of winter. This was the Perth Football Club's home ground. The drainage was particularly poor and much of the ground would be covered in water. To be knocked unconscious in those conditions and fall face down was a worry in case of drowning. Luckily, no one died from any injury during my time. A few years before the war, one of the Doigs died as a result of a football injury and I can remember going to watch the football with my father and seeing the tarpaulin spread out to collect money for his family.

I was just over six feet in height which was considered tall enough to be a ruckman in those days. Merv McIntosh from the Perth Football Club was a giant at 6 feet 5 inches.

I played in the first four games without being prominent. One of the papers recorded that I had not produced the form which had made me a "power" in the seconds grand final the year before. My shin at the site of the tropical ulcer suffered in the war was opened up by a sprig on somebody's boot and I missed about six matches waiting for it to heal. From then on, I played with a shield made from light metal from an aircraft fuselage, designed by Bob Dalziell, a West Perth committee man. After my return to the League side I was mentioned occasionally in the best players but was not playing to expectations. I received a corked leg against East Fremantle when I went in too vigorously to Alan Ebbs when I needn't have done so. On top of a minor "corked" leg I had

Neil Garland in 1948

been carrying, this was a serious injury which kept me out for several weeks.

To miss ten games through injury in my first year of League football meant that it was difficult to cement a place in a side as good as West Perth were. When it came to the grand final against South Fremantle in 1948, Bob Foster was preferred to me for the ruck/forward place and I was a reserve. By this time the addition of a 20th man had enabled teams to have two Reserves although still, no player could return to the field after being replaced.

Bob Foster was injured in the first quarter so I played most of the match. South Fremantle won by 24 points and I had a wretched game. The 1948 season was not a happy one for me although I was mentioned in the best players a few times. I felt that I had been a sincere team player who had done a lot of unseen things to enable "star" players to perform, but it was obvious that the selectors were disappointed in my form. Missing ten games because of a deeply corked thigh and the opening up of the site of my tropical ulcer on my shin was not helpful.

Nothing was said to me. It was a case of being ignored unless you played well. I contemplated leaving West Perth and going to a lesser team, like Subiaco, where I could be certain of getting a game every week. I made this known and, at last, Don Marinko, a selector, had a chat to me saying the perception was that I was not presenting myself for the ball often enough and not getting sufficient possessions. These are my interpretations, his words were not as forthcoming.

I thought, "Blow it, I will show them. Heaven help anyone who gets in my way from now on!"

The 1949 season started and I felt more confident about my ability. Even before the 1948 grand final a fierce rivalry had developed between South Fremantle and West Perth. The games were usually heated affairs and no love was lost between us. Despite any other draws of fixtures, on the June holiday weekend, the Monday game was played between West Perth and South Fremantle at Subiaco Oval. All other games were played on the Saturday. Record crowds were attracted to this mid-season game which almost took on the importance of a grand final. We felt very strongly about this game and so did South Fremantle. It was the old antagonism of Perth versus Fremantle which still exists today.

The 1949 June holiday game marked my arrival as a significant player on the football scene. I managed to kick 4 goals in the first quarter playing on state ruckman Dave Ingraham.

Team photo taken shortly before a game at Leederville in 1949

I remember my friend Johnny Loughridge running past me singing, "Happy Birthday to you" to indicate that I was playing unexpectedly well, or "having a birthday". That match did my confidence a world of good and I felt I could hold my own in any company and, even when beaten, that my opponents would know that they had been in a contest.

At the end of June 1949, the WA state team was to play against Victoria in Melbourne. So as not to penalise the individual clubs, no ordinary games were played while the state side was away. So that the public was entertained, a second state side was picked to play in Perth against a club side from Victoria.

This team comprised players who had been picked for the state side and who could not arrange time off work, plus the next best 18 or so footballers in WA. We played as "Western Australia" and wore the state playing jumper.

I had no pretensions whatsoever of being selected, although my good old mentor, Ray Bonser, had told me that I was a rough chance to be in the first State team. I treated his remarks as humorous. I was painting the front path at Raglan Road on Sunday 12th June when the Cross family, who lived behind Woodthorpes butcher shop on the corner of Fitzgerald Street, walked past on their way home from church and said, "Congratulations!" When I asked them, "Why?" they told me I had been selected in the second state side as announced in that day's Sunday Times. We didn't subscribe to the Sunday Times so I raced on my motor bike down to Ruby Street to Tom and Elaine Williams' house at 48 Ruby Street because I knew that they would have a copy. Sure enough it was true. To say that I was surprised would be a gross understatement. We trained once together at Leederville Oval.

I found it strange to have as teammates players with whom I had had fierce confrontations. This did not apply to players like Bob Hicks and "Bluey" McIntosh from East Fremantle, Bob Miller from Perth, all of whom became my friends after our involvement together. Others remained enemies even though we had to sink our differences once we pulled on the same guernsey. Ross Hutchinson was our non-playing coach. There was not a lot he could do to prepare us in such a short time, but he was a good orator and made us feel very important. To me, it was the greatest thrill of my sporting life to that time. I was as keen as mustard to vindicate my selection. We played for the honour of our state in full state colours. To the public, it was a chance to gauge how good our football was compared to a top Victorian side. As the big day approached, we forgot about the fact that our first side was playing that day in Melbourne, to the whole of Perth we were the local heroes. In isolated WA this game assumed epic proportions.

We played the Richmond Football Club on the Saturday and again on the following Tuesday. In those days there was no television and we knew little about players in the Victorian Football League except we assumed that they were all first class footballers. Their match reports were part of the

Melbourne newspaper, the Sporting Globe, which was widely circulated in Western Australia. We at least knew who Richmond's prominent players were, none of which was more famous than "Captain Blood" Jack Dyer, their captain-coach.

Jack Dyer was a renowned tough man, a policeman whose police uniform on occasions, was the only thing which saved him from being mobbed after the game by irate opposition crowds. These were the days of one umpire, no trial by video, and no scrutiny of behind the play infringements. Incidents which today are unacceptable were considered to be part of the game. Most of us had recently returned from war service and considered ourselves tough.

"Unduly rough play" and "charging" were rarely reported. A high tackle had to be "around the neck" or else play on. The welfare of the players was not a factor unless a law of the game was contravened. So there was a lot of "evening-up the score" for present or past injustices on the part of some of the players with long memories. I am afraid that I fitted the category of a player with a long memory.

Jack Dyer was coming to the end of his long career. There were no Western Australians in the Richmond team, indeed there were only a few ex Western Australians playing in the VFL. At that time, unless transferred in your employment, there was little chance of a clearance from a WA club. Leaving a WA club to play in the hated VFL was actively discouraged, and, at best you could expect to have to stand out of the game for at least 12 months as a penalty. In the heady atmosphere of representing WA and playing against the hated Victorians, we were all charged up for the Saturday game. There was a capacity crowd at Subiaco Oval, some arriving two hours before the gates opened and 8,000 were there by 10am, swelling to about 27,000 for the start of the game. Ross Hutchinson, in his pre-match address, first and foremost said, "I won't talk football to you. You wouldn't be here unless you were good enough to know what to do."

He spent the rest of the time telling us how lucky Richmond was to be playing against us. We had cancelled all our fixtures, provided our best ground, treated them like royalty, all in stark contrast to the way our club sides were treated on visits to Melbourne. Second class grounds, "has been" opponents, old footballs, mid-week games and no respect.

Naturally, this fired me up and I was ready for anything. Afterwards I asked

Neil Garland in pursuit of the ball - for Western Australia versus Richmond at Subiaco Oval, 25th June 1949

After the Game Dine at . . . CAFE LUCAS Barrack Street

West Australia v. Richmond at Subiaco

FIELD UMPIRE: A. PITSIKAS.

Boundaries: Carbon and Colby. Goals: Duckwood and Ryan.

WEST AUSTRALIA (Black and Gold).	Gls. Kicked	RICHMOND (Yellow and Black).	Gls. Kicked
1 REILLY, J. (Capt.)		1 COOKE, A.	
2 F. BUTTSWORTH (V.-C.)		2 WRIGHT, R.	
3 SMITH, J.		3 ROWE, H.	
4 ERIKSSON, E.		4 O'ROURKE, J.	
5 FOSTER, P.		6 WILSON, S.	
6 LIND, D.		7 COOK, F.	
7 GILCHRIST, N.		8 ALBISTON, K.	
8 YAKSICH, A.		9 PERKINS, W.	
9 D. POZZI		10 BURGE, F.	
10 PRICE, F.		11 SEITZ, W.	
11 GABRIELSON, D.		12 IRVINE, R.	
12 LOUGHRIDGE, J.		13 WEBB, K.	
14 HARMAN, L.		15 ROWE, D.	
15 MORIARTY, T.		16 JONES, L.	
16 NEWMAN, J.		17 DYER, J. (Capt.)	
17 SPENCER, J.		18 ROSS, N.	
18 L. PEAKE		21 FRASER, D.	
19 KERSHAW, E.		22 MERRETT, L. (V.-C.)	
20 PESTELL, C.		23 NIX, J.	
21 HICKS, R.		24 POULTER, R.	
22 McINTOSH, W.		25 SIER, K.	
23 GARLAND, N.		27 STOKES, R.	
24 STEPHENS, H.		28 STOKES, J.	
25 TYSON, C.		30 HOOD, M.	
26 MILLER, R.		33 ROBERTS, K.	
		34 WILLIAMS, W.	

1st Qtr.......Goals.......Behinds 1st Qtr.......Goals.......Behinds
2nd Qtr.......Goals.......Behinds 2nd Qtr.......Goals.......Behinds
3rd Qtr.......Goals.......Behinds 3rd Qtr.......Goals.......Behinds
Final....... Final.......

FOOTBALL — BURLEY'S "WESTERN"

Proud of their age . . . McWILLIAM'S *Wines*

THE FOOTBALL BUDGET. Page 21.

Western Australian team photo - WA versus Richmond at Subiaco Oval, 25th June 1949

Back row: *Neil Garland, Colin Pestell, Fred Buttsworth, Charlie Tyson, Ted Kershaw, Bob Hicks, Bob Miller, Terry Moriarty, Laurie Peake*
Middle row: *Len Harman, John Loughridge, Harry Stephens, Ross Hutchinson (Coach), Corp Reilly, Eric Eriksson, Eric McIntosh, Digger Price*
Front row: *Norm Gilchrist, Jeff Smith, Doug Lind, Jim Spencer*

some of the veteran players whether they were likewise affected, and they all agreed that the coach's speech had been inspirational.

We beat Richmond for their first defeat outside Victoria in the club's history. I kicked five goals three behinds and had a really good day. It was a hard game, not spiteful, but harder than our normal games, although I do remember having their ruckman Jones in a headlock and trying to throw him to the ground at one stage. Richmond hit hard with the shoulder like all Victorians, whereas we used mainly the hip.

I well recall my first kick that day when I got boot to ball within scoring range only to be flattened by the full back. I neither saw where my kick went nor realised that I had scored a goal until Frank Hughes, the trainer, congratulated me while administering the smelling salts which brought me back to the land of the living.

Mother, Dad and Molly were standing in the crowd that day and Mother could not resist when someone near them during the course of the game, asked, "How many goals has Garland kicked?" She replied, "He has kicked five, I know because I am his mother!" Mother then spent the rest of the game in acute embarrassment over her outburst.

It rained on the Tuesday and we had to front up again. Richmond had flown in their Victorian state representatives Spring, Morris who subsequently won the Brownlow Medal, and Bill Wilson. In addition

ALL-ROUND POWER WON PREMIERSHIP FOR W. PERTH

BY MICK CRONIN

West Perth's all-round strength and stability under pressure won them their first League football premiership for 7 years when they ran away from Perth in the last quarter to win yesterday's grand final 16.13 to 12.7.

Other major factors—the superiority of Jack Larcombe at centre half-back, plus the fine display of tireless Norm Lamb in combatting the strong Perth ruck—blended into a match-winning picture for West Perth.

This year's grim struggle certainly lived up to the old adage that "you never can tell in a grand final."

Missing was the expected control of the centreline by West Perth, which certain experts dinned into our ears all this week. On the other hand Perth's hoped-for mastery of the ruck was seldom evident.

There were times when Perth looked to have the premiership within reach. One of them was when West Perth centre half-forward Fred Buttsworth limped heavily on his left ankle after taking a brilliant mark.

Visions of a similar injury which occurred to Buttsworth in the 1947 grand final floated before many West Perth supporters' eyes, but after a spell in the forward pocket, he returned to the half-forward line and played on gamely.

In retrospect, Perth's play was too spasmodic.

Occasionally they certainly looked like a premiership [illegible] West Perth [illegible] however [illegible] rth's perfect co- [illegible] of the ball [illegible] ed their [illegible] the week

[illegible]rtled

[illegible] finals, big-match [illegible] unsettled many early, [illegible] mistakes were evident on [illegible] sides.

Hasty kicking amidfield, occasional mis-marks as well as fumbling groundplay helped to keep the crowd in a simmer of expectancy.

In the closing stages, these flaws reappeared in Perth's play, but then it was due to weariness and the realisation that West Perth had the game won.

One of the chief stumbling blocks to Perth's ruck was the fine display of West Perth's non-stop follower, Norm Lamb, who seemed to inspire the younger members of the side, notably David and Ashdown.

Lamb braced them when they came onto the ball, a tough experience for young players in a big game.

Although the final scores indicated an easy West Perth victory, it was a sternly-fought grand final in the best tradition of WA football.

Supremacy

No quarter was given, or expected, as both sides enjoyed periods of supremacy in the first 3 quarters.

The writing might have been on the wall for Perth at lemons, when a fresh breeze sprang up to aid West Perth in the final term, but they fought on doggedly and held the record crowd almost to a man until the last 5 minutes.

Both teams appeared confident in the dressing rooms before the game, Perth's attitude being much less nervous than before the 2nd semi-final.

Easy defeat of South had pepped Perth's morale immensely, and their early play showed it.

STARS	
WEST PERTH	**PERTH**
1. Jack Larcombe	1. Terry Moriarty
2. Norm Lamb	2. Alec Wallace
3. Wally Price	3. Keith Harper
4. Doug Lind	4. Bill McKenzie
5. Ray Scott	5. Ron Tucker
6. John Loughridge	6. Merv McIntosh

West Perth, on the other hand had a quiet confidence, tempered by the knowledge that they had defeated Perth 3 out of 4 times this season.

When the game began West Perth went about their work methodically, and the majority of their moves had greater purpose than Perth's.

Although Perth were faster to the ball and kicked for goal (particularly in the first half) with greater accuracy, their play lacked the [illegible] of the previous week.

Had West Perth's kicking for goal been more successful in the 3rd and final quarters, I think they would have doubled Perth's score. They certainly had double the play.

But although Perth went down this time, I am confident that next year they will again be a force to be reckoned with, particularly after their fine win in the Seconds grand final.

It struck me that the happiest man on the ground to hear the final siren was umpire Tony Pitsikas. He looked as if he was thoroughly tired of umpiring competitive football, and was worn out by the constant strain of controlling major games.

My choice as the outstanding player of an outstanding grand final was West Perth centre half-back, Jack Larcombe.

Alternating

Rarely guilty of a mistake, Larcombe seldom failed to make fullest use of his kick—with either foot — and allowed alternating opponents Bill McKenzie and Reg Zeuner little latitude.

Larcombe is a full - chested dashing type of defender, who is a constant menace, not only to the opposing forwards, but the defence as well, due to his rare ability to convert defence into attack.

Norm Lamb must rank very close to Larcombe as West Perth's best.

In the last 3 seasons, Lamb has performed amazingly well in grand finals. It is certainly not his fault that it has taken 3 attempts by West Perth to win the premiership.

Feature of Lamb's play is the determination he puts into every effort and a complete lack of understanding of the word "beaten."

His goal in the opening quarter may have been one of the game's most important, for it lifted West Perth to fiery football following a sluggish start.

But for a period in the 2nd quarter, when he allowed his man a little too much freedom, West Perth back pocket, Wally Price, defended grandly throughout.

A feature of his play was the manner in which he backed up fullback Schofield, particularly as Schofield was so often outpaced by Tucker.

For a courageous effort Doug Lind's performance must rank highly. Always in the thick of it. Lind did not relax his persistency for a single instant.

As a ruckman and forward, Ray Scott was always a thorn in Perth's side, and had his kicking for goal been equal to his other play, the result might have been evident far sooner.

Resourceful

West Perth pivot, John Loughridge showed just how big an effect a determined and resourceful player can have on the trend of a game.

He struck tough opposition from Perth's Keith Harper, but as always, Loughridge played it right out, and was the victor on the day.

Although Frank Harman was not very prominent for the greater part of the game, his 2 absolutely freak goals were invaluable to West Perth.

His brother, Len Harman and winger Tony Yaksich completed the elect of what was a very even premiership side, in which every man, at some time or another, earned his place.

Once again, Perth's pride of place goes to tenacious half-back flanker, Terry Moriarty.

Although West Perth used shrewd tactics to keep Moriarty away from the play as much as possible by retaining their half-forward right on the boundary, he was seldom beaten when the ball came his way.

His display was capped off by sensible and well-directed kicking. Had some of his teammates kicked as well, Perth might have been a lot closer at the finish.

Moriarty has certainly had a great se[illegible] and it was no fault of his that Perth did not do better yesterday.

I should think that yesterday's effort should go down in Alec Wallace's football career as his best.

He frequently outpaced and outmanouvered redoubtable opponent [illegible]ps Heal and it is to his everlasting credit that he finished the season on such a note of personal triumph.

Keith Harper, although shaded by Loughridge on the day, gave quite a good performance, while Bill McKenzie's first half as the spearhead of Perth's ruck, was one of the chief reasons for Perth's lead at half-time.

Others to do well in a patchy Perth side were Ron Tucker — who had a great duel with Schofield, and came out best — Merv McIntosh (although not the giant of last week) and rover Phil Craven.

● After he had missed 2 shots close up in the 3rd quarter of yesterday's grand final, West Perth's Ray Scott marked right in the goalsquare, kicked a valuable goal. He outmarked Perth backmen Sid Shaw and George Bailey, who are seen groping vainly for the ball.

The Sunday Times
Sunday 9th October 1949

Lead Changed Hands Quickly

Both West Perth and Perth enjoyed periods of superiority for 3 quarters of yesterday's League grand final. It was not until the closing stages that West Perth took charge, built up a 5-goal lead.

Here is a Sunday Times football writer's quarter-by-quarter description of the play:

Both sides attacked fruitlessly, probing nearly every position on the field, until McIntosh's long shot from a free hit the post 4½ minutes after the start.

Scoring was more difficult than wringing blood from a stone—Williams' long shot brought another point, then Tucker soared above Schofield for the game's first goal.

West Perth pushed doggedly into the stiff breeze, and Lamb's corkscrew goal brought immediate vocal response from West Perth's barrackers.

Chance for the Perth chorus to answer came when Tucker outmarked Schofield, this time right on the goal-line.

Scoring rate accelerated when first Buttsworth broke away to goal for West, then Craven replied when Tucker neatly handballed him a "sitter".

Craven again provided Perth's 6-pointr answer after Lind had gathered a fortunate bounce.

Tucker's pace was a decisive factor and he gave Perth its first decided edge when he raced through into an open goal.

Further determined drives by both sides petered out fruitlessly before quarter's end.

1st. qtr. Pth 5.3, W.P. 3.3.

Perth surprised at the beginning of the 2nd quarter when they attacked consistently from the bounce and had 2 quick goals on the board from Miller and Wray, to give them 23 pts advantage.

This was pared—to West's relief—when Lamb received a free close up.

West Perth drew closer when neat handball between Lind and Scott brought up the latter's first major.

West Perth plugged away vainly, were repeatedly disappointed until Garland kicked an almost miraculous goal over his shoulder.

Spurred, West Perth flashed in attack again and Scott led out smartly to put them in front for the first time.

Perth counter-attacked desperately but saw the ball slowly nudged along the flank.

Perth sighed with relief, West groaned with anguish, when Buttsworth—a broken reed switched to the pocket—hit the post from a goalsquare shot.

Bracing themselves, Perth tried again. Crowd was in constant uproar as attack after attack was flung out. Right on the siren, McIntosh flew above a milling pack, marked and goaled to give Perth a 4 pt lead at half-time.

Half: Pth. 8.3, W.P. 7.5.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

Tucker missed an easy chance after leading cleverly and fumbles in the forward zone frittered away other chances for Perth.

West Perth's answering chain of passes down the grandstand wing brought the scores to level pegging—8.4 all—when Whittle's long drop-kick sailed straight through.

Perth were not slow to reply. They prodded both flanks, finally scored from the centre when Tucker burst through a pack.

Another Perth goal—from McKenzie—gave them a 12pt. lead, increased to 14 with singles.

Buttsworth ran into an open goal to keep West Perth within range, but further golden opportunities were lost with poor kicking.

West Perth gnashed their teeth when Scott twice marked in front and missed.

He could not fail the 3rd time, however, when he marked within inches of the line, putting West Perth 2 points in front.

It was now all West Perth, from his opponents to mark and they went further ahead when Ashdown raced away and kick his first goal.

3rd qtr: W.P. 11.7. P. 10.5.

West Perth, with a suddenly-freshened breeze behind them, practically sealed the game within minutes of the start of the last quarter when Frank Harman screw-kicked a freak goal from the forward pocket.

Buttsworth returned to the limelight with another, to give West Perth a 20-point lead.

Zeuner kept Perth's heart in the game with a snap goal and when McIntosh punched the ball along the ground to Tucker the Perth forward accurately punted his 5th goal.

A long, low dropkick from Heal just missed, and Buttsworth also failed when a goal might have extinguished Perth's comeback.

West Perth had the lion's share of the play, but their inaccurate shooting kept the crowd's interest alive.

At long last Ashdown capped off West Perth's attacks when he marked close up.

Scott and Ashdown hammered it home with 2 more as the game petered out lifelessly.

Final: W.P. 16.13, P. 12.7.

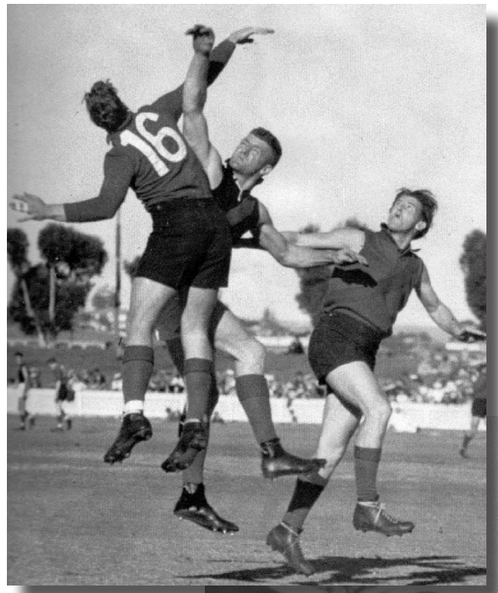
they played Des Rowe who had been unfit on the Saturday. Roy Wright, who also won a Brownlow medal, came with the team but carried an injury. In that brief time I got to know Roy a little and liked him. Bill Wilson, years after, visited WA in his job and I got to know him. He was a good bloke.

However, on the Tuesday, in wet conditions, we hardly saw which way Richmond went, especially late in the game. Spring, Morris, and Wilson made a big difference to them and their superior wet ball handling allowed them to increase their 3/4 time lead of 14 points to 60 points at the end. The famous Jack Dyer used the drop punt which was a novelty for us all, but did not over exert himself.

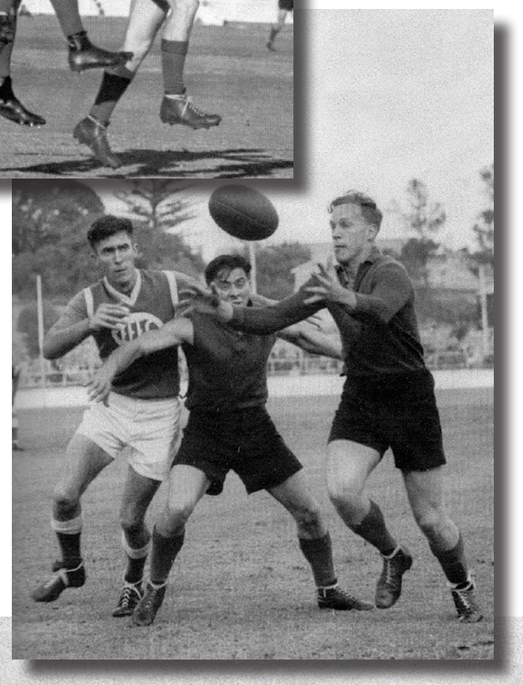
In an ill-advised mismatch, we played Canberra on the following Saturday and Tuesday. I was unable to play on the Saturday because of an injury sustained against Richmond on the previous Tuesday. We won by 90 points on the Saturday.

My old school friend Neil Currie played for Canberra. We were to meet later in Geneva, Switzerland, and Canberra, and after that he became Sir Neil, and Ambassador to Japan. By the Tuesday I was fit enough to play and we trounced Canberra by 177 points. It was a joke! We brought players from defence down to the forward line just to have a shot for goal. The two games against Canberra were a disaster for football. They should have been matched against one of our lower club sides or not at all. They were victims of their own inflated ideas of their football prowess. I did not enjoy the game and nor did the spectators.

The second state side games against Richmond boosted my confidence and my football improved. To put the standard of our Second State side players in perspective, in the team were Johnny Loughridge and Terry Moriarty who had already won Sandover Medals and Fred Buttsworth was to win one in 1951. Almost all the others could have been included in the first state side and if they had, would have weakened it little.



Left: *Neil Garland rucking against Merv McIntosh with Alvan Whittle in support versus Perth at the WACA, June 1949*



Right: *Neil about to take possession with Guido Pozzi providing the shepherd versus East Fremantle at Fremantle Oval, July 1949*

Above: *Neil considering his next move... versus Perth in the 1949 second semi-final at Subiaco Oval*

Stan Heal addressing his team at three quarter time of the 1949 grand final

West Perth finished second on the premiership table at the end of 1949. South Fremantle was level on points but with an inferior percentage. Perth was on the top. We were relieved to beat Perth in the second semi-final and sit back and let Perth and South Fremantle play off for the right to meet us in the grand final. Perth fairly easily eliminated South Fremantle and we looked forward to playing Perth who held no fears for us.

Merv McIntosh was a giant ruckman for Perth. He had already won the Sandover Medal in 1948 and went on to win two more, in 1953 and 1954. My strategy, as opposing ruckman, was to run him around, try and take him wide out on the flanks out of the play. When he got tired of this and decided to go to the "corridor", I could be free and be played through. It didn't help my game as far as statistics were concerned, but that wasn't the point.

West Perth won the grand final by 30 points. This was West Perth's first premiership since 1942 when the competition was restricted age. There was great celebration, particularly so because we had been "knocking at the door" each year since the war. Each of our players received a premiership blazer. I still have mine.

After the photographs at Victor Penrose studio we tried to get away with our guernsey or a pair of socks, but good old Syd Gardiner, the property man, watched over the uniforms like a hawk and I never knew anyone to beat him. In those days the guernsey, shorts, and socks remained the property of the club and were not given to the players even after winning a premiership.

It was the custom to be awarded your state jumper so I had a pair of state socks and jumper, the latter, No 23, I still have.

In the early part of the 1950 season I played at centre half forward, initially with success, kicking four goals in one game. To my mind centre half forward is the toughest position on the field. For one thing, you strike very good footballers as opponents and for another, your opponent's main job is to destroy the attack from behind and then continue on in the same direction to deliver the ball down field. The centre half forward however, has to create opportunities and then turn back through the opposition and deliver the ball to the forwards or have a shot for goal himself. Injuries to our ruckmen forced my return to rucking duties and I was pleased to get back to my favourite position.

History was made on Wednesday 14th June 1950 when a night game was played at Fremantle Oval to enable the state selectors to assess the form of 44 of the top players under lights. At that time there was a bitumen bicycle track around the outside of Fremantle Oval and lights were in place for night bike races. At any game at Fremantle Oval, which was the home ground for both of our arch rivals, East Fremantle and South Fremantle, players were wary of skidding along on hands and knees on the bitumen and it was as well to know the identity of the opposition players

The West Perth premiership team of 1949

Back row: *Allan Bidstrup (Timekeeper), Harold Boyd (Chairman of Selectors), Arthur Taylor (Doorkeeper), Committee members: Don Marinko, Bill Benton, J.W. Bryant, Bob Dalziell, Bob Reid, F Jeffrey*

Second back row: *A Collins (Boot Studder), Jim Weaver (Committee), Frank Hughes (Head Trainer), Norm Lamb, Ray Stockmin, Don Read, Neil Garland, Kevin Bracken, R Standing (Assistant Secretary), Jack Pola (Assistant Coach), C Spencer (Committee)*

Middle row: *Bruce Bridges (Trainer), Alan Lyons (Trainer), Bob Henderson (Trainer), Maurice West, Duncan Williams, Jack Larcombe, John Shaw, Merv David, Ray Scott, Dino Pozzi, Bill Nevard (Vice President), Ray Bonser (Trainer), Roy Ennis (Trainer)*

Sitting: *John Loughridge, Alvan Whittle, Tom Soutar (Honorary Secretary), Stan Heal (Captain-Coach), Dick Fletcher (President), Len Harman (Vice Captain), Bob Hill (Treasurer), Ken Ashdown, Fred Buttsworth*

Front row: *Ray Schofield, Frank Harman, Don Porter, Guido Pozzi, C Shaw (Trainer), Doug Lind, Wally Price, Tony Yaksich, Bob Foster*

who were in your vicinity as the play headed towards the boundary. You could not relax with any of them, but some were sure to give you the hands and knees treatment if they could.

Being an experimental game, there was very little spite in the night trial game as players concentrated hard to adjust to night football which had never been played before. I sat on the bench in an East Fremantle uniform and was grateful not to be called upon to take the field. It was a bitterly cold night. The lighting was poor and players often misjudged the flight of the ball. The misery was compounded when the ball became greasy with the dew.

On the Saturday I received what turned out to be a serious knee injury which was to hamper me for the rest of my playing days. Naturally, I did not play on the Tuesday. Daily News headline on 27th July said, "West Perth will miss Garland".

Because I had been injured in a state game, my medical treatment was the responsibility of the WANFL and I was under the care of a very nice bloke, Dr Ken Aberdeen, who was also South Fremantle's doctor. Knee injuries, in those days, quite often meant the end of a football career.

Even the removal of a knee cartilage could result in a stiff leg for the rest of life. The modern knee reconstruction of today was way in the future. I was sent to a specialist, Dr Jouett but there was nothing to be done except to drain the fluid and hope that eventually the knee would settle down.

I missed the rest of the season, the next 10 games.

West Perth finished second on the ladder in 1950. We were beaten by South Fremantle in the second semi-final and by Perth in the preliminary final. South Fremantle, our arch rivals, were premiers.

The game at that time was much more static than the modern game of today. Some of the old "die hards"

insist that it was a better spectacle in those days. Certainly drop kicks and stab kicks were a joy to behold when done properly and these kicks have disappeared altogether from the modern game, being replaced by the "drop punt" which does for everything. High marking was a feature then and players had time to gather and await the kick from downfield. Attacking handball was beginning to develop but a long kick to a team mate was considered far superior. The torpedo punt, sometimes called the spiral punt, was used extensively because of its greater distance. Bernie Naylor, the great South Fremantle goal sneak used the torpedo punt holding the ball lace in his right hand, achieving enough spin to hold the ball on course and not too much to pull it off line. Before my time, although I have seen it happen, a place kick was used when shooting for goal. It is still used in rugby today.

The 1951 season turned out to be one of the finest in the long history of the West Perth Football Club.

After many sessions of knee draining and countless hours sitting on the kitchen table, swinging my leg with a house brick attached to my instep, I was able to strengthen the muscles above my knee enough to finally resume playing football. The 1951 season was well under way. As a result of my knee injury, I resolved to go around nobody with fancy turns or sidestepping, rather to bash through with strength. In addition, the fact that I had a knee injury which could not be cured made me more aggressive when threatened, probably a natural instinct.

Although I could take a reasonable high mark before the knee injury, afterwards I had to be content with making a contest and calling a team mate to go over the top. I was mainly used as the number one ruckman and played much more consistently than in my earlier days. At the end of the season we finished second to South Fremantle on the premiership table, Perth and East Fremantle were also a power in the competition. Claremont, East Perth, Swan Districts, and Subiaco

Stan Heal looking to take possession of the ball in the 1949 grand final. Perth's Reg Zeuner (left) and Norm Gilchrist close in.

Action from the 1949 grand final. Perth skipper, Marcel "Nugget" Hilsz is holding Don Porter while the ball flies in the direction of West Perth's Ted Kershaw. Wally Price is on his knees as Perth's Keith "Squeaker" Sturtridge is on all fours.

usually were in the bottom group but still could give us a torrid time in the home and away games.

We were beaten by South Fremantle in the second semi-final and then we beat Perth fairly easily in the preliminary final. Although we'd had very tough games against South Fremantle, they felt that they had our measure and they had confidently made arrangements for a lavish victory dinner.

The game itself was called "one of the greatest grand finals of all time". Over 30,000 spectators saw West Perth jump away in the first quarter with the breeze blowing to the Perth end of Subiaco Oval.

The only stands in those days were the old wooden stand to the north west of the oval, and the members stand almost in the centre of the northern side. This meant that the sea breeze coming from the south west was unimpeded and made scoring at the Subiaco end much more difficult.

The tactic for grand finals was to use the breeze with long kicks towards the Perth end and then defend doggedly when the opposition had their turn with the breeze. To kick more than two or three goals in a quarter against the breeze was highly satisfactory.

At three quarter time South Fremantle had played brilliantly in the third quarter and nullified our use of the breeze to be 17 points behind us and with the wind at their backs giving them a huge advantage in the last quarter. The odds were definitely against us hanging on to a 17 point lead in the final quarter. We doggedly defended throughout the last quarter, forcing the ball out of bounds in the full forward pockets whenever possible. There was no "kicking out of bounds on the full" rule in those days.

With 3 minutes to go South Fremantle trailed by 3 points. The game had been tough enough before that but these last few moments were very torrid. South Fremantle attacked continually... one straight kick and the premiership was theirs.

I had come out of the ruck, exhausted, to the half forward position when they shouted from the bench, "There are only a few minutes to go, get back onto the ball."

The ball was at South's full forward area when I got there. There was desperate mayhem, exhausted bodies summoning the strength to defend yet again. Eddie Lawtie, who had been on the reserve bench was called on to the field and threw himself into the fray, grabbing South Fremantle's Steve Marsh and wrestling him to the ground. The umpire, caught up in the frenzy, overlooked the breaches of the rules going on all round him, and "put his whistle away" in the dying seconds of the game. Any free kick to South would have handed them the game.

We won that day by 3 points in the most stirring win of my football life as a player. In 1951, that wonderful season, Don (Mary) Porter won the Simpson Medal as the best player in the grand final, Fred Buttsworth won the Simpson Medal as best player against Victoria, and then capped it off by winning the Sandover Medal as the fairest and best player in the WANFL competition. Ray Scott was the leading goalkicker in the League. They were all West Perth players and my team mates in the premiership team.

It was interesting that Mary Porter won his award playing as a ruckman when he had played all his football as a winger or half back. He was a fast, rangy player, not robust, looking nothing like the stereotypical ruckman of the day. Because we wanted to keep the pace and pressure on South's ruck, we planned before the game to call other players into the ruck instead of changing into the forward or back pockets as was normal. In this way there would not be a tendency to stay in the ruck too long awaiting an opportunity to change, or leaving an opponent loose while wending one's way back to a position. The plan was to have shorter bursts in the ruck and if you were out of breath, to call the nearest team mate into the ruck, as long as he was not a midget or a key corridor player. It worked for us that day. Mary Porter relished the unusual freedom and was voted best on ground.

Such a tactic is commonplace in today's game where flexibility is the keynote.

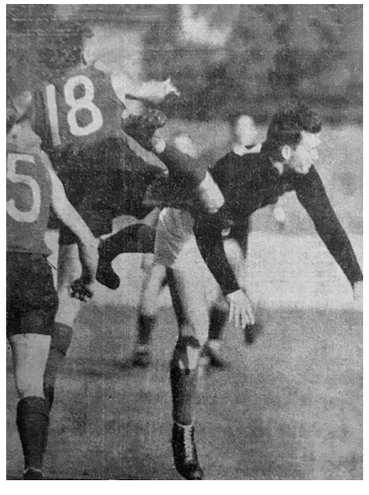
Neil with Trevor and Ray Schofield.

Western Australian team photo - WA versus South Melbourne 1950

Back row	*Jack Leadbitter, Noah Lee, Don Read, Charlie Tyson, Len Harman*
Middle row	*Joe Pearce, Neil Althorpe, John Munro, Ralph Latham, Neil Garland, Tony Yaksich*
Front row	*Nicky Gelavis, Frank Treasure, Duggan Anderson (Vice Captain), John Loughridge (Captain), Vic Ashworth, Norm Lummis, Jeff Smith*
Absent	*Harry Carbon, Laurie Peake, Jim Matison, Laurie Green*

Then it was very new thinking.

Even today, some people remind me that, in the 1951 grand final, I had a fight with Clive Lewington, the South Fremantle captain-coach. For the record, Clive had the ball and went to ground with it. I grabbed him by the jersey rather vigorously and appealed to the umpire for "holding the ball". No whistle was forthcoming so I continued, in the heat of the moment, to drag him along the ground while, for his part, he was trying to get up and play to the advantage of his team. Clive was desperate to set an example to his players who were not dominating us as expected. No doubt completely frustrated by me, Clive got to his feet and landed three or four



Ken Ashdown sends his team into attack with a well directed knock in a game against Perth at the WACA. He is flying over Perth's brilliant first-year centre half back, Bert Wansborough. Trevor Schofield is in the foreground.

punches to my face and neck. I was not at all angry with him at this stage and was quite happy to stand with my hands out till he cooled down. I didn't have the slightest intention of striking him, rather I wanted the game to continue. Play had already halted before this so that the umpire could bounce the ball.

Luckily for me, Clive Lewington was a real gentleman from a famous South Fremantle footballing family and boxing was not one of his strong points, otherwise I could have been in trouble. He was not reported by the umpire and, of course, his frustration was well founded as they went on to lose a grand final they thought they had in the bag.

The next morning at Leederville Oval when we were celebrating our win with our officials and supporters and the speeches were in full swing, Clive Lewington, as the opposing captain-coach, visited Leederville Oval in the company of the President of the WANFL, Pat Rodrigues. Although the West Perth people present were not all that impressed by Clive's actions the day before, they were won over when he made a speech of congratulation to us in a humble and shy manner. While this was going on, Pat Rodrigues came looking for me and asked me to go up in front of the mob and shake hands with Clive while he had the floor. I must say that such a gesture was far from my mind, but rather than be churlish about it, I pushed my way through and clasped his hand. He told the crowd how ashamed he was for his actions and he was applauded in turn. I am surprised that years later, people still remind me about the incident, the fight that is rather than the reconciliation.

After my playing days, I saw Clive Lewington often through football and at one stage he was on a TV football programme which I was running. He was a real gentleman. He was a tireless worker for football in general and the South Fremantle Football Club in particular. In my opinion West Perth didn't give him a fair go when he coached them for one year in 1964.

A forward move by Perth is repelled by Wally Price (on the ground), Ray Schofield takes off after the ball with Neil lending support.

Because 1951 was the Jubilee of Australian Federation, a special trophy was donated by the Government. In the euphoria of the winning of the premiership, Alf Spencer, a committee man and Perth City councillor, publicly announced that all the players would receive a replica which he pronounced, "reeeplica" much to our amusement. When the "reeeplica" finally arrived, it was a photograph, postcard size, of the cup. We still laugh about it now. I still have my premiership blazer with a few moth holes in it.

My father was on the committee of the West Perth Football Club that year and appears with me in the huge composite photograph of the 1951 premiership team.

1952 was a year in which we were second to South Fremantle at the end of the qualifying games but played well in the second semi-final to beat them. Souths won their way through to the grand final to play us again in another "do or die" contest.

In the grand final we led by five goals at half time only to go down by 19 points at the end. This grand final became known as the "Des Kelly grand final" because of the superhuman game played by South Fremantle's Kelly. Time and time again he turned the game from the half back line with deep penetrating runs down the field. He beat us more or less singlehanded.

At one stage of the game, I got the message from "Pops" Heal our captain-coach, "Go onto Kelly and stop his influence on the game". That only meant one thing to me, try and stop his run from half back by any means at all. I applied extreme vigour to him whenever I could but to no avail. It made no difference.

We were bitterly disappointed at losing the grand final to our arch enemies but after showering and dressing, I saw Des Kelly with his friends outside the change rooms and went up to congratulate him on his outstanding game. Des had played the game of his life.

In 1953 West Perth had more wins than in any other season in its 100 year history. We finished the home and away games with 18 wins, only to be pipped by South Fremantle with 19 wins. We were narrowly defeated by South Fremantle in the second semi-final, by 11 points, and then we thrashed East Fremantle in the preliminary final.

Len Harman takes a mark over Laurie Nugent (East Fremantle), Ted Kershaw (West Perth) and Neil Garland in the 1953 preliminary final.

Merv Cowan is in the foreground.

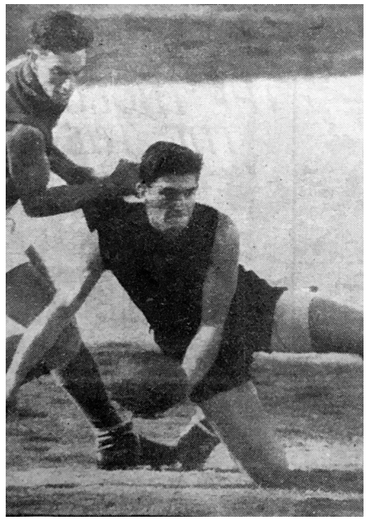
Action from the 1953 preliminary final where West Perth easily accounted for East Fremantle. (L-R): Jack Sheedy (East Fremantle), Neil garland, Laurie McNamara (West Perth), Ray French (East Fremantle), Merv Cowan (East Fremantle), Len Harman (West Perth) and Keith London (West Perth)

Before 34,000 spectators we played "a shocker" in the grand final and lost by 59 points. I remember being absolutely devastated by the defeat and magnitude of the loss. Peter O'Donohue had taken over from Pops Heal as the coach and he had not had an easy year having come from Victorian club Hawthorn as playing coach and had not been accepted wholeheartedly by some of the players. Nothing however excused our loss.

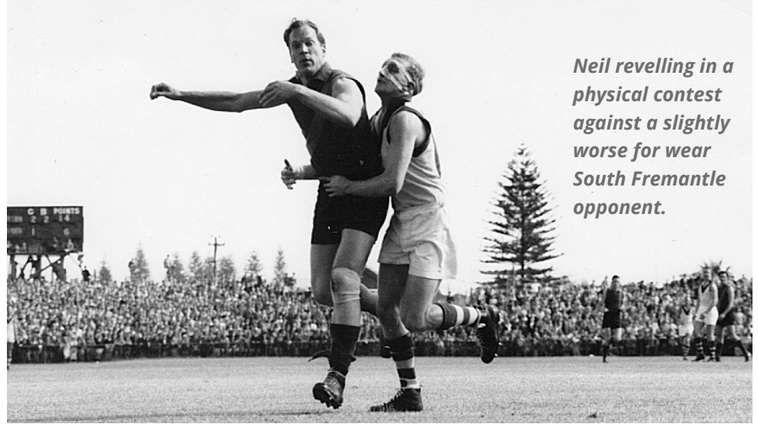
Although I did not know it, the 1953 grand final was to be my last game. I was 28 years of age and had no thoughts of retirement. Sure, I had a chronic knee injury but I could put up with that. Who knows how much longer I could have continued as a player, possibly another three or four years barring injury.

During the 1953 season my old friend Dick Hill relinquished the position of Treasurer of West Perth Football Club to take on the job of Secretary of the West Australian National Football League, a full time occupation. I was appointed Treasurer in his place, a somewhat unusual appointment seeing that I was still a player. The job was not onerous except that I sat in on committee meetings. The club finances were not complicated, there was no bar to run, no sponsorship other than a few pounds here and there. From memory, I had a cheque book and a Commonwealth savings bank book.

Above: *Norm Smith (left) and Ernie Grose (middle) fly in the 1953 grand final. Neil Garland is in the foreground. Guido Pozzi and Tony Parentich are in the background.*



Above: *Perth defender, Bob Bosustow (father of Peter) gets down on one knee as he handpasses the ball clear in this 1952 game at Leederville. Les Hoft is applying the tackle.*



Neil revelling in a physical contest against a slightly worse for wear South Fremantle opponent.

By the time training for the 1954 season came round in March, I had applied for an overseas job with my employer Commonwealth Immigration. I would not have done so and would have been happy to continue playing football had not the Head of the Department, Tasman Heyes, afterwards Sir Tasman, invited me to apply.

The posting to Germany came through just before the first game so I withdrew as a player for West Perth immediately. There was no point in keeping somebody else out when I was only to be available for the first two fixtures.

I can never under estimate the importance to me of my playing career.

We thought that we had high enough profiles when we were recognised and spoken to by many people in the street or on the trams, who were complete strangers to us. We were playing in the highest competition available to us and were treated like celebrities by the footballing public. We were paid something like one pound or two dollars, per game, paid into a provident fund by the WANFL and delivered at the end of your career. A good weekly working wage at the time would have probably been 5 or 6 pounds. Any other money came from the West Perth Football Club and its supporters. When we were playing off in a grand final, the professional bookmakers amongst our supporters would pledge money if we won, no doubt being part of their personal winnings. Ordinary supporters gave money to our "end of season fund" and we had wealthy backers like the Breckler family. Nevertheless, apart from the provident fund, we were lucky to get one pound per game.

So we were definitely not playing for the money. The prestige and admiration from the public was a great reward in itself, but above all was the love of our great Australian game.

I made many life-long friendships from my playing days. Some of my team mates I have not seen for some years or so and yet when we meet it feels that it was only yesterday that we battled together for the glory of the West Perth Football Club.

Wally Olds, Trevor Schofield and Brian Humphries

GARLAND FOR GERMANY

• "I won't be needing this guernsey for a while," said Neil Garland, the West Perth follower, to his wife, Molly (shown holding their daughter, Christine), at their home last night.

Garland made the remark because he had learnt that he will spend the next two or three years in Germany.

Garland is employed by the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and with his family will shortly leave for Cologne, where he will be a selection officer for intending migrants.

Garland, who lives at Floreat Park, has played for West Perth since he was discharged from the Navy after World War II.

In that period he played 78 games and kicked 82 goals.

He was a member of the West Perth teams which won the premiership in 1949 and 1951.

In the 1951 grand final he was one of West Perth's best players.

That match will always be remembered for a series of incidents which ended when Clive Lewington, South Fre-

Not long before the 1954 season was to get underway, news breaks of Neil's impending work transfer to Germany. The West Australian, Wednesday, 7th April 1954

At the end of 1953 my playing days were over. Earlier than planned but, in view of the offer of an overseas posting, I had no regrets. I had played only 78 games for West Perth in the WANFL, one game for West Perth against the Essendon Football Club, and five games for Western Australia. Not counted are the games in the "Reserves" and innumerable scratch matches and country matches.

I missed about 25 games or more with injuries to my shin, knee, and corked legs.

As it happened, my time with West Perth occurred during the "Golden Years" of post-war football. South Fremantle was a power in the competition and the record shows that we were almost as successful.

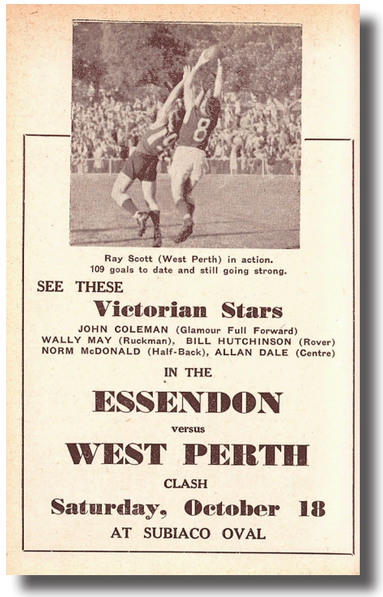
I played in five grand finals of which we were victorious in 1949 and 1951, and six other finals. Many players played their entire careers and did not once play in a grand final, let alone play in two premiership teams. I feel fortunate!

I played with highly talented team mates such as "Pops" Heal, one of the best you would ever see, Johnny Loughridge, Fred Buttsworth, Ray Scott, Ray "Homer" Schofield, Wally Price, Mary Porter, Doug Lind, Len Harman, Tony Yaksich, Brian Humphries. Where does the list end? And of course, as well as team mates, there were many West Perth officials and supporters who became friends for life.

Prominent opponents were Merv McIntosh, Jack Sheedy, Steve Marsh, "Sonny" Maffina, Frank Sparrow, Jim Washbourne, Jimmy Spencer, and many others. The one game for West Perth against Essendon gave me the honour of playing against the great John Coleman, champion goal kicker and top player. I also met the renowned Dick Reynolds who won multiple Brownlow Medals.

Little did I realise that my career as a player was to be only one part of almost a lifetime involvement with football for me.

Ed. Neil's reflections on his career in the football media begin on page 86.



Football Budget, 18th October 1953

Stan Heal

Trevor Schofield, Tony Yaksich and Don Marinko junior.

Vale Wally Price

Wally Price is one of the finest footballers of his generation. A back pocket specialist, he formed the ultimate combination deep in defence with Ray Schofield.

These two great mates are widely credited with ensuring West Perth held onto its narrow lead in the dying frenetic minutes of the 1951 grand final. Wally played his last game for the club at the age on 28, in the 1954 preliminary final loss to East Fremantle, having played 256 games. He played a further eight games for Western Australia and in 2010 was inducted into the Western Australian Football Hall of Fame.

Wally's service to our club extended well beyond his playing days. He was coach of the Reserves team in 1958 and 1959, and joined the West Perth committee of management (board) in 1964. Until recently, Wally was a regular supporter at our games. In more recent times Wally was unable to get to the football as often as he would have liked, but he continued to follow the fortunes of our club and those of the player group with great interest.

Wally passed away on the 17th of June 2021. He will be deeply missed.

HeartBeat recently discovered a 1953 article profiling Wally, 'The Worth of Wally Price'.

This was published in Sporting Life, a nationally produced weekly sport magazine. The author is unknown, as is the specific date of publication. It neatly captures the many attributes Wally displayed as a player, attributes that made him such a valuable team member and clubman.

The Worth of Wally Price

Sporting Life, 1953

State selectors took a long time to appreciate this game and accomplished footballer. Until last year, Wally Price was probably the most consistently good footballer who had ever been ignored by the West Australian selectors. Season after season he had played in his same unspectacular yet near-faultless style. While even the champions had their off days, suffering defeats at the hands of lesser players, Price was the one man who never had a licking.

It was no wonder that thousands of football fans regarded him as the perfect team man – the type of player selectors usually sanctimoniously claim to be looking for. In fairness to them, however, they were not the only ones who thought the WA team could do without Price. The back pocket position, where Price has spent most of his 213 League games (to the start of this season), was not considered essentially a specialist's job.

Wally in his early days at West Perth. Circa 1945

The position had come to be looked on for the most part as a resting place for ruckmen after they had done their duties following the ball. Invariably an outstanding half-back would be placed in one of the two back pockets and two ruckmen would change in the other pocket. Not until last season was the folly of these tactics fully appreciated. The choice of Price to play in the team which played in Melbourne and Adelaide, and later in Perth in interstate games showed clearly that at least one, if not both back pockets, should be occupied by men who play that position regularly for their club teams. Price's presence in the WA defence proved that others, although they may be generally greater footballers because of their play in other positions, could not handle back pocket play nearly as efficiently as Price.

Thus, it is extremely unlikely that the present WA selectors, when they meet to choose WA's carnival team, will repeat the error of their predecessors in 1948 in passing him over.

As a back pocket player, he has no peer in WA today and there are many, with years of experience, who rank him among the greatest ever. To have missed only 15 games in his 12 years of League football is an amazing record for any footballer, and he is not yet 27. With probably at least another four years of League football ahead of him, there is every chance that Price will join the very select band of Australian Rules players who have totalled 300 games.

A compact 5ft 8in and 11st 4lb, Price has the happy knack of altering his game to suit the occasion. He prefers the game to be fast and open, but he's perhaps even more ruthlessly efficient when the occasion is a big one and the consequent tenseness leads to rugged, hard bumping passages.

While others get jangled nerves and find themselves weary from failure to relax, Price remains icily cool, never relaxing his vigilance and never forgetting the game even in the heat of an argument.

Wally Price putting a block on East Perth's Colin Pestell in a game at Leederville Oval in June 1952. To the far left is East Perth's Vic Aikenhead. West Perth's Ted Kershaw is seemingly shaking hands with his opponent, Fred Woods.

The Price-Schofield combination in action in a 1952 game against Perth at Leederville. Wally taps the ball to his own advantage as Ray swoops in to help clear the ball from defence.

Therein lies one of the big secrets of his success. That and the fact that his judgement and anticipation are often almost uncanny. Seen for the first time, Price might appear to be a lucky player, so many times is he well in the clear when the ball comes his way. Further study of his methods leaves no doubt that here is a player with an extraordinary gift for appraising a situation with split-second timing.

No post-war player has held the position of assistant to the goalkeeper for as long as Price. He has made a study of the job and his technique is one eagerly sought after by many young West Perth supporters. Before West Perth's present renowned goalkeeper Ray Schofield took over the task late in the 1947 season, after being "washed up" as a full-forward, Price had played alongside three other 'keepers. None of them were in the same class as Schofield, whom Price says is the best full-back he has seen in WA.

Together Price and Schofield have formed a combination the type of which has rarely been equalled in WA football history. Their precision has been one of the factors in keeping West Perth near the top of the premiership table year after year. At times their movements are such to suggest that either or both is capable of thought reading. Both have had to overcome the handicap of lack of inches. (Schofield is 5ft 10in) The way they have done it makes one think: what a fabulous combination they would be each with an extra two inches in height.

The selectors' choice of Schofield every year since 1948 has been a wise one, but there are many who claim that Schofield would have been an even bigger power in interstate football had Price been alongside him. Conversely, much of Price's effectiveness would probably have gone to waste had he not been teamed with Schofield. Price himself says that on the rare occasions he has been shifted, he has been

A 1952 newspaper piece on news of Wally's selection in the team to play Victoria on the MCG.

BIG WEEK FOR WALLY PRICE

THIS week is one which gives West Perth back pocket player Wally Price (pictured) double reason for celebration. On Monday night he was picked in his first State touring side, and on Saturday he will play his 200th game with West Perth.

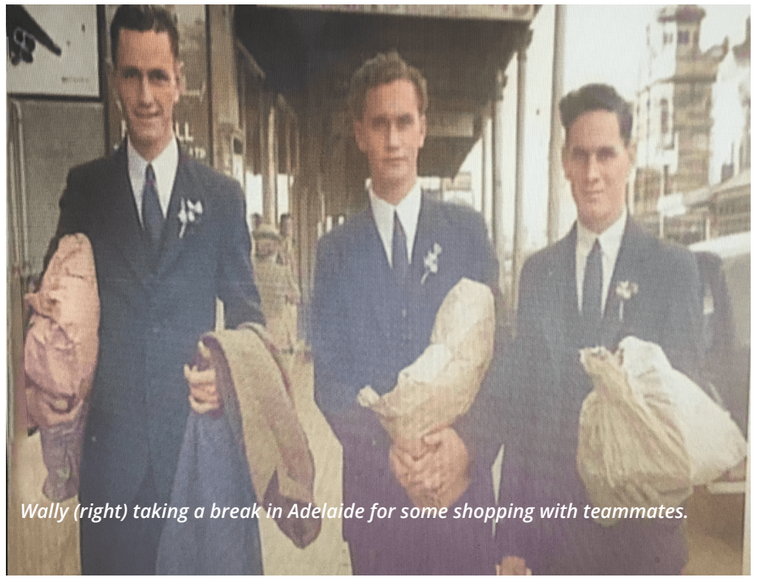
Price will receive a presentation from his club in a special ceremony in front of the Leederville Oval grandstand before Saturday's game against Swans.

Now 26, Price began in the wartime under-age competition as a lad of 16. Apart from one or two games as centre-man, practically the whole of his career has been as a back pocket player.

One of West Perth's most popular players, he has specialised in back-play, and with Ray Schofield has formed the most solid last line of defence this State has had since the war.

Clive Lewington, WA's coach, briefs his troops on the eve of the 1952 match against Victoria at the MCG. WA lost the game by just nine points, the closest the state had ever come to winning in Melbourne at that time. Wally is pictured second from the left on his haunches.

Wally (right) on board the plane to Adelaide to represent WA in the 1953 national football championships. He's seated next to West Perth teammate Kevin Clarke. Behind Kevin is Ray Schofield.



Wally (right) taking a break in Adelaide for some shopping with teammates.

A young Wally in action against East Perth. Circa 1942.

Wally marking at training. Circa 1951.

glad to return to the back pocket. "Ray and I have an understanding which I have never been able to develop with anyone else," says Price. I just can't say what it is; we combine instinctively rather than work to a set plan. In fact, we have seldom decided on any pre-match system.

Freedom from injuries has been a great asset to Price and the only three real injuries he has had have been entirely his own fault. Though normally a most reliable kick, he has unaccountably lapsed on several occasions and kicked the ground while doing the drop-kick. Three injured ankles have been the result. The last occasion was just before an interstate match last year. Fortunately the trouble mended in time for him to play.

When Price was chosen to go on tour with the State side last year, the selection was acclaimed as being long overdue. Both in Melbourne and Adelaide, he justified his place in the side.

None worked harder than Price, who had the unenviable job of watching Victoria's rovers Bill Hutchison and Charlie Sutton. Price has no hesitation in ranking Hutchison as the best player he's opposed – "the most elusive and with amazing stamina that allows him to keep running all day."

Most will be surprised to hear of Price's selection of South Fremantle's rover Harry Carbon ahead of the mercurial Steve Marsh as the best WA opponent he has met. But Price reasons that he has not had to play against Marsh at his best because when Marsh is resting in the forward pocket he is only preparing for another roving onslaught. On the other hand, he says, Carbon plays just as hard in a forward pocket as when he's roving.

A boilermaker with the Government Railways, Price finds that work, football and his family (he's married with a small daughter) keep him too busy to pay much attention to other sports at which he has shone. For two years (1945-46) he was senior belt and senior surf champion of the Scarborough Surf Club and as a second grade cricketer with East Perth. He scored enough 50s to merit a few first grade games.

However, there is one other interest he does find time for – to pass on all the knowledge he can to his 19-year old brother David, a well-built near six footer who is now starring with the same junior team (Mount Hawthorn) that Wally began with 13 years ago.

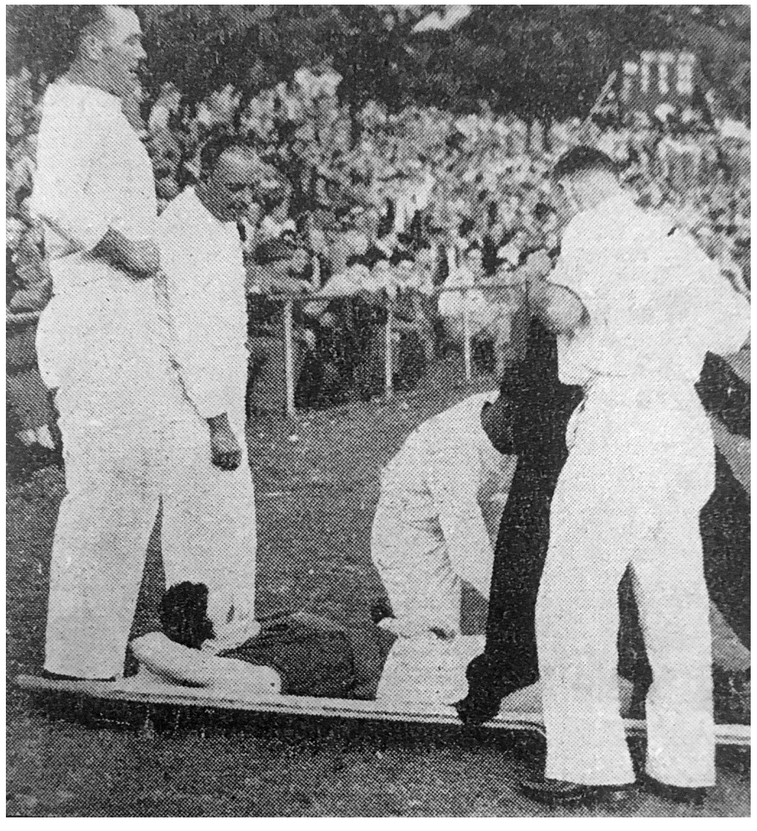
In Wally's opinion David shows signs of being better than either himself or Harry. But West Perth should be satisfied if he is only half as good as Wally.

Ed. Wally Prices' brother, David (pictured bottom right), played 40 games for the club between 1955 and 1959. Another brother, Harry, played two games for West Perth in 1941 and a further 54 for Claremont between 1948 and 1951. Harry was also an accomplished cricketer, representing WA in 25 first class matches between 1949 and 1955.

Wally Price leaps in anticipation of taking a mark in a game against Swan Districts.

Ray Schofield (left) pictured with Wally's brother, David Price. Circa 1955.

Wally (centre) with Les Chatfield (left) and Norm McDiarmid in 1945. Les played 18 games, all in the 1945 season and Norm played 210 games between 1931 and 1946.



Above: Wally at training

Left: Wally on the stretcher as trainers attend to an injured knee.

Wally (centre) flanked by Don Porter (left) and Guido Pozzi (right). Circa 1953.

Johnny Loughridge leading his charges onto the ground in a 1946 fixture. Wally is the sixth player onto the field of play. The "mascot" is Bob Pozzi, Guido's son.

Jubilant supporters gather around Bruce Bridges and Wally Price after a game in 1946.

Team photo 1951 premiership reunion

Forty years after winning the 1951 flag, a reunion of the premiership team was held at Leederville. A good number of that triumphant side were in attendance.

Back row (L-R):	Don Porter, Jim Weaver (Committee), Merv David, John Shaw, Ted Kershaw, Jack Larcombe, Eddie Lawtie, Les Hoft
Middle row (L-R):	Ken Ashdown, Neil Garland, Ray Scott, Neville Green, Tony Yaksich, Alvan Whittle, Vic Fisher, Dick Standing (Committee), Roy Ennis (Trainer)
Front row (L-R):	Doug Lind, Bill Gregory, Wally Olds, Stan Heal, Ray Schofield, Wally Price, Brian Humphries, Trevor Schofield

From the Vault

WA football not what it was... says man who will see his 39th premiership

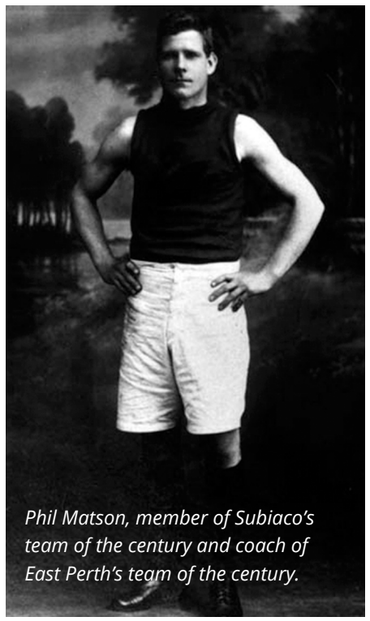
Aaahh the good old days... it's always been that way. Here's a piece that appeared in *The West Australian* on 6th October 1951, the morning of the 1951 preliminary final, proving that some things just don't change...

When they bounce the ball at Subiaco Oval next Saturday for the WANFL grand final, one of the keenest onlookers will be dusky, 67 year-old Charles Henry Leach. He will be witnessing his 39th premiership match and his 34th in a row. Actually well-known Charlie has missed only two sets of finals since he came down from the 'Fields in 1912. They were in 1916 and 1917 when he claims, his employment forced him to completely overlook the game which brings a twinkle to his dark brown eyes. The names of champions, the kings of kick and the monarchs of mark, tumble freely from Charlie's lips - he has seen so many of them since he took an active interest in them as a 'rubber down'.

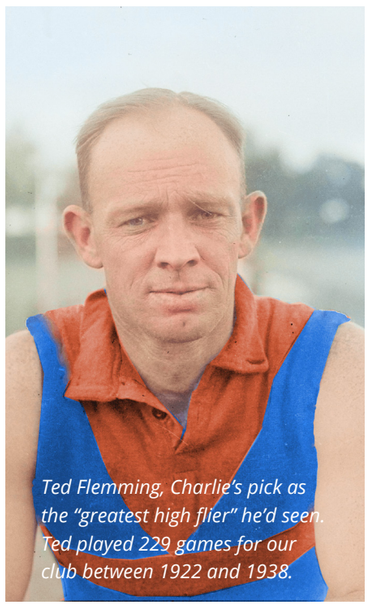
"the contentious 'holding-the-man-holding-the-ball' rule has ruined the game"

But he claims that the renowned Phil Matson, Subiaco champion and mentor of East Perth during their record-breaking run of premierships, was the greatest footballer he has ever seen. For all that, the only footballers he has ever kissed for their deeds, which actually won Subi premierships, were 'Hubba' Limb and Tom Outridge. He said they accepted the caress without a scrap of dissension.

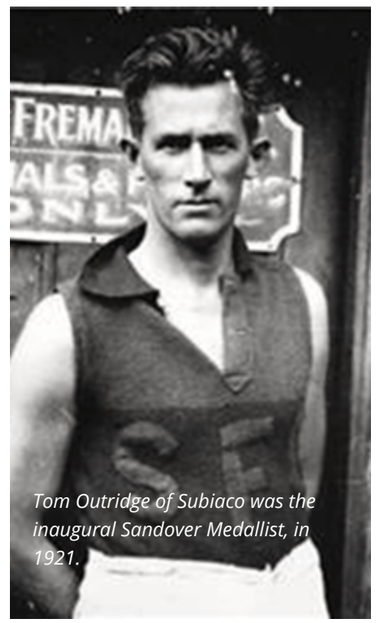
Ask Charlie about the champs and his mind flies back to Kalgoorlie, whence he came to the coast. There it was he first met Matson and other names which spring readily to mind whenever there is talk of the football great. Charlie had no sooner landed in Perth that 1912 day when he was introduced to a Subi committeeman and was signed on as a trainer. At that time he was well known as a trainer of foot runners - including football champ Clem Bahen who won a handicap at Dowerin - and boxers. He was immediately snapped up as a trainer of the Subiaco club and was with them until 1918 when, being out of work he was approached by Phil Matson to act as a rubber-down for East Perth. He took on the job for a season, then went back to Subiaco where he remained until 1926, when he decided he'd had enough. Ever



Phil Matson, member of Subiaco's team of the century and coach of East Perth's team of the century.



Ted Flemming, Charlie's pick as the "greatest high flier" he'd seen. Ted played 229 games for our club between 1922 and 1938.



Tom Outridge of Subiaco was the inaugural Sandover Medallist, in 1921.

since he's been getting a free pass to football, but although he still takes an avid interest in the game and wouldn't miss it for the world, he thinks it's tame entertainment compared with the days of the giants a score or more years ago.

Charlie figures that the contentious "holding-the-man-holding-the-ball" rule has ruined the game because these days it produces too much speed and inaccuracy and too much handball. "There's no secret about South Fremantle's success", said Charlie. "You'll notice that they keep the handball to a minimum and concentrate wherever possible on the footpass. Also they keep the ball low, which is the main reason why they beat West Perth." An incredibly lucid person among the failing memories at sunset, Charlie can reel off almost all football's big names and identify where they came from, their occupation, the part they played in football, and the little things which acted detrimentally to their reputation as champions.

Perth's noted custodian Freddie Wimbridge, for instance, he says fell short of the really illustrious because 'Wimmy' could be teased to distraction. "Best centre man I've ever seen," says he of that colossal evergreen 'Nipper' Truscott again reminiscently recalling that player's exploits on the 'Fields. To Ted Flemming, West Perth's aerial wizard, he hands the prize for the greatest highflier he has ever seen. Other tremendous football names such as 'Staunch' Owens, 'Poet' Smith and 'Digger' Thomas he dismisses with a casual, "They were good ones." Recognising, the ability of ace Subi 'baller "Snowy" Hamilton, he nevertheless registered disappointment that Snowy had not done as well as he might have with the club. We referred to Subi's Johnny Leonard who, with East Perth's Larry Daffy, formed the most notable WA roving combine in history. "Johnny" said Charlie laconically "was a good rover".

Charlie Leach is one of the most esteemed football characters round the city. Asked who he would like to see win the 1951 premiership pennant, he replied "Perth". Said Fremantle publican Clem Bahen when talking of Charlie this week, "When you see him give him my regards. I've got a lot of time for Charlie."

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Vale Fred Buttsworth

Fred Buttsworth was one of the most talented sportsmen of his generation. An outstanding footballer at West Perth, he represented Western Australia at both football and cricket. Fred debuted for our club in 1942 and was awarded his first best and fairest in 1944.

He won again in 1951, the season in which he also won the Sandover Medal. Fred joined the navy in 1945 and at one time was posted in Melbourne, giving him an opportunity play in the VFL with Essendon, alongside his brother, Wally. Fred played eight games for Essendon. In 1946 he returned to West Perth and established himself as one of the best centre half-backs in the competition. He was a member of the West Perth premiership sides of 1949 and 1951. Fred regularly represented Western Australia in interstate football, winning a Simpson Medal for his performance against Victoria in 1951. He retired at the end of the 1953 season at the age of just 26, finishing with a tally of 182 games for our club. In 2004, Fred was inducted into the WA Football Hall of Fame.

Fred died in May 2021. For our tribute to Fred, we could think of no better way of highlighting his skills and achievements than including this profile recently discovered from a 1952 edition of Sporting Life, reproduced here. Specific date of publication is unknown. The writer was S.J. Donovan.

It's Easy for Fred Buttsworth

Sporting Life, 1952

Sport comes easy to Fred Buttsworth, the first and only West Australian to represent his state at carnival football and Sheffield Shield cricket. Buttsworth has never had to worry about coaching and long hours of practice to perfect the art of playing either of his sports - it just comes naturally. Those who've known Buttsworth longer than I have (I've known him since he was about 10) say he did everything right, instinctively it seemed, from the time he first swung a bat or kicked a football.

Winner of last year's Sandover Medal (awarded to the fairest and best WA League footballer each season), Buttsworth is one of the greatest footballers in Australia today. Last season he was the only West Australian selected in Sporting Life's all-Australian team in the national code. Wary of the spotlight of "big time" sport, he did not make himself available for Sheffield

Fred Buttsworth leads South Fremantle's Harry Stephens to the ball in the 1947 grand final.

Shield selection in this last season. But there are many who believe he could still be a test batsman.

Some of them remember a day about 15 years ago when young Buttsworth, wearing white short pants, pads several sizes too big for him and carrying a bat resembling Ponsford's "Big Bertha" by comparison, strode to the wicket. Little more than an hour later, he was unbuckling his pads – not because he was out but because he'd reached the century and wanted to give someone else a hit.

Those who knew young Buttsworth and the history of sport in his family were not surprised by his early display of talent for both cricket and football; those who didn't were not to remain ignorant for long. Forever since his early school days, Buttsworth has been proving himself an unusually gifted sportsman – the term "natural" to describe him was never more appropriately used.

He might also be called a real "chip off the old block", as his father, Fred Buttsworth senior, was a first class cricketer, tennis and soccer player in his day. He represented the state a number of times and still shares with J. Lanigan the WA record tenth wicket partnership of 154 made against Victoria at Perth in 1922. Buttsworth senior, scored 100 that day.

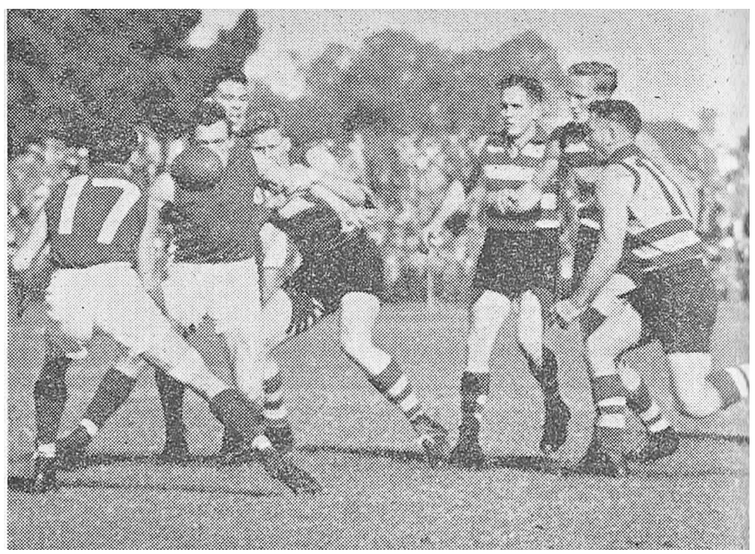
And long before the sport spotlight fell on young Fred, Mr Buttsworth's eldest son, Wally, was being acclaimed for his football and cricket prowess. Now a successful coach at the country town of Leeton, 35 year old Wally Buttsworth can look back on a brilliant career as a footballer in WA and Victoria. He also represented WA at cricket with some success and at one time seemed destined to be an outstanding swimmer. Wally is one of the best post-war half-backs seen in Victoria. Pre-war, he played for West Perth (Fred's club).

Fred idolised his big brother, Wally, and it was considered a matter of course that Fred would play football for West Perth and cricket for North

Fred displaying his batting technique.

Perth, as did Wally. Fred was only 15 when he played both first cricket and League football. Admittedly, WA League football was then a restricted age competition (under 19) but it is very likely he would have been in the League had there been no war and thus no age limit, he was so outstanding. Having thrashed C-grade bowling mercilessly for three seasons, scoring century after century, Buttsworth showed immediately he was promoted to first grade that the rise was not premature. He scored two centuries in his first season.

In his first League football season (1942) Buttsworth played in a forward pocket and finished third in the goal kicking competition. This alone was enough to mark him as a "find" for his teammate Ted Brunton headed the goalkicking for that season. Soon after he was runner up for the Sandover Medal in 1944, Buttsworth joined the Royal Australian Navy and was sent to Flinders. Brother Wally, at the time the outstanding half-back in Victoria, introduced him to Essendon and they played eleven games together. So impressed were Essendon that they invited Fred to return after the war. But with his home and interests in Perth, he never seriously entertained the idea



Fred finds himself surrounded as he goes for the ball in a game at Leederville against East Fremantle

of returning to Melbourne, though he's been a regular visitor since with WA football and cricket teams.

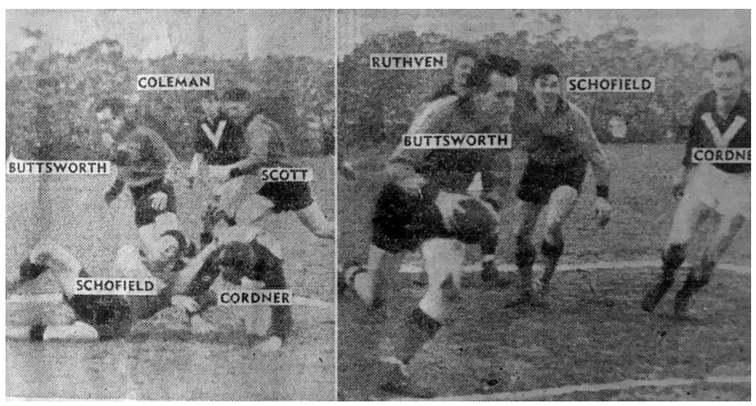
Last season Essendon renewed their efforts to secure his services. Their offer was so attractive that Buttsworth said it was easily the best he had received and would have given him financial security for many years.

Interstate debut

He realised however, that the WA League would not grant him a clearance so he did not even bother to apply for one. "Had this offer been made two years ago I would have jumped at it", he says. "Even it if had meant standing out of the game for a season in the hope that the Australian National Football Council would then take a hand and clear me. But at 25 I am too old to miss a season."

At the age of 20, Buttsworth represented WA at the first post-war football carnival at Hobart and took part in the memorable game in which WA narrowly defeated Victoria. He was then a half-forward and critics were saying that he had the potential to become the best centre half-forward WA had produced. Little did he think then that the time was not far off when

Fred Buttsworth



Fred was voted the outstanding player in the match between Western Australia and Victoria at Subiaco in 1951. In this photo, he makes a typically dashing save for WA in the goal mouth in the final few minutes of the game. Ray Schofield, WA's full back, and Dennis Cordner, a Victorian forward, both fell while racing for the ball during a hot Victorian attack. Fred Buttsworth rushed up from half-back, picked up the ball quickly, ran across the goal mouth and kicked the ball out of danger towards the scoreboard wing before Cordner, on regaining his feet, could intercept him.

he would switch to the opposite end of the field and become far greater in defence than he had ever been in attack.

The explanation is simple. These days star half- and full-forwards receive more punishment than they ever had to endure in the past and because of the nature of their task they have small chance to retaliate. So it was that Buttsworth became a target for some brawny defenders whose sole job was to upset the young West Perth star. Buttsworth received more than his fair share of bruises, though no-one ever succeeded in putting him out of action. But being scrupulously fair, he never tried to "even the score". In fact only once did I see him strike an opponent – and on that occasion, he was obviously and deliberately fouled in one of the meanest ways I have seen. Perhaps the umpire did not see the incident, but I rather think that he failed to report the affair because he realised that Buttsworth's attacker had received only what he deserved.

"Buttsworth became a target for some brawny defenders whose sole job was to upset the young West Perth star."

With the 1949 season about to begin, Buttsworth dropped a bombshell by announcing that he had decided not to strip that season. He was sick of all sport for the time being, he said. Club and League authorities begged him to reconsider his decision but he was adamant. He wanted a rest. And is it any wonder he felt run down? Season after season he had be swapping from first class cricket to first class football with not so much as a week's spell in between. Mostly it had been a case of sacrificing holidays to go on tours furthermore he was tired

Fred Buttsworth's lone hand performance against Victoria attracted the attention of the cartoonist of the West Australian.

of being pushed around by the type of opponent who seeks to make up for deficiencies of technique by using brute force tactics.

Thus West Perth played seven games without Buttsworth. Each week he looked over the pickets and no doubt profited from the rest. And for the first time he was able to watch and compare half-back with half-forward play. It made him realise how much easier for a half-back who usually had the "drop" on his marksman. At the same time he was itching to get back into the game and when West Perth suggested that he return as a half-back, he readily accepted.

This was the turning point in Buttsworth's career. And it gave to WA football a centre half-back fit to rank with the best the game has seen in this State. Instead of having to turn and evade an opponent when he got the ball, Buttsworth was now able to keep going and drive the ball far up the field. He revelled in his new found "freedom" and no longer had to worry about the risk of being cracked as soon as he went for the ball. Not that this made him resort to the unfair tactics other had used on him. He remains one of the fairest men in the game. Chosen in the key half-back position for WA against a visiting Richmond team, Buttsworth was far too clever burly Ray Poulter, one of the best big men in Victoria.

Two months later a crowd of 24,000 saw him star for WA which crushingly defeated South Australia in Perth. This time Buttsworth's opponent was Neville Way, a cool, quick thinking half-forward who brought the best out of the West Perth star. The way Buttsworth soared over the packs to drag down the ball; his kicking (there's no better exponent of the dropkick in Australia today), handball and general combination that day has seldom been excelled in WA, according to veterans who have seen many champions come and go.

Undoubtedly this 5ft 11in, 12st 7lb wizard held the key to West Perth's fortunes that year. Though injured in the grand final and unable to produce his brilliant best, he had done his part – inspired his team – and they won the 1949 premiership, defeating Perth in one of the most sensational grand finals for many years.

Shield success

His own personal football success and the success of his club acted like a tonic to Buttsworth. He began the 1949-50 cricket season with a flourish and finished it with an aggregate of 1,004 runs; the second highest ever in WA first grade cricket to that time and an average of 83.6. Before Buttsworth scored his 1,004 runs only one other WA batsman had topped 1,000 – North Perth captain Laurie Bandy, who made 1,070 in the summer of 1943-44. And with Buttsworth has been associated in many big scores. It must be pointed out however, that Bandy had more opportunities than Buttsworth as in 1943-44 matches were one day duration only (Bandy's average was 62.9). Buttsworth had once previously (1944-45) headed the first grade batting average with 899 runs averaging 47.3.

His best performance in Sheffield Shield cricket was at Brisbane in 1947 when he made 60 and WA won the Sheffield Shield at her first attempt. His partnership of 157 with Dave Watt still stands as WA record fourth wicket partnership in first class cricket.

Early this cricket season Buttsworth decided that the demands of interstate cricket and football were becoming too severe and jeopardising his future. Securing leave to travel interstate at least twice a year was embarrassing, it meant big sacrifice and severely limited his opportunities to advance himself in his job. He is presently employed as a storeman by the Civil Aviation Department.

Meanwhile his football skill becomes more pronounced each year. In 1950 he played in the all-Australian carnival at Brisbane and last season was the highlight of his career. From the start he was a firm favourite to win the Sandover Medal and in the interstate match against Victoria in Perth he gave, in my opinion, the best display of his life. Opposed to Geelong's Fred Flanagan, the number one centre half-forward of Victoria, Buttsworth dominated his position and made the brilliant Victorian look ordinary. Buttsworth was the best man on the ground and it was not his fault that WA took a drubbing.

Fred's father, Fred senior, coaching his youngest son, Brian.

In the return game, in which WA took another beating, Victoria paid Buttsworth the compliment by moving their star half-back Clegg to half-forward and this time honours were about even. Buttsworth ranks Clegg as one of the players he has ever been opposed to. He classes Carlton's Bert Deacon as the best Victorian half-back he's played against; South Fremantle's Frank Jenkins as the best WA half-back he's met; South's Laurie Green as the best WA half-forward; East Perth's Frank Sparrow as the most difficult centreman he's come up against and he says "no list would be complete without mention of Carlton's Bob Chitty one of the toughest players I've struck."

What will happen when Fred Buttsworth retires from top-line sport? Will the name of Buttsworth, prominent for so many years, become just a memory? Not likely, if 13 year old Brian Buttsworth has his way. Though handicapped by illness in the past few years, Brian has already shown a natural aptitude for cricket and football.

Ed. Brian Buttsworth played two games for West Perth in the 1959 season.

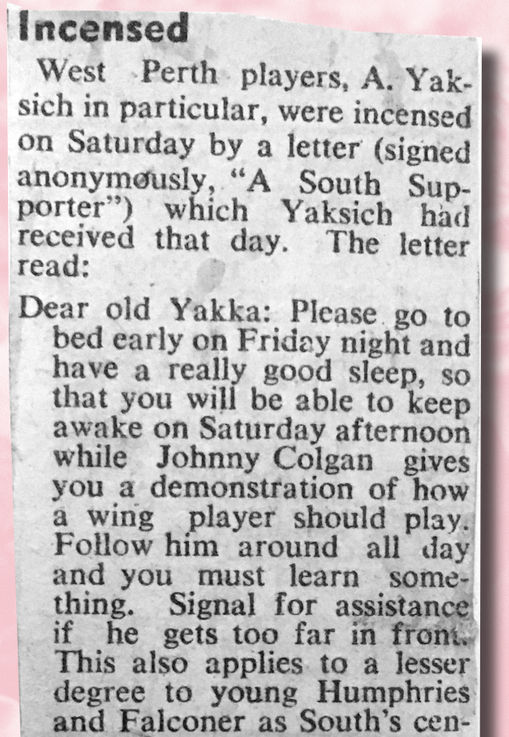
From the Vault

Social Media in the early 1950s

We're all familiar with the keyboard warriors of today, well HeartBeat recently discovered a newspaper clipping referring to a letter received by our own Tony Yaksich from a South Fremantle supporter, in which Tony was offered unsolicited advice.

The article and letter have been difficult to date but some rather amateur detective work by HeartBeat suggest the letter arrived and "incensed" the West Perth players in early July 1954, just ahead of the round 13 game played between the Cardinals and South Fremantle at Leederville. West Perth ran out winners by 24 points.

Tony Yaksich debuted for our club on 24th April 1948 and played the last of his 190 games in 1958. A reliable wingman who represented Western Australia on four occasions against visiting VFL teams, Tony finished fourth in the 1952 Sandover Medal count.



Incensed

West Perth players, A. Yaksich in particular, were incensed on Saturday by a letter (signed anonymously, "A South Supporter") which Yaksich had received that day. The letter read:

Dear old Yakka: Please go to bed early on Friday night and have a really good sleep, so that you will be able to keep awake on Saturday afternoon while Johnny Colgan gives you a demonstration of how a wing player should play. Follow him around all day and you must learn something. Signal for assistance if he gets too far in front. This also applies to a lesser degree to young Humphries and Falconer as South's centre line do not muck about—they are footballers and they don't mind showing anyone how the game should be played. They are really nice chaps and when they see that you chaps are willing to learn they will let you have a kick occasionally—but please watch very carefully how they do it. Here's hoping.

The writer did West Perth a good turn as his letter had the effect of making the West Perth players all the more determined to win.

Yaksich played against E. Eriksson and played well, especially in the first quarter. Yaksich had 14 kicks and handballed five times; Ericksson had 13 kicks.

Eriksson strove for distance in his kicking; Yaksich was intent on passing the ball to a teammate.

The ultimate rivalry West Perth and South Fremantle

A conversation with Wally Price, Neil Garland and Tony Parentich

HeartBeat recently caught up with Wally Price (WP), Neil Garland (NG) and Tony Parentich (TP) for a conversation around what many good judges consider to be one of the great eras of Western Australian football. Football in the decade immediately after World War II was dominated by two teams, South Fremantle and West Perth. The intensity of the rivalry between these two great clubs drew large crowds, inspired tough but fair football and saw the emergence of some of the greatest players to grace our game.

Wally and Neil are well known to our club. Tony was a champion centreman for South Fremantle. He played 161 games for Souths and a further five for Western Australia. He also won the Simpson Medal in South Fremantle's 13 point loss to East Perth in the 1956 grand final. Tony retained some involvement in football after his playing days, including radio and television for the ABC.

We asked Tony, Wally and Neil to reflect on this glorious era and recount their memories of grand final moments, teammates, opponents and tactics.

Tony Parentich, second from the left, leave by train for South Fremantle's tour of the eastern states in 1954. With him (L-R) are Don Glass, Peter Cobby and Pat Daly.

Umpires call for calm during a West Perth and South Fremantle game at Subiaco Oval in 1951.

What are some of your memories of the rivalry between West Perth and South Fremantle from the late 1940s and early 1950s?

NG: We had this strong enmity that existed between the two teams. Not only had we played in grand finals but we'd be scheduled by the WANFL to play the sole game on the Monday of the June long weekend. These games were forerunners to the grand finals, a mid-season arm wrestle, they had that sort of feel to them. Both sides were very strong... there wasn't a weak link in our side and South Fremantle were the same... and we liked to test one another out. We pushed the limits a bit. You've got to remember, there was only one umpire and he didn't have eyes everywhere. I remember Frank "Scranno" Jenkins (of South Fremantle and 1937 Sandover Medallist) having a bit of a "to do" with Jack Larcombe that turned into a rather strange umpiring decision by Mick Cronin. It was the 1947 grand final and Alvan Whittle had just kicked a goal. Mick disallowed the goal, bringing the ball back to where an infringement had taken place (rather than advantage being paid) where Scranno had thumped Jack Larcombe, probably with a little bit of provocation. But Scranno didn't need much provocation did he?

Frank "Scranno" Jenkins

TP: Scranno quickly realised that if there was a scrimmage, the ball would come back to that point and so he had no option but to create the infringement.

NG: I was in the media with Mick Cronin for many years and we always berated him over this and a few other decisions. We'd ask "where is the law that says that the ball needed to come back?" and he'd say "it doesn't matter about the law, I was in control of the game" and that was his philosophy throughout. He was a good umpire, Mick. He had some of his own rules. Sometimes for a ball up Mick would stick his foot on the ball and say "I'm not going to bounce it until you all get away from here and create a bit of space". We'd say "you can't do it, Mick" and he'd say "well, I'm doing it." In later years in the media, Fred Woods would quiz Mick on the laws of the game and he was found a bit wanting but it didn't matter. He operated in the spirit of the game and he was the boss, and that was it.

Umpire Mick Cronin (centre) with Don Porter (left) and Len Harman

WP: What should be remembered is there was no sophisticated board in charge of the umpires. And certainly there were no advisors. All these blokes were former footballers, all of them umpired to their knowledge of the game and gee, they were good. They were less regulated by the laws of the game than the umpires of today are but umpired in the spirit of the game.

NG: That decision involving Alvan Whittle was a pivotal moment and the result of the game swung on that. The ball went down the other end of the ground for a South Fremantle goal. But that sometimes happens in football... it can all hinge on one incident. In this instance, the momentum swung to South Fremantle and they won the grand final. (Ed. South Fremantle went on to win the 1947 grand final by 15 points).

WP: Ross Hutchison had coached us in 1946 and was captain-coach of Souths in 1947. Up until that stage of the game, he'd never had a kick up until that incident and the ball went from there straight down to Hutchy who was playing in the forward line. It was the first of two goals he kicked in a couple of minutes and the whole pendulum swung from there.

NG: Hutchy played that game under some physical duress. He strapped a rubber tyre around his midriff because he had sore ribs and so he put that on. We knew he had it on and we would remind him that we knew he wasn't 100% fit. Ross was a fine tactician and one hell of a nice bloke.

Can you take us through the frenetic final quarter of the 1951 grand final?

WP: Well, going into the last quarter, we were kicking to the Subiaco end and didn't have the advantage of the breeze. There were just two stands on the northern flank of the oval and the rest of it was open. Grand finals were played in the first week of October and there would generally be strong winds, often a gale, favouring the Perth end. If you didn't have a six or seven goal advantage going into the last quarter, you didn't really have much hope. We had a 17 point lead. We were fortunate to kick three goals in that last quarter, which was pretty much unheard of. I don't know who kicked them, maybe Neil, I should give him some credit playing down there in the forward line! And that helped us get over the line.

NG: With three minutes to go we were three points in front and just had to hang on. That's when Wally Price and Ray Schofield were at their very best. We packed the backline and the umpires put their whistle away which was very fortunate for us because murder and mayhem was going on. There were free kicks everywhere but not awarded. Tony Pitsikas was the umpire but he seemed mesmerised by this titanic struggle that was going on between two physical sides and we hung on. Eddie Lawtie came off the bench, incensed, you know, when you have your first run on the ground. He grabbed Steve Marsh around the neck and threw him on the ground, right in front of the umpire but he didn't blow the whistle. A free kick to Steve Marsh in that position would have meant we'd lost the grand final. So it was very very tense indeed...

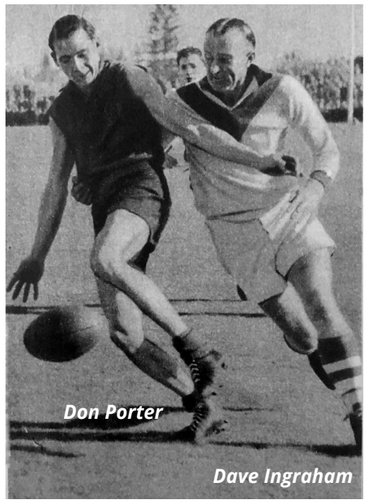
Ray Schofield *Wally Price*

> ***"We packed the backline and the umpires put their whistle away which was very fortunate for us because murder and mayhem was going on"***

TP: I was a spectator. It was a very tense game and Wally and Ray Schofield played very well to win West Perth the game.

Pops Heal didn't play in that grand final did he?

WP: No, Pops had broken his leg. I am convinced this injury was a good thing for West Perth. The reason I say this is because Pops would have played centre on Clive Lewington. Pops would have got a lot of kicks but so would Clive. What the selectors did was they put a fellow by the name of Guido Pozzi, an ageless type of footballer, he was 33 for about ten years I think, and he took Clive Lewington right out of the game. He just shut him out, so much so that Clive was going from flank to flank to try to get involved in the game.



Don Porter *Dave Ingraham*

Stan "Pops" Heal

"Pops" Heal addressing his troops in the 1951 grand final

South Fremantle's Bernie Naylor was the game's prominent full forward through this golden era, with West Perth's Ray Scott not far behind him. What are your memories of Bernie and how South Fremantle used him?

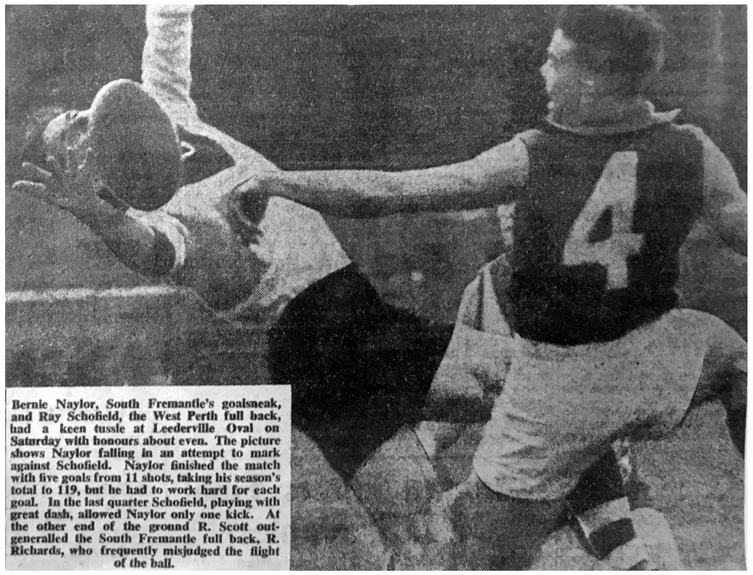
TP: Bernie wasn't a high flying player like John Gerovich. He used to read the play very skilfully. His whole game was based on if one of his teammates took a mark, he would always be there. He would lead to a spot that would make it very easy for you. This is a skill I think Bernie had, that he was able to read the way that you were going to go.

The other skill he had was that when he had the ball, you felt very strongly that he was going to kick a goal. I remember a derby where he kicked 19 goals and one point, from 20 shots. There was another game, against Subiaco where he kicked 23 goals and six points. So his record in kicking goals was amazing. He kicked them long distances and I can recall a lot of games of where Bernie had the ball and we just ran back to the centre, before he kicked the ball. So we would always look for Bernie, knowing that if he got it he would kick the goal. And this is the sort of belief we had in him. I remember one game, I think it was the 1953 grand final, which to me, was just amazing. We won the toss and kicked into the breeze, and we were playing West Perth. It was a howling gale and wet day, rain and showers. I remember our ruckman Norm Smith at the opening bounce tapping the ball down to Steve Marsh.

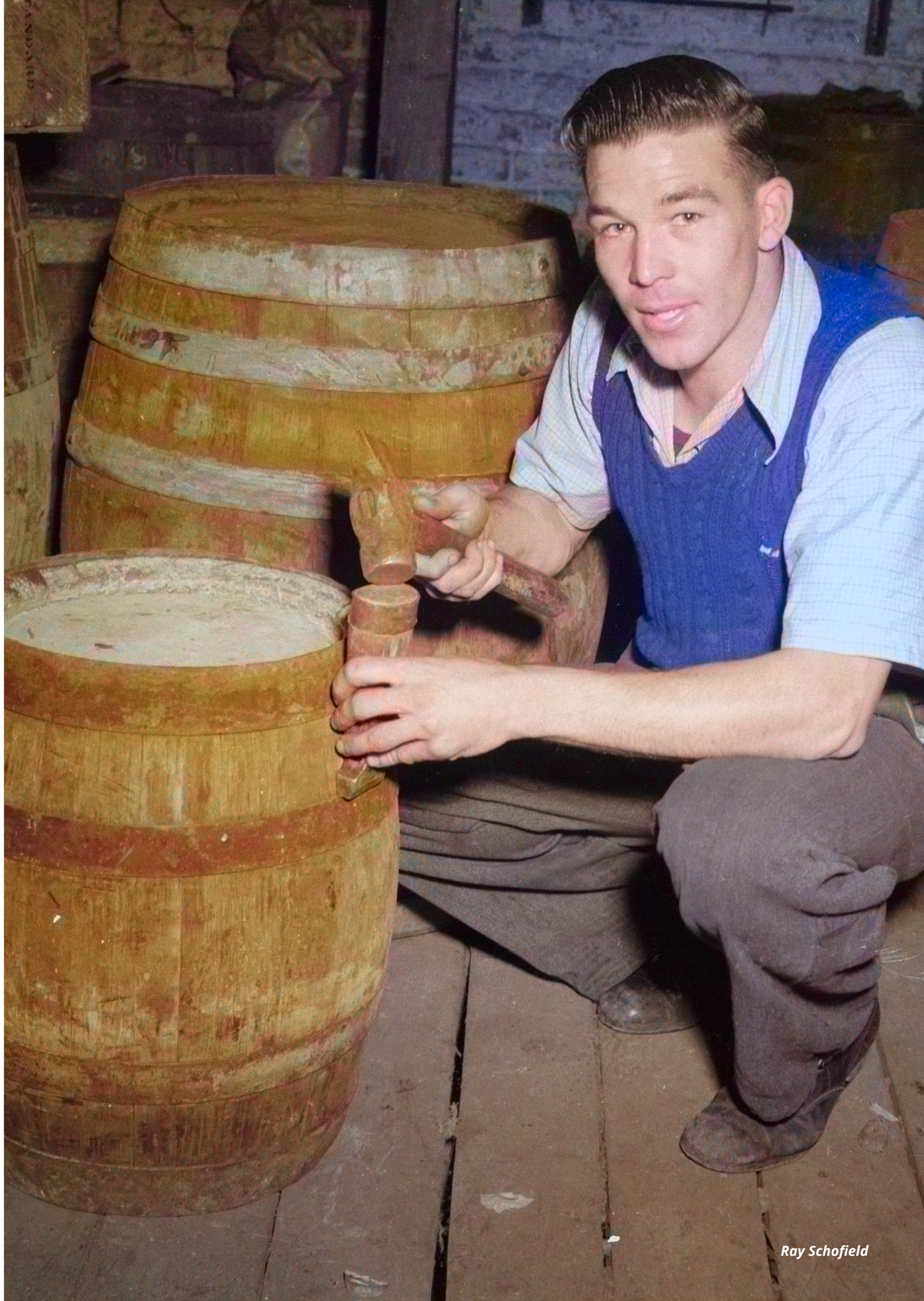
West Perth's Brian Humphries was on the wing and ran straight at Steve who handpassed the ball to Eric Eriksson, who kicked a low screw punt to Bernie who was at centre half forward. We ran back to the centre and Bernie went back and kicked the goal. The reason I mention this is that Bernie made us so efficient, West Perth hadn't touched the ball and we were a goal up in the first minute of the game. I have to add that one of the great players I saw was Steve Marsh. Steve always passed

Bill Gregory, Ray Schofield (obscured), Colin Boot and Bernie Naylor

Bernie Naylor



Bernie Naylor, South Fremantle's goalsneak, and Ray Schofield, the West Perth full back, had a keen tussle at Leederville Oval on Saturday with honours about even. The picture shows Naylor falling in an attempt to mark against Schofield. Naylor finished the match with five goals from 11 shots, taking his season's total to 119, but he had to work hard for each goal. In the last quarter Schofield, playing with great dash, allowed Naylor only one kick. At the other end of the ground R. Scott out-generalled the South Fremantle full back, R. Richards, who frequently misjudged the flight of the ball.



Ray Schofield

beautifully, a lot to Bernie and this really made us a strong side.

NG: Bernie always kicked his torpedo differently didn't he?

TP: Yes, Bernie had the lace of the ball in his right hand. Most torpedos you kicked curled it from right to left but Bernie's went dead straight. The ball had enough spin on it to take it through the air but not drag it off its course, like a torpedo typically did. The other thing I noticed about Bernie was that he always came in off five or six steps, he never varied it. He had the same routine every time. He was a great asset to South Fremantle.

NG: And he was a lovely bloke with it, a real gentleman.

WP: You could never shut Bernie Naylor out consistently. But the ball was generally kicked into the forward line directly down the middle rather than through the flanks. Ray Schofield would play Bernie from in front, say two or so yards, because Bernie was very quick on the lead, Ray's head would be swivelling, watching the play and keeping an eye on what Bernie was doing. Bernie didn't dummy lead very often, once he made his break, that was it. He led late. To stop Bernie Naylor or South Fremantle, there were two things you needed to do. You needed your rucks, rovers and centre line players at least breaking even with their opponents. If you could do that, you could deny supply to Bernie. From there, you just had to be aware of how the ball was coming into the forward line and play in front.

TP: I recall the preliminary final against Claremont in 1952, Clive Lewington at three quarter time said we should kick the ball to the scoreboard side, on the southern side of ground, on our right as we were kicking in the Perth direction. Clive said every time you get the ball, kick it to that forward pocket. At one stage in that quarter, Steve Marsh took possession of the ball, almost at centre half-forward but running toward the northern side of the ground, and he was close to the boundary. Normally, a player might turn towards the goals and kick into the dead pocket but not Steve Marsh. He did a big circle right around onto his right foot and kicked long, he didn't even look up. And there, standing in the scoreboard forward pocket on his own was Bernie Naylor. There was no other players near him because they'd all moved in anticipation that the ball was coming into the other pocket. And that's the sort of plan we had in playing with Bernie.

Clive Lewington

In the games between West Perth and South Fremantle, was it always Ray Schofield who picked up Bernie Naylor?

WP: Yes, Ray generally picked up Bernie although he didn't play there in 1947. I think he began playing at full back in 1948, until then he'd played at full forward.

NG: Surprisingly, wonderful kick that he was, he wasn't too good at shooting for goal and that's when they decided to make him full back.

WP: His game began to blossom when he came down to play with the real footballers and we taught him all we knew! Ray and Bernie had some great contests, and I also remember Ray

Steve Marsh *Wally Price*

Ray Schofield and Ron Tucker (Perth)

playing against Victoria in 1948. Ray wasn't a big man, about five foot ten, and Victoria were resting their two ruckmen at full forward, Chook Howell and Jack Graham, both of them about six foot four. When Chook ran down to line up on Ray before the bounce of the first ball he patted Ray on top of the head and said "have a pleasant day today, boy". Chook didn't kick a goal and Ray dominated both of his opponents.

Ray Scott

The 1952 grand final will forever be remembered for Des Kelly's Simpson Medal winning performance. What are your memories of that game?

TP: At half time, Clive's message was we weren't playing the ball, he said "just relax and play the game". That was good advice but my feeling was that we weren't confident of winning that game. We were five goals down at half time and West Perth kicked the first goal of the third term, so we were then six goals down. Just after that, Des took possession of the ball on a half-back flank and, tremendous athlete that he was, ran the length of the ground bouncing the ball. I think he kicked a point but that effort and it's marvellous how things can change when you believe you can do something and I reckon your mind can help you a lot in playing football ... and this run just changed the game. I felt "we can do this, we can do this". So we're six goals down early in the third term, kicking into a stiff breeze and at three quarter time, we were 16 points down. So, our greatest effort was the third quarter. That was in my mind. I thought, well, we've made up ground here kicking into the breeze. We sat down at three quarter time near the main Subiaco stand to have our drinks, lemon squash and the like, and oranges and as I sat down, I thought, we've won this game. I don't think we thought we were going to lose it at that stage. This is how I saw it. We couldn't lose from here. And we won by 21 points.

Des Kelly

NG: I can't recall if it was around three quarter time but I was given the role of going onto Des Kelly and stopping him if you can... the implication being to apply the utmost vigour to him within the rules. So I thought, yeah, I can do that. Des was on a half back flank and I went to half-forward. When I got to him I thought, this is going to be an easy job for me because he's out on his feet but blow me down, the ball came down and off he took. He did this a couple of times and made me look a real goose. They tried several players on him, I was only one of them but he was unstoppable.

TP: It wasn't just those couple of runs either, he continued to play strongly and this is why he got the Simpson Medal.

Trevor and Ray Schofield

NG: He was just outstanding. I went up to him after the game, as he wandered out of the old wooden Subiaco grandstand and congratulated him. He was absolutely spent, out on his feet. He'd done such a lot for South Fremantle on that particular day. He was a good bloke, too, a very fair player. I can't speak highly enough of Des Kelly.

WP: I was just one of the players watching Des come down towards up and in my own mind, was abusing our forwards because no-one was chasing him!

NG: I couldn't catch him, Wal!

So that was the premiership West Perth should have won but lost?

NG: Well, yeah, it was. We'd beaten Souths in the second semi-final and beaten them, not convincingly but by a reasonable margin and so we went straight into the grand final and we expected to win. Expectations very rarely come off as we know in football but we did feel we had the measure of South Fremantle, at least that's how I felt.

WP: When you're so far in front at half-time, it's difficult to accept that you can blow that lead. I think the feeling was creeping in that we had a good lead and as Tony said, we kicked the first goal immediately after half-time. Six goals in front with a very strong wind blowing from behind you, I think we started to creep into the feeling that it was going to be easy... we don't have to work too hard. And I think that was the failing. Souths knew they had to work hard... you could say it was the reverse of 1951 when we had to work really hard in the second half and we got there. It was a disappointment... we had the game won and then it was lost.

NG: It was a huge disappointment at West Perth... huge. It was like a vacuum you walked into, that that one had got away.

TP: I felt it was great that I'd won a premiership in my first year but when I looked back some years later, I know we had a good side. We had changed five players after the 1951 grand final and I think overall, that win produced one of the best sides South Fremantle have ever had. If I think about the 1953 season for example, we lost to West Perth by four points in the opening round, and lost to East Perth by seven points in round 19, but we won every other game.

WP: It's worth noting that back then, the West Perth and South Fremantle sides were so superior to the other teams in the competition. These two teams were producing half of the state side, that is how good they were.

West Perth and South Fremantle played off again in the 1953 grand final. On the scoreboard this game looked all over at half-time.

TP: Well, I thought the game was in the bag after about ten minutes. I don't want to sound like I was super confident but I felt that when we had two goals on the board, into a howling gale and West Perth hadn't scored, that gave us a lot of confidence. We'd only lost two games but West Perth had a great side too and so you never know.

NG: A very disappointing game for us. We came away feeling we'd let the club down. There was huge disappointment that we hadn't performed at our best, we may not have won but our performance was below what we would have liked.

WP: We had a new coach that year, Pops had retired, I think he might have gone into state parliament and we had a chap by the name of Peter O'Donohue, who'd been captain of Hawthorn. He tried to infuse into us a different style of play... he tried to introduce the Hawthorn method. I'm not suggesting for one minute though that this affected our grand final performance.

NG: I recall Peter did have an altercation with Ray Scott during the year, I suppose things were simmering a bit. It's just when a new broom comes in, you don't exactly want to change your ways and we had a bad year.

TP: I remember a moment from that 1953 grand final involving Neil. There was about ten minutes to go in the game. It had rained a little bit and I had tightened my boot. The ball was on the ground between the centre and the wing and I went up behind Neil for a mark and tried to get a ride, but as I came down, my stops didn't grip because my boot wasn't straight on my foot. My leg went sideways and I wrenched my knee, stretching my cruciate ligaments and my knee cap moved up. I was on the ground and Tom Goldie, our trainer, came out and he was abusing Neil saying "you did this and that..." and I said, "Tom, it wasn't Neil's fault, I slipped!"

NG: What a tremendous bloke Tony is!

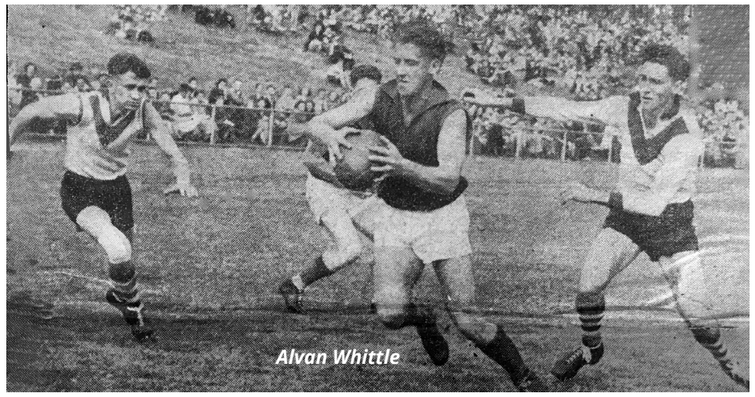
WP: I think Tony is being rather generous to Neil there... I wouldn't have said that! And just to affirm what Tony was saying about that 1953 South Fremantle side, there were twelve players from that team who represented Western Australia in interstate football. That's not a bad effort... and I say that about an opposition side!

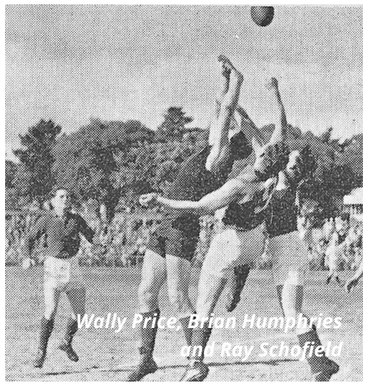
Thanks for your recollections and time, gentlemen.

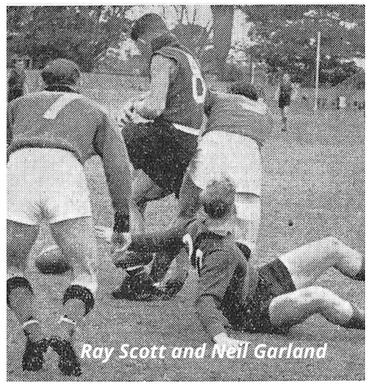
Talking tactics... Ray Schofield, Wally Price, Kevin Clarke and Peter O'Donohue

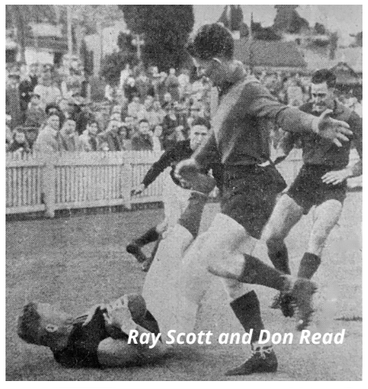
From the Vault Early 1950s photo gallery

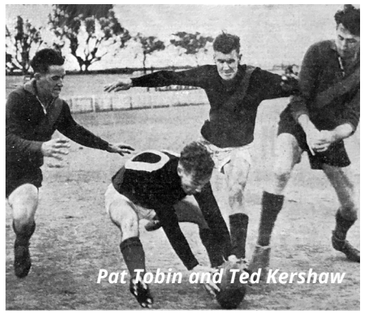
Trevor Schofield


Alvan Whittle


Wally Price, Brian Humphries and Ray Schofield


Ray Scott and Neil Garland

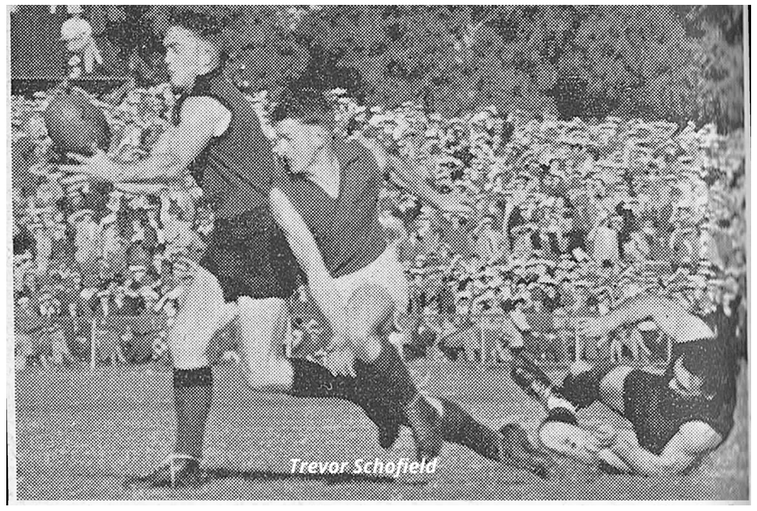

Ray Scott and Don Read


Pat Tobin and Ted Kershaw

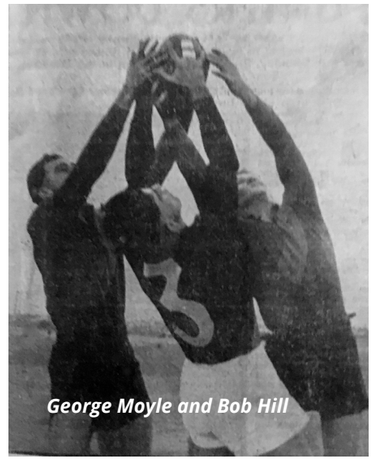
Ray Scott

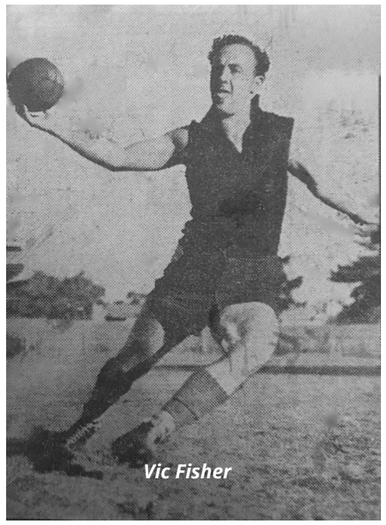
Ray and Trevor Schofield

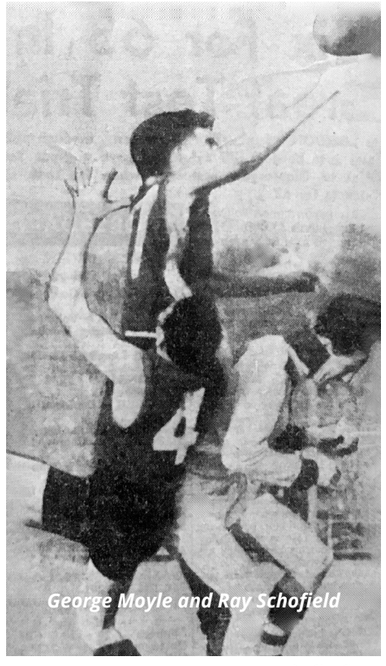
Ray Schofield and Neville Green


Trevor Schofield

Ray Scott


George Moyle and Bob Hill

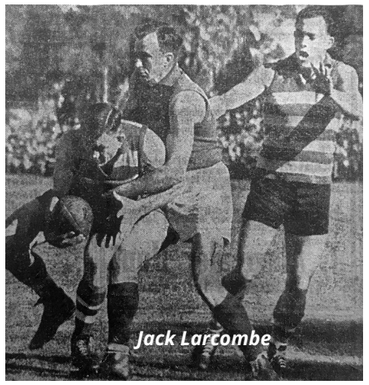

Vic Fisher

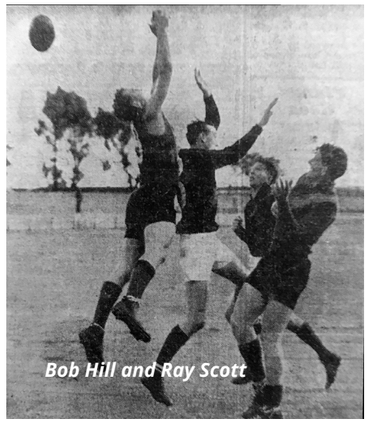

George Moyle and Ray Schofield

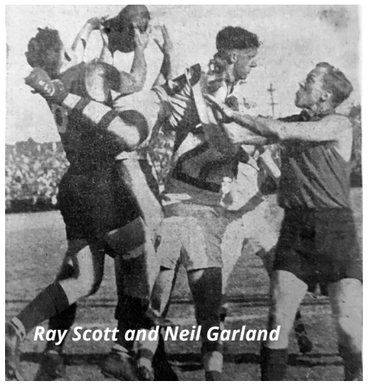
Ray Scott

Laurie McNamara, Tony Yaksich and Brian Falconer

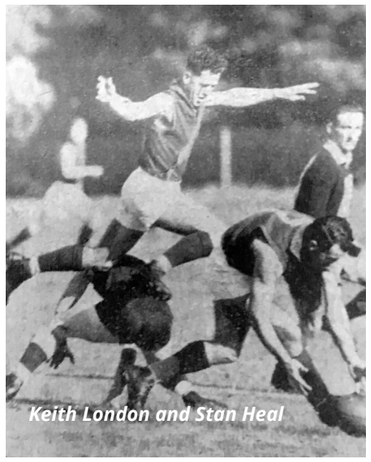
Vic Fisher

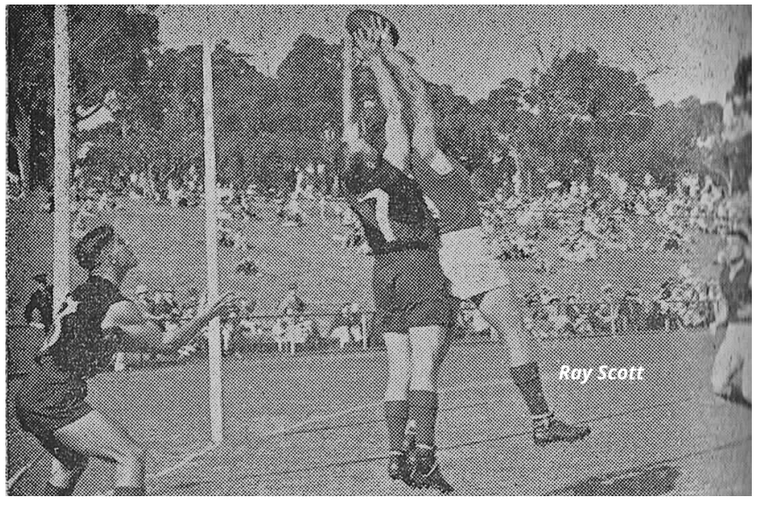

Jack Larcombe

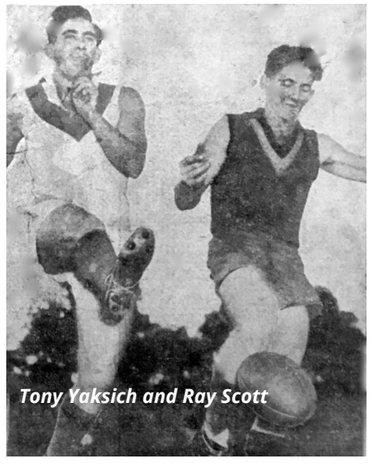

Bob Hill and Ray Scott


Ray Scott and Neil Garland

Don Porter and Jack Larcombe


Keith London and Stan Heal


Ray Scott


Tony Yaksich and Ray Scott

Saluting our 1941 Premiers

The year the Cardinals won the flag, but the war beat everyone...

The 1941 season was one of the most difficult WA football has ever experienced. The year delivered another triumph for West Perth, who were coached by Ross Hutchinson and captained by Jack Pola (130 games and 202 goals). But it brought too, the realisation that war and football just don't mix. One club after another lost star players, promoted young men not yet old enough to enlist, and replacing the youngsters with returning League regulars, home on leave or in transit to postings, when able to. All eight clubs battled on admirably, however West Perth and East Fremantle were the competition's dominant teams.

Among the young men entering League ranks in 1941 were leading ruckman Les, McClements, 1950 Sandover Medallist Jim Conway and champion goalkicker, Bernie Naylor. All were to lose some of their best football years to war service.

The 1942 season also enabled a performance unlikely to be equalled. Interstate and clearance restrictions were relaxed to accommodate movement of servicemen, and this enabled a 21 year old Stan Heal, who had debuted for West Perth in 1939, to play for Melbourne in the 1941 VFL grand final. Stationed in Melbourne at the time, Stan was one of Melbourne's best players in their win over Essendon (Wally Buttsworth played for Essendon in this game). A week later, following a home posting and trans Australia train trip, Stan pulled on the boots for West Perth in our club's premiership win over East Fremantle.

East Fremantle finished the qualifying rounds on top of the ladder, West Perth finishing in second position. West Perth easily accounted for Old Easts in the second semi-final before recording a comfortable win in the grand final. It was all West Perth from the start, the flag favourites jumping to a 16 point least at the first change. The lads from Leederville never seemed in danger of defeat. Gun full forward, Ted Tyson booted six goals, as did his teammate, Bill Baker. West Perth's grand final win was to be one of the last games Ted was to play, although he did return to play the last five games of his 228 game career in 1945. His career record is an impressive one, amassing 1,196 goals (and 332 points) across his 228 matches for our club. Ted also represented Western Australia on four occasions (all in 1933).

"war and football just don't mix."

At the close of the 1941 season, it was clear the game could not go on under anything like normal conditions and so, for three years, footballers joined a national effort in a far more serious field of endeavour. As it was in so many ways, it was left to the "kids" to take care of things until our servicemen returned home ... and the under-age competition was born. Only players who would be under 18 years of age at 1st October 1942 would be eligible to play. This triggered the retirement of many experienced players, including Bill Rainoldi (228 games and 260 goals), Max Tetley (210 games) and Norm McDiarmid (210 games and 101 goals), each of whom had been champion players over the previous decade.

Team Photo 1941 Premiership Team

Back row	*J D'Reen (Committee), Bill Nevard (Committee), W Seymour (Vice President), Clifford Parks (Treasurer), Dick Fletcher (Committee), Norm Lamb, Bill Golding (Timekeeper), Jack Anthony, E Bond, Arthur Taylor*
Second row	*C Elsegood (Head Trainer), Jack Heal, Ted Tyson, Mervyn Jeavons, Max Tetley, George Donnelly, Jack Woodhouse, Bert Mill, Bruce Bridges, Jim Craig (Trainer)*
Third row	*Joe O'Connor (Trainer), O Forbes (Trainer), Checker O'Keeffe, Eric Geise, Jack Caddy, Les Shuttleworth, Charles Hicks, Bob Clamp, Bill Baker, J Hughes, E Crapp*
Fourth row	*Jack Gordon (Property), E Caddy (Committee), Tom Symonds, Charles Veryard (President), Jack Pola (Captain), Ross Hutchinson (Coach), Dick Hill (Vice Captain), Tom Soutar (Secretary), John Veryard (Patron)*
Front row	*Don Caplin, Bill Rainoldi, Alan Lyons (Trainer), S Hill, Ron Fleming*
Insets	*Bill Kingsbury, Norm McDiarmid*

Team Line Up 1941 Premiership Team

Ruck

Checker O'Keefe, Jack Woodhouse, Jack Pola

Reserve

Norm Lamb

Grand Final Match Summary

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total
West Perth	4.6	6.8	10.10	14.14	**98**
East Fremantle	1.8	4.13	6.15	10.17	**77**

Goals

West Perth
Ted Tyson (6), Bill Baker (6), Stan Heal (1), Jack Caddy (1)

East Fremantle
George Meiers (3), George Doig (2), Allan Ebbs (1), Ron McDonald (1), Vic French (1), Bill Casserly (1), Bob Daniel (1)

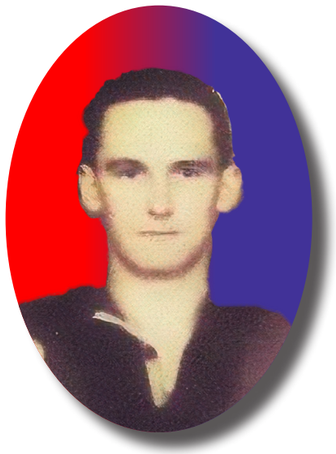
Best players

West Perth
Bob Clamp, Bruce Bridges, Jack Pola, Norm McDiarmid

East Fremantle
Allan Ebbs, Bill Casserly, Laurie Tetley, Bill Haddow

Attendance

16,400 Subiaco Oval



Bob Clamp was voted best man on the ground (the Simpson Medal was first awarded in 1945)

Congratulations Connor West!

The West Perth Football Club congratulates Connor West on his selection in the June AFL draft. Connor's performances in 2021 clearly justify his selection by West Coast. Connor is of course, the son of former West Perth star and 1992 Sandover Medallist, Robbie West, and grandson of former East Perth player and coach, Grant Dorrington. We wish Connor the very best of luck.

Connor's elevation has provoked some thought around the progeny of former West Perth players and coaches currently running around in the AFL. Three spring to mind, Mal Rosas (Gold Coast, grandson of Bill Dempsey), Charlie Spargo (Melbourne, grandson of Bob), and Brayden Maynard (Collingwood, grandson of Graham Campbell). As Mrs HeartBeat often reminds him, HeartBeat's memory ain't what it used to be so... is there anyone we've missed? If so, please let us know at: reception@falconsfc.com.au and we'll list these players in our next issue.

And while on the subject of bloodlines...

Casey Haw, our club's talent manager is continuing to oversee development of sons and grandsons of past players. A few of the young men in West Perth development programs who are following in the footsteps of their fathers or grandfathers include Toby Prunster (grandson of Ross), Max Connell (son of Justin), Lachlan Pleitner (grandson of Bryan), Jayden Rigoll (son of Kim), Jye Skender (son of Ron), Sam Brunton (son of Dean) and Tom Menaglio (son of Peter). Development programs run for ages 14 to 19, so for players born between 2002 and 2007.

For past players who are keen to understand whether their sons, grandsons or great grandsons qualify to wear the red and the blue, here are some of the requirements that must be met in order to be considered for registration at West Perth.

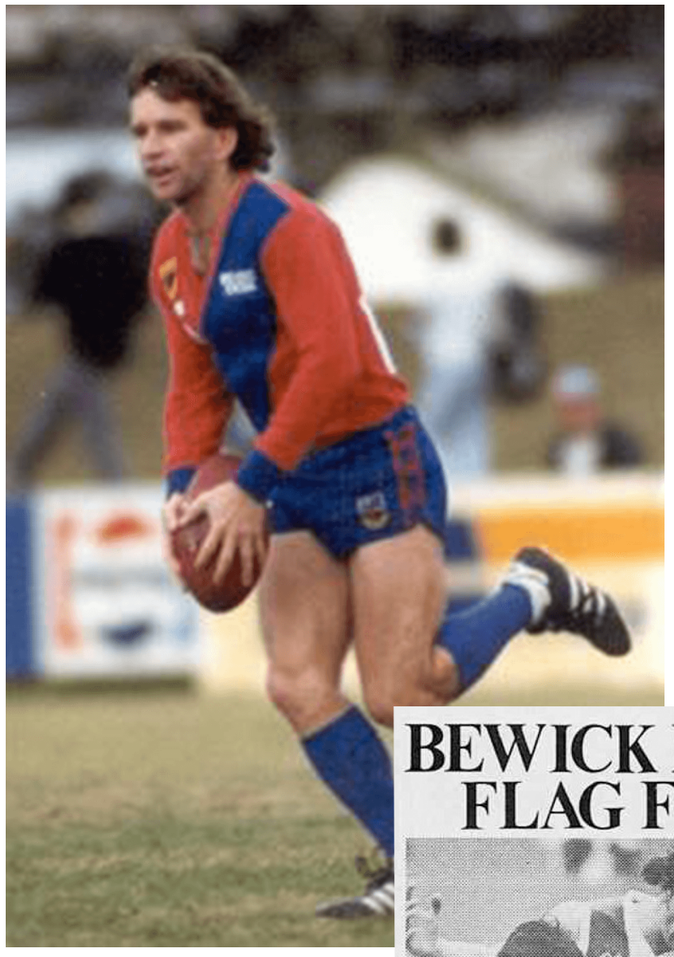
Remember, if the player lives in the West Perth zone, none of this matters. But if they live outside our zone, then this is the best way to ensure they get the chance to play for West Perth. Further information can be obtained from Casey on (08) 9300 3611.

The father-son rules

A player may become a registered player for the WAFL club for which his father, grandfather or great grandfather played or was associated where that player's father, grandfather or great grandfather:

- played in 50 or more League matches with that WAFL club
- played for one WAFL club for a combined total of 85 League or reserve matches in at least five football seasons;
- was elected as a life member of the WAFL club;
- held a full time administrative position at the WAFL club for a combined period (if employment is broken) of ten years; or
- qualified for and was drafted to the AFL (or recruited by an AFL club prior to the draft) from a WAFL club and played:
  - 50 AFL matches; or
  - 85 AFL and state League matches (as an AFL player) combined, over five years

My First Game Corry Bewick



The Bewick family has made an enormous contribution to our football club. Corry followed his father, Ron, into senior ranks and was later joined by brothers Darren and Glen. Sons, Rohan and Shaun, also played senior football for our club.

Corry played 128 games for West Perth, a tally that would have been much higher if not for a serious knee injury that kept him out of the game for the best part of three seasons. Returning to play alongside Darren in 1985, Corry continued where he left off, as a classy and dangerous rover in partnership with Les Fong. Here, Corry recalls his first game for the Cardinals in 1977, and other memories of his time at Leederville.

My dad, Ron, made his League debut for West Perth in 1956 and played 115 games for the club including a premiership in 1960, I was just short of two years old at the time. After his playing days dad became a director, junior vice-president, and chairman of selectors at West Perth. My grandfather Joe Brooker coached West Perth during WWII between 1942-1945 including a premiership in 1942 and three finals appearances. Therefore, if I or my brothers Richard, Darren and Glen were going to play senior football, there was absolutely no doubt about which club we would be playing for.

BEWICK KEEPS FAMILY FLAG FLYING HIGH

Corry Bewick certainly has football in his blood . . .

Father Ron was a wingman of top quality with West Perth and his maternal grandfather was Joe Brooker, who coached West Perth from 1942 to 1945.

Bewick — pictured here winning the ball in front of East Fremantle ruckman Bob Becu — has had to overcome a serious foot injury before reaching league ranks.

He has developed into a promising rover and his creative work around the packs is proving a vital part of West Perth's rivival attempt.

He found opportunities hard to come by at West Perth with players such as Les Fong, Bill Valli and Shane Sheridan at the club.

However Sheridan has been out with injury this year and Valli has transferred to Collingwood.

This has meant that Bewick has become a permanent fixture in the side.

I played my junior football with Tuart Hill Football Club, and I was later invited down to West Perth with others from Tuart Hill including Peter Menaglio and Ray Holden. Peter and I played together all through our careers and we are still great mates to this day.

Graham Campbell was appointed coach from 1975-1977 with the League team winning an amazing grand final against South Fremantle in 1975 by a record margin and watched by a record crowd. I was one of those spectators, sitting behind the goals waving my streamers and cheering the team on.

In 1976, I was selected for the Colts team and played the full season, then in 1977 I played Reserves right through to the end of the qualifying rounds. The League side had finished third that year and were to play arch rivals East Perth in the first semi-final. My form had been consistent in the Reserves and I was absolutely elated to find I had been selected to make my League debut in the first semi.

It would still have been a great thrill to have played my first game for the Cardies during a qualifying game, but to be running out onto the ground in a final in front of 42,000 people was a moment you don't forget. The atmosphere was always electric when West Perth played East Perth, and it was particularly intense in finals. One of my distinct memories is when John Duckworth and Ian McCulloch, who were the best of friends were having a stoush in the middle of the ground, signifying that the long standing rivalry between the teams was alive and well.

I wasn't in the starting eighteen, so I sat on the bench, which meant there was no guarantee I would get to play at all. The rule back then was that once a player left the ground for any reason they could not go back on. Unless there was a circumstance where a player wasn't able to continue you could remain on the bench for the whole game.

At three quarter time I was still a spectator, so my hopes of getting a run were dwindling. But the team had been terrific in kicking 11.12 to East Perth's 4.4 and Graham Campbell replaced Bill Valli and gave me the nod, which was a real compliment because Bill had had a brilliant game and a great year, capping it off with a second Breckler Medal.

I was a bit nervous to begin with, but after a minute the nerves disappeared, and I was pleased to notch up 6 possessions (4 kicks, 2 handballs) for the quarter, and we finally won by 32 points.

Because of returning players I didn't make selection for the preliminary-final, in which the team trailed East Fremantle by a mere 2 points at three-quarter time but went down by 16 points in a hard-fought contest. My first game had been a great initiation to football at the highest level before the introduction of the AFL, and I was looking forward to 1978.

There was a change in 1978 when Graham Campbell was offered the coaching position at his old VFL club Fitzroy and decided it was an opportunity he couldn't refuse. Graham was a positive coach, an excellent motivator, and used systems to effect.

After Graham's departure, the club appointed Percy Johnson as coach for 1978-1979. Percy had a vast knowledge of the game and he was a lovely bloke who wore his heart on his sleeve when it came to football. After a poor start to 1978 we won 10 games straight but sadly exited the finals after losing to South Fremantle in the first semi.

In 1979 there were some differences of opinion within the club, and in a difficult situation Percy was replaced mid-season in 1979, and Graham Campbell was re-appointed.

From 1978 to 1981 I had been playing consistent footy, then in 1982 came yet another coaching change, and Dennis Cometti became my third senior coach at West Perth in the short space of 5 years. It was the second time Dennis had coached me, as he was also my coach in the Tuart Hill U/15s.

Being a great communicator, his enthusiasm generated the players to 15 wins during the 1982 season, and we easily beat East Perth in the first semi by 68 points, with the real prospect of contesting the grand-final, but due to injuries to key players the team lost to Claremont in the preliminary final.

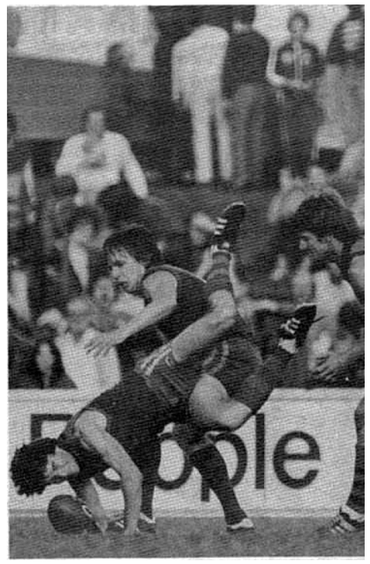
I don't have fond memories of 1982. In round 8, playing East Perth at Leederville I damaged my knee, and I later tried to come back through the Reserves, but during the game my knee went completely which required a full reconstruction. Up to that time it was common knowledge that nobody had recovered from that type of injury and played again. Even coach Dennis Cometti said to me, "It looks like you're dead and buried". It was a very frustrating time as I was still only 23 years old.

I went through the slow painful process of the operation and rehab, and finally, after two and a half years, I began to recover my fitness. During that period my father, who had been such an integral part of my life and West Perth, passed away at age 49 in 1984, which was a terrible blow.

I had absolutely no intention of returning to football, it just wasn't an option for me until I stepped onto a basketball court. I was surprised how well my knee held up under pressure and I was fit, so I became tempted to have another crack at playing footy again.

My brother Darren made his debut for West Perth during the first game in 1985 and he was eager for me to play alongside him. His encouragement motivated me into getting back on the park, along with John Wynne who was in his first year as coach in 1985, and he also influenced me to pull the

THE MARK OF THE YEAR



boots on. I am extremely grateful to them both for their support and reassurance and I was happy to be playing again. The bonus of my final two years in 1985-1986 was being able to play with Darren, who after 3 years at West Perth went on to be one of the great players at Essendon. Another highlight was being runner-up in the 1986 Breckler Medal, just narrowly beaten by Dan Foley who had a superb season.

In 1988 I played and coached the York Football Club to a premiership in the Avon League, and in 1989 I was appointed playing coach of the North Beach Amateur Football Club where we won premierships in 1989 and 1990. At the end of the 1991 WAFL season West Perth advertised for a coach and I applied with 14 other applicants. The result was that Geoff Gieschen was appointed and coached from 1992-1994 at a time when the club moved from its traditional Leederville home to Joondalup in the northern corridor.

In 2005 I was appointed coach of the West Perth U/16s Development Squad with assistant coaches David Palm, Peter Menaglio, John Gavranich and Geoff Hendriks. We had such good fun over our eight years together which spawned some great players including Steven Browne, Josh Hill, Stephen Hill, Jack Darling, Rohan Bewick, Shane Nelson and Aaron Black amongst many other talented lads.

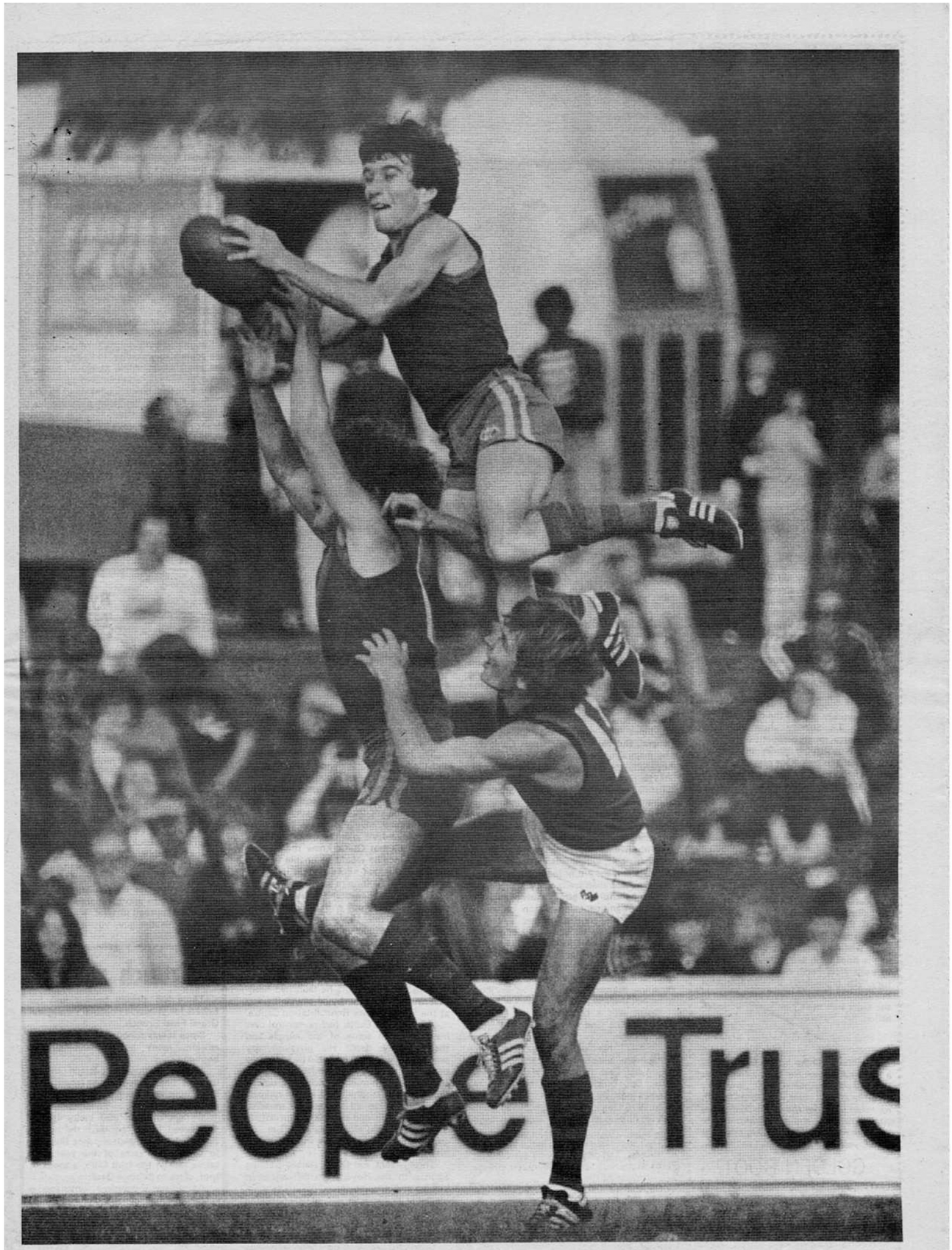
Football has and always will be a major part of my life. How fortunate was I to be born into a West Perth family and been able to don the famous red and blue jumper that my father wore before me, then later my brothers and sons. I am so grateful to all those people both inside and outside the football club that helped me along the way, and to my team-mates with who we all shared a common bond. There will always be some difficult decisions to be made during one's football life, but the ups far outweigh the downs, and it's been an honour and privilege to play for, and be awarded life membership to such a great club.

Ed. Many supporters will also remember Corry for his spectacular mark in the Round 21 1980 match against East Perth at Leederville. On these pages, we feature Corry's mark.

Vision of the mark is captured, albeit very briefly in a Channel 7 WAFL promotion from 1981, a WAFL version of 'There's a Little Bit of Cazaly In Us All'. To view this vision, copy the link below to YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6JtaooWnD4

This vision, in addition to featuring Corry (at 1 minute 26 seconds), also features Ross Gibbs, Laurie Richards and Russell Ellen.



Mark of the year . . . and picture too. . . by RICHIE HANN

Working hard on consistency

CORRY BEWICK adidas

CARDINALS

Following in the footsteps of a footballing father is always a difficult task . . . and West Perth's Corry Bewick knows the truth of that statement.

The little rover broke into league ranks in 1977 as an 18-year-old — but it was only last year that he really confirmed his right to league status.

His father Ron was a top-class half-forward for the Cardies and has served the club long, both as a director and chairman of selectors. However, Ron relinquished that latter position when Corry reached league ranks to avoid any suggestion that he was helping his son along.

That suited Corry Bewick — he was determined to make it on his own and his football last year and in most of the games this season has confirmed that he has made

He is starting to emerge as a very effective back-up rover to Cardies captain Les Fong — and that is good news for West Perth fans as roving duos are hard to come by.

This week football writer PETER AUSTIN talks to Corry Bewick about his favourite sport . . .

Q. Who did you first play football for?

A. I played through all the junior ranks with Tuart Hill.

Q. Are you still playing with any of your old team mates?

A. Yes. I have played with Peter Menaglio for most of my life. I went to school with quite a few guys who now play with West Perth. Dennis Cometti coached me when I was playing under-17's. Peter has probably been the closest but I have many good mates from juniors and school.

Q. When did you first arrive at West Perth?

A. 1976. I first played colts then the following year I played reserves and league. In 1978 I played reserves and the league side in the finals that year.

Q. What positions have you played?

A. Rover.

Q. Do you enjoy it?

A. Yes. I am too small to really fill any other position and I think I'm suited to that style of play.

Q. What is the hardest thing being a rover?

A. The continual push, push-up. You have to run for virtually the four quarters. It demands total concentration. I think a rover is demanded more than anywhere else on the ground. You are a link man and have to be a live wire for 100 minutes.

Q. How many touches are you happy for a game?

A. Graham Campbell likes us to get over 20 possessions each game. That means five touches a quarter which I suppose doesn't sound a lot and obviously the more you get the happier you are yourself.

Q. West Perth were tagged as the big improvers for 1981. Will they be?

A. We enjoyed a good pre-season training and started off well in the early part of the season. I hope it will pay dividends.

Q. Do you get a lot of support from ruckmen Ben Jager and Russell Ellen?

A. Yes. Ben is tremendous around the packs with his physical strength. Russell, although not as strong is a very agile player who does contribute a lot around the ground.

Q. Do you follow anyone's style of play?

A. Not really. I play my own style. I'm more of a creative player, a link man. I don't model myself to anyone.

Q. Do you regard yourself as an attacking style player?

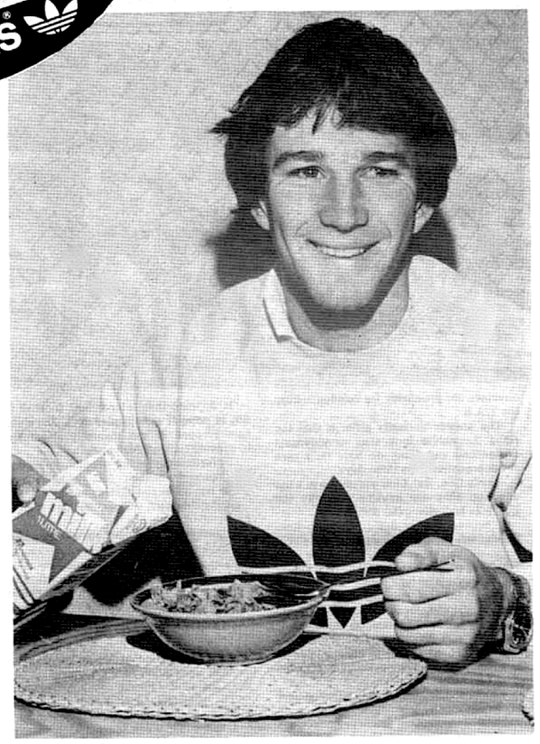
A. Yes.

Q. Who do you find the best rover in WA?

A. Unfortunately for me the roving standard in WA is very good at present. Noel Carter and the Krakouer brothers are good, Otway from East Perth and Melrose and Neesham from Swans. It is very hard to select just a few good ones. The brilliance of the Krakouer brothers are hard to beat. They are so quick around the forwardline. Carter always picks up kicks around the ground and Otway is a tiger in the packs.

Q. Who has been your hardest opponent to beat?

A. I would say someone like Otway.



Corry Bewick . . . keen to keep on improving.

Q. Does Les Fong help you a lot?

A. Yes. He's always competing, and makes me feel part of the play all the time. He is a great bloke too.

Q. Do you enjoy playing under Graham Campbell?

A. Yes. Graham's style of football is just how I like it. He encourages the runner and the link that flows on. I enjoy playing under him immensely.

Q. Campbell has always been known as a good motivator. Does it help you?

A. He makes you really want to play before a game and you generally go onto the ground on a big high. His motivational techniques are extremely good.

Q. Your father Ron has had a lot to do with your football. What has he done?

A. He hasn't missed too many games I have played. He is always encouraging me or gives good useful criticism.

Q. Who has been the biggest help in your football career?

A. Probably my father.

Q. What do you think is in store for Corry Bewick in the future?

A. Well at the moment my biggest problem in playing is achieving consistency week after week. I see myself playing one or two real good games then putting in a bad one. I would just like to consolidate myself and play well every week. Until I do that I can't look at my future to play anywhere else.

Q. Would you like to go to Victoria and play?

A. Yes. I think it's every footballers ambition to play in the VFL. Hopefully one day I might get the opportunity to play over there.

Q. What do you do while not playing or training for football?

A. I go fishing as often as I can. I like to get away from it all. I have a good collection of records and love listening to them too.

Q. You said you have known Peter Menaglio for many years. Does that give you any confidence while playing.

A. I think so. Peter and I have come up through the ranks all the way together. We played our first colts game and league matches together. It obviously does help in a game. When Peter grabs the ball, you automatically know what he's going to do with it.

adidas PLAYER PROFILE

Name: Corry Bewick
Born: 25.10.58
Height: 5 ft 8 in (172 cm)
Weight: 11st 4lb (70 kg)
Lives at: Karrinyup
Married: No
Occupation: School teacher
Football honours: Best first year player for West Perth 1976.
Came from: Tuart Hill
Favourite food: Fish
Favourite drink: Scotch and coke
Hobbies and relaxation: Fishing and listening to records
Football likes: Winning and consistency
Football dislikes: Playing badly and fickle supporters
Idols in football: Bill Dempsey
Hard things in football: Consistency and pre-season training
Ambitions: Play as long as I can and as well as I can
Nickname: Bones
Guernsey No.: 5
Games played: 64

W.A. FOOTBALL INDEX

Sporting historians Ian Everett and Norm Sowdon are compiling an index of information on every WA league footballer since 1885 and require your help.

Information required:—
- *Players full name*
- *Place and date of birth*
- *Height and weight (when playing)*
- *Games played*
- *Goals kicked*
- *When player was recruited*
- *List of clubs played for*
- *Major awards won*
- *If deceased*

Old players and relatives of those now deceased are invited to write to:

IAN EVERETT
32a Laura Street,
Stepney,
South Australia.

Page 4 — WESTSIDE FOOTBALL, June 19, 1981

Remember when… we became the Falcons?

It was September 1980 and the season was over for our club, failing only by percentage in the last qualifying round to make the final four. While pre-season training was two months away, plans for changes to the club's marketing and branding were afoot for the 1981 season as this piece from Westside Football explains.

HERE COME THE FALCONS

The new look falcons . . . . (from left) Melinda Konsak, Melonie Anderson and Helen Clark.

West Perth adopt new logo

The Cardies are developing a new image . . . and these three lovely young ladies are helping them to succeed.

Season 1981 has already been launched by West Perth with the unveiling of their new logo — the Falcon.

West Perth, one of WA's oldest clubs with an illustrious history going back to 1885, have appointed well-known Coca-Cola marketing man Mike Pritchett to help the club's progress into the 1980's.

One of the first things Mr Pritchett has done is develop a logo for the club and though it is not intended to replace the Cardies tag, it is part of a new image.

"We selected the Falcon because it is a fighting bird that has grace, strength and power," says Mr Pritchett.

. . . and another 'first'

West Perth are also pulling off another coup . . . . they have chartered a jumbo jet for a morning of extravagant fun after the grand final.

On Monday, September 29 the jumbo will take off from Perth Airport for a two-hour cruise over the WA coastline. And on board will be the winning grand final team; the Radio 6PR John K. Watts and Bazza Martin breakfast team; the grand final umpires . . . and all sorts of other celebreties.

Tickets are available at $59 a head and that includes your champagne breakfast . . . and a unique chance to try out a jumbo jet.

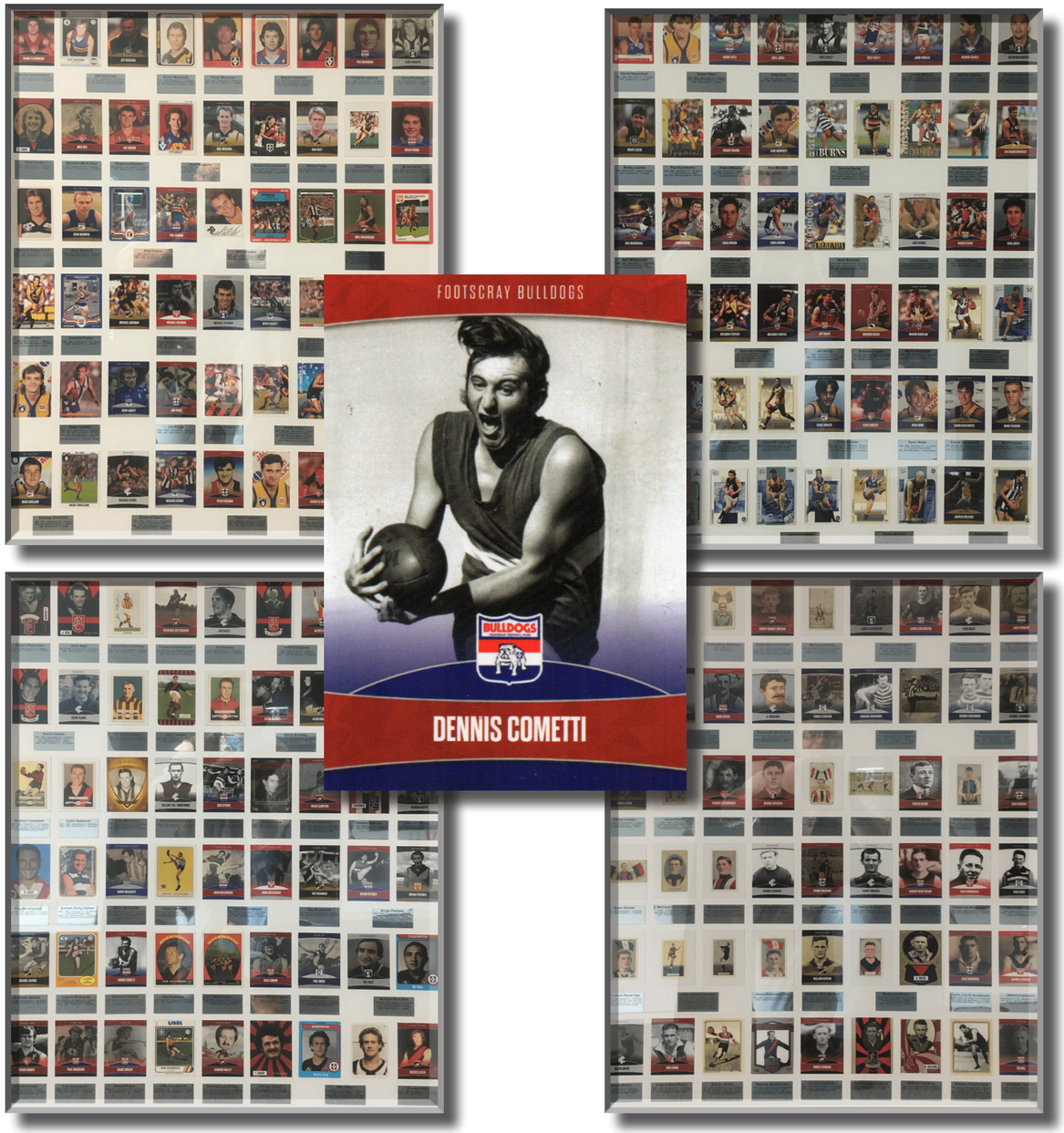
Contact the West Perth Football Club or any Grace Bros. Travel outlets.

Source: Westside Football, Page 9, 12th September 1980

Presenting our Club's Heritage

The past four years have seen considerable additions to the display and presentation of our club's history. For those who haven't been at the club for some time, we suggest you take a few minutes to look at Steve Trewhella's recent additions. Steve has painstakingly collected photos of every West Perth player to have represented a club in either the Victorian or Australian football Leagues. Where historical player cards had been issued, Steve has collected these, or new cards have been created using photos Steve has collected.

These cards have been framed and are now on display upstairs at the club in the hope of inspiring new generations of players to aspire to the highest level while also reflecting on the wonderful contribution our club has made to the code nationally. Special thanks to Darrell Kent for his time and work in the framing of the cards.



Future Past Player Mitch Peirce

Mitch Peirce debuted in the 2016 season and at time of publication had played 58 games for our club. An inside midfielder who doesn't mind going forward and kicking goals, Mitch took some time to establish his position in the senior side, but establish his position he did, following fine performances for the Reserves in early 2018.

Can you share with us your pathway into the League side at West Perth? Where did you play your football and were you part of junior development squads at the club?

I think my pathway would be about as stock standard as you can get when I think about it. I followed the pathway with West Perth from 14s development and played every grade up until League level. I started off playing juniors with Whitfords JFC which mainly comprised school mates, it was a good group down there and we were able to share some success. I made 14s, 15s and 16s development squads and then progressed to Colts.

It took me a while to crack into the Colts side in my first year so once I was in I made sure I made the most of it. This was in 2013. My first seniors' pre-season was in 2015. In that year I was still eligible for Colts so started the year there before working my way into the Reserves. From there I spent a fair bit of time toiling away in the twos, debuting in the League side in 2016, but it wasn't until mid-way through 2018 that I nailed down a spot having played 52 Reserves games along the way.

Since then it's been good to remain in the League side and get some games under my belt, knowing that I've done my 'apprenticeship' and am striving to improve each year.

We all have people around us who have significantly influenced their football journeys. Who are yours?

Certainly my Dad was one who got me involved and guided me from an early age. He would be more than willing to have a kick with me whenever I wanted, and we would go down to Mawson Park (the local) to do this a fair bit growing up.

Since his sudden passing in 2015 it probably influenced my footy and my drive towards it even more. All the values and attitudes he had taught and instilled in me in sport over the years made me really determined to do him proud. In a way, that made getting through some of the tougher times along the way manageable as I'd have the constant thoughts of what he would want me to do. That definitely drove my persistence and resilience to make it to the highest level possible for me and still drives me to get everything out of myself.

Other influences would be my junior coach for many years, Clive Walley and also growing up across the road from another bloke who, early days loved his footy as much as me, and who's still a best mate to this day, Jordan Meakins. We had lots of battles on the front lawn and that probably got my competitiveness going. Unlike me he was an early developer and was involved in the state teams etc so that definitely pushed me to want to play at higher levels, too.

Who are the players you most admired as you grew up, within both the WAFL and AFL?

Being an Eagles fan I loved to watch their midfield go to work with the likes of Judd, Cousins and Kerr over the era and certainly role modelled them for their on-field abilities. Also, some

names from watching the Falcons growing up that stuck with me were the likes of Anthony Tsalakis and Ray Bartholomew. Later and when I got to the club, Jay Van Berlo and Luke Meadows were and are people I aspired to be like.

You debuted for the club in round five of the 2016 season, an ugly day for the team but you picked up 20 disposals. What are your memories of that game?

I remember we were pretty depleted in the midfield that week, I think maybe Shane Nelson had a suspension or injury of some kind which opened up the door for me. This meant I got a real opportunity to play in a midfield role which was great, even though the result was a big derby win for East Perth. I remember hitting the post with my first touch which I was pretty filthy about but after that it was good to be able to get a bit of the ball despite the loss.

Your debut was the first of two games you played in 2016, and you played another four in 2017. It seems you initially battled to hold down a permanent spot in the seniors, but since round seven in 2018 you've never looked back. What changed for you?

I probably touched on it a bit above, but yeah it was a bit of a battle finding my way through those years. I look back at it now and completely understand why I wasn't getting games but at the time it's difficult to deal with and I'm grateful now for the lessons learnt along the way.

What changed was probably a few factors. Our coach at that point, Bill Monaghan was a pretty tough critic at times so it was probably learning what he wanted to see from a young midfielder. Working out how to do this really challenged me but a lot of it was just getting back to the fundamentals of footy, getting defensive attributes right and building up some trust in that department.

I was also a bit of a late developer so putting on size was something I constantly needed to work on to enable me to compete at League level. The 2018 season for some reason felt as if it was now or never. I played with that mentality and was able to earn my spot and haven't looked back since.

At the end of 2018 you played in your first grand final. What are your memories of that day and the game?

A tough day result wise, I remember being so up and about after winning the preliminary final against South Fremantle the week before. That preliminary final is still probably my favourite game to have been part of and the whirlwind week leading up to the grand final was memorable, too.

I remember playing at Optus Stadium as being pretty cool, and that we actually got off to a pretty hot start. Unfortunately though, we weren't able to land any blows on the scoreboard - an important factor if we wanted to put the undefeated Subiaco on the back foot. Unfortunately, they got a few goals to our none at quarter-time which, while we'd played well hadn't done a lot for our confidence and mindset. I remember kicking the first goal after quarter time and thinking we could get something going but Subiaco put that quickly to bed and they smoked us in the end. Overall, I was pretty proud after starting the year in the twos to actually be out there having a crack.

We suspect the grand final might be one, but what would you list as your career highlights to now?

The preliminary final against South was a great highlight from a team perspective, and some of the finals wins over the last few years have also been memorable. Kicking the winning goal against Peel a couple of seasons ago was also a great feeling and winning the twos best and fairest award in 2017 was also rewarding.

How do you spend your time when you're not playing or training?

I have a career in the finance industry, working at Bankwest so that takes up a fair chunk of it! Outside of that I enjoy the beach, movies and catching up with friends for coffee or a beer. I'm also a massive sports nuffy so can't get enough of watching it whether its footy, basketball or cricket (if not playing myself).

Team Photo 1979 Reserves

The 1979 season was not one of our club's better years. The League side finished second bottom while the Reserves ended the season with the wooden spoon. That's not to say there was a shortage of talent through the grades... players of the ilk of Chris Stasinowsky were emerging and some big names spent some time in the seconds, as this team photo attests. Paul Ramsay (father of East Perth's current captain, Jackson) Mick Rea (who transferred to Perth where he won the 1985 WAFL leading goalkicker award), star defender Ray Holden, Michael Stockley, Dean Campbell and Tony Fraser all developed and plied their trade in 1979 under the auspices of East Perth legend Ken McAullay.

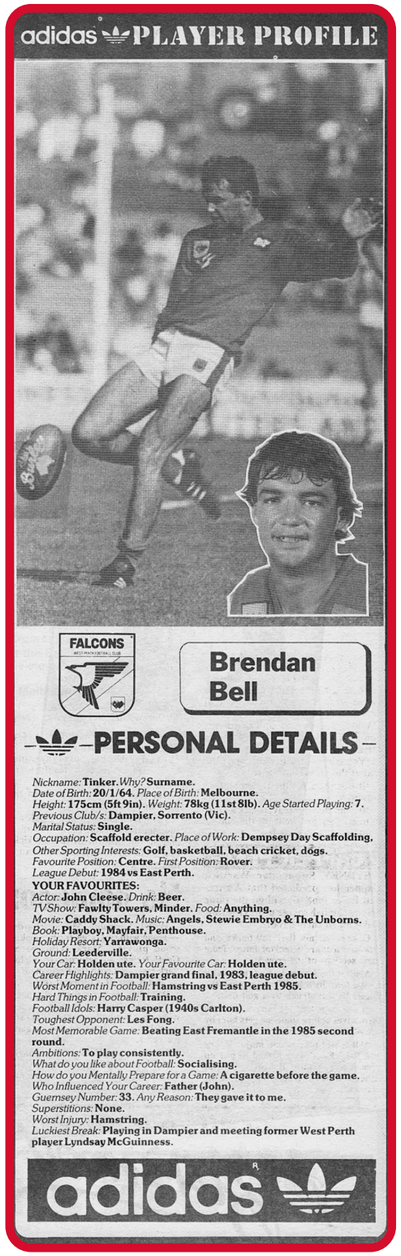
Back Row (L-R) *John McTaggart, Curtis Clarke, Paul Ramsay, Ray Boyanich, Frank Glynn, Chris Stasinowsky, Peter Falconer, Terry Moir*

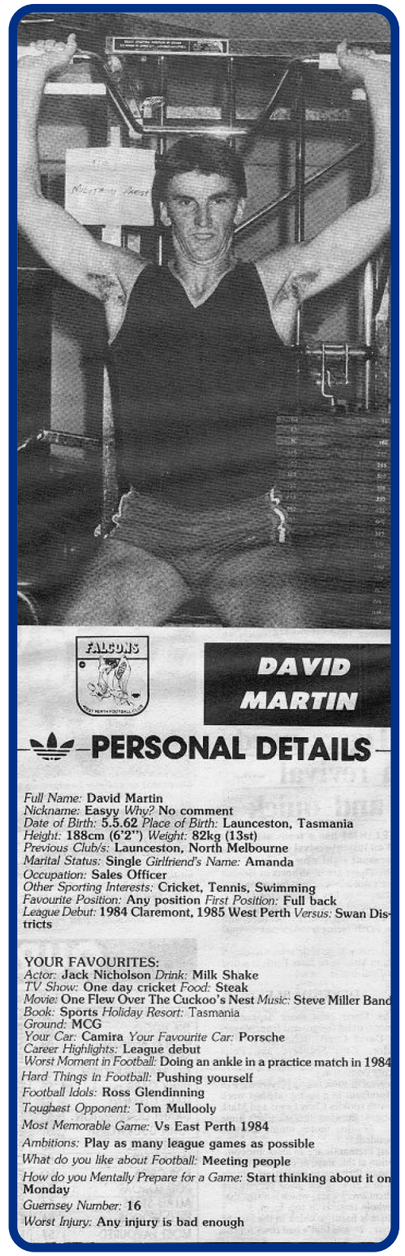
Middle Row (L-R) *B. Mulcahy, Ron Wilson, K. Wright, Mick Rea, Michael Stockley, Ray Holden, Peter Hendriks, Peter Duncan, Steve McEvoy*

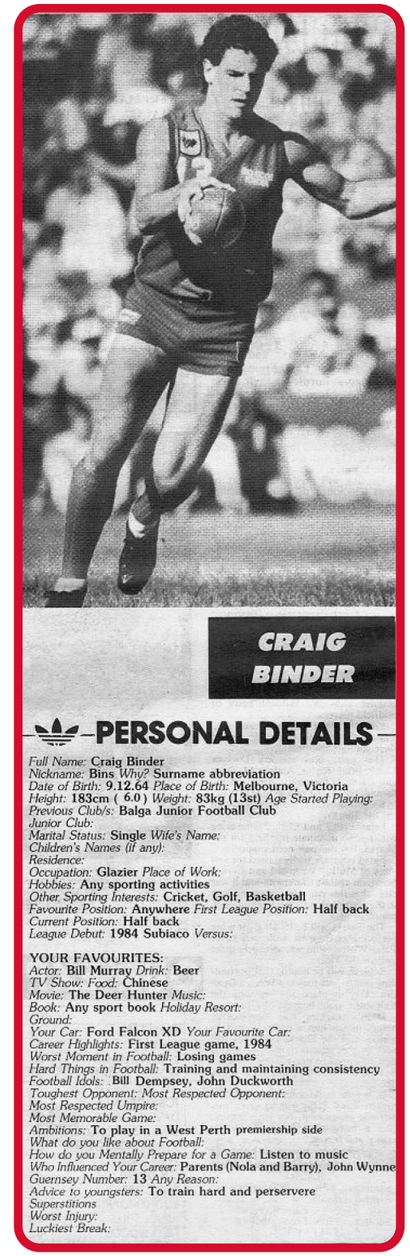
Front Row (L-R) *Neil Smith, Dean Campbell, Les Lazarakis, Peter Kelleher, Ken McAullay (Coach), Mark Skehan, Kevin Crogan, Tony Fraser, Nick Stanisis*

From the Vault Westside Football player profiles

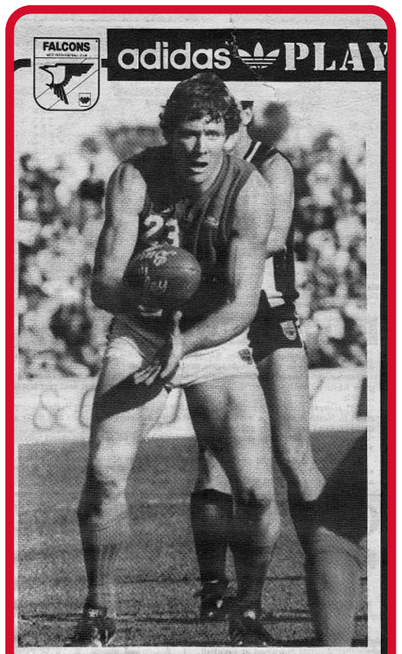
Westside Football is long gone but between 1979 and 1996 it was a must read publication for all WA footy fans. One of the paper's features was its player profiles, nine of which from the mid-late 1980s will jog the memories of Falcons supporters.







Westside Football player profiles (continued)



WEST Perth ruckman Kim Rogers is a big man who has done a big job for his side this season.

In only his first season of league football, Rogers has had the extra responsibility of leading the ruck and has done so in fine style.

Those broad shoulders have been fully tested by some top big men at other clubs, but he has held his own and beaten some highly credentialled rivals.

Rogers is the perfect example of the football battler; what he lacks in skills, he makes up for in determination to beat the odds.

Unlike some ruckmen, Rogers is not just happy to try to win hit-outs — he is on the ground helping his smaller players get the ball.

Kim Rogers

He uses handball effectively and many times is the instigator of a promising attack which results in a goal.

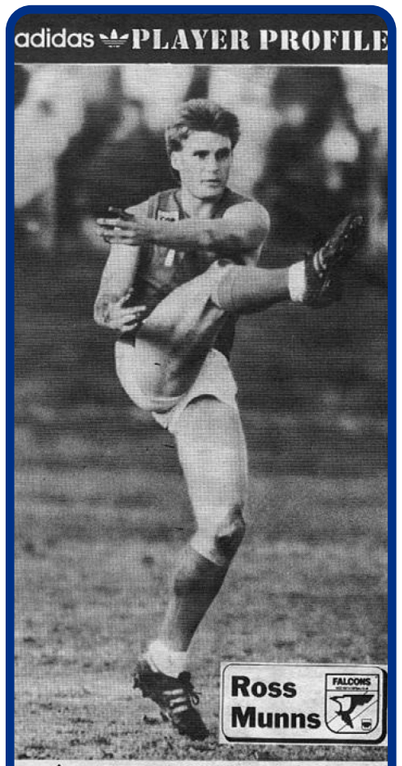
The extra pressure of finals football sometimes over-awes players. But West Perth supporters can be certain that Rogers will be a 100 per cent contributor when the pressure is at its most intense.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Full Name: **Kim Bruce Rogers**
Nickname: **Buck** *Why?* **Movies!**
Date of Birth: **June 11, 1960** *Place of Birth:* **Cunderdin**
Height: **197cm (6.6)** *Weight:* **109kg (17.0)** *Age started playing:* **10**
Previous Clubs: **Tammin**
Marital Status: **Single**
Residence: **Tammin**
Occupation: **Farmer** *Place of Work:* **Tammin**
Other Sporting interests: **Water skiing**
Favourite Position: **Ruck** *First Position:* **Ruck**
League Debut: **1985** *Versus:* **South Fremantle**

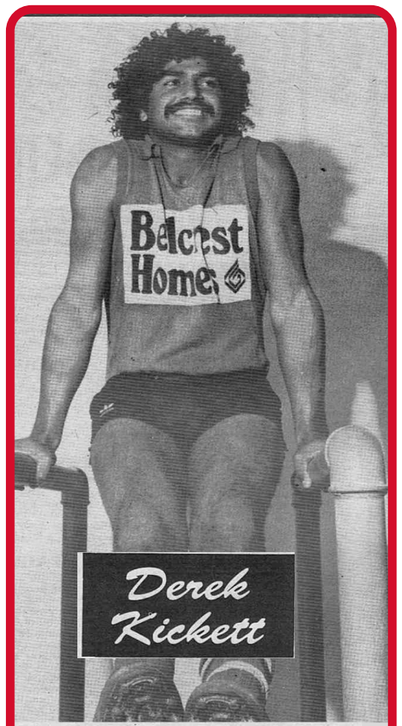
YOUR FAVOURITES:
Drink: **Water**
TV Show: **Country Wide (ABC)** *Food:* **Cereal and Mutton**
Book: **Western Farmer** *Holiday Resort:* **Kalbarri**
Ground: **Leederville**
Your Car: **Toyota Celica** *Your Favourite Car:* **Ford Fairlane**

Career Highlights: **League football first game with West Perth.**
Worst Moment in Football: **Losing Tammin Grand Final**
Hard Things in Football: **Training**
Most Respected Umpire: **Glen James**
What do you like about Football: **Competition**
How do you Mentally Prepare for a Game: **Relax**
Who Influenced Your Career: **John Wynne**
Guernsey Number: **23** *Any Reason:* **No**
Superstitions: **None**
Worst Injury: **Ankle**
Luckiest Break: **Playing league forward with West Perth.**



PERSONAL DETAILS

Date of Birth: **24/9/63.** *Place of Birth:* **Subiaco.**
Height: **180cm (5ft 11in).** *Weight:* **78kg (12st 4lb).**
Age Started Playing: **8.**
Previous Clubs: **Beacon Football Club.**
Junior Club: **Beacon and Burracoppin.**
Marital Status: **Single.**
Girlfriend's Name: **Darlene.**
Residence: **Morley.**
Occupation: **Clerk.** *Place of Work:* **CBC Bearings.**
Other Sporting Interests: **Table tennis, golf.**
Favourite Position: **Ruck rover.** *First Position:* **Wing.**
League Debut: **1983 vs Swan Districts.**
YOUR FAVOURITES:
Actor: **Sean King.** *Drink:* **Beer.**
TV Show: **Jack Hi.** *Food:* **Anything.**
Movie: **Caddy Shack.**
Music: **Chad Morgan, Slim Dusty.**
Book: **Footrot Flats.**
Holiday Resort: **Beacon Hotel.**
Ground: **South Fremantle.**
Your Car: **Gemini.**
Career Highlights: **Winning a grand final at Beacon in 1981, 1985 preliminary final v Swan Districts.**
Worst Moment in Football: **Losing 1982 grand final at Beacon.**
Hard Things in Football: **Sunday training.**
Football Idols: **Grenville Dietrich.**
Toughest Opponent: **John Hathaway.**
Most Respected Umpire: **Mike Ball.**
Most Memorable Game: **1985 first semi-final.**
Ambitions: **To play 50 games.**
What do you like about Football: **Social life.**
How do you Mentally Prepare for a Game: **Nothing special.**
Who Influenced Your Career: **Rod Shipway.**
Guernsey Number: **7.** *Any reason:* **No.**
Luckiest Break: **Gavin Chaplin getting the flu at the start of the season giving me the chance.**



PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: *Derek Kickett*
Date of Birth: *6/10/62*
Place of Birth: *Kellerberrin*
Height: *183 cm (6'10")*
Weight: *78 kg (11st 5lb)*
Previous club: *Tammin*
Occupation: *Unemployed*
Major awards: *Tammin fairest and best 1982 and 1983, Avon fairest and best 1983*
Marital status: *Single*
Girlfriend's name: *Denise*
Hobbies: *Any sporting activity*
Other sporting interests: *Basketball*
Favourite actor: *Charles Bronson*
Favourite movie: *Rocky movies*
Favourite food: *Seafood and Chinese*
Favourite drink: *Beer or Ouzo and Coke*
Nickname: *Bob*
Why: *I look like Bob Marley and all the guys at West Perth call me Bobby*
Favourite Book: *I really only like reading newspapers and sport magazines*
Career highlight: *League debut at the start of this year*

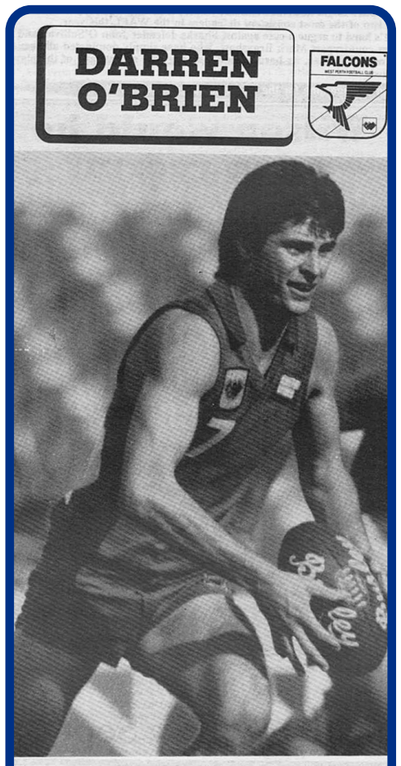
Worst moment in football: *Losing to East Perth by four points on July 21. That loss put us out of the top four.*

Hard things in football: *Sunday morning and Monday night training*
How do you mentally prepare for a game: *I like to kick or handle a ball as much as I can on Saturday morning*

Football idols: *Ken Hunter and Peter Knights*
Ambitions: *To stay in league football as long as I possibly can*
Advice to youngsters: *If you have got some ability use it and make a serious effort to play league football*

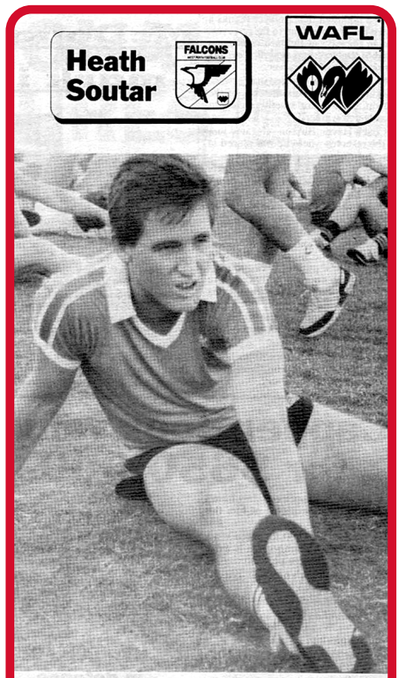
First league position: *Half-forward-flank*
Current position: *Half-forward-flank*
Favourite position: *Half-forward-flank or ruck-rover*
Biggest influence on your career: *Dennis Cometti*
Games played: *20*
League debut: *1984*
Guernsey number: *18*

Westside Football player profiles (continued)



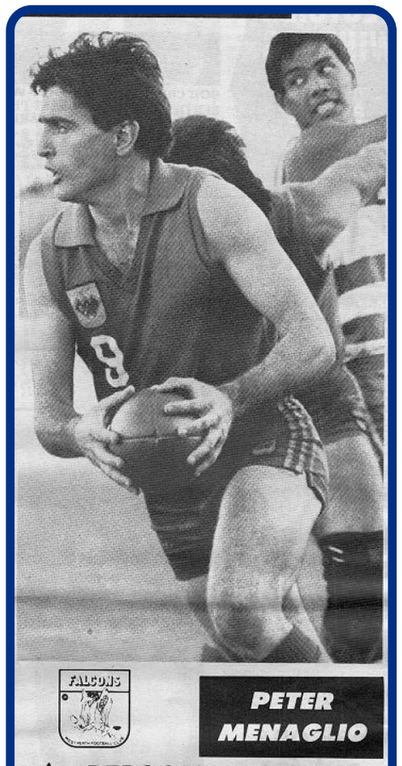
Date of Birth: **22/3/69** *Place of Birth:* **Collie**
Height: **182cm** *Weight:* **72kg**
Age Started Playing: **6**
Previous Club/s: **Collie** *Junior Club:* **Collie**
Marital status: **Single**
Residence: **Yokine**
Occupation: **Boilermaker-welder**
Other Sporting Interests: **Cricket**
Favourite Position: **half-forward** *First Position:* **wing**
League Debut: **1988** *Versus:* **Swan Districts**

FAVOURITES:
Actor: **John Cleese**
Drink: **Beer**
TV Show: **Fawlty Towers** *Food:* **Roast Beef**
Movie: **The Untouchables** *Music:* **U2**
Holiday Resort: **Bangkok**
Ground: **Leederville Oval**
Your Car: **Holden Torana**
Favourite Car: **Holden Torana**
Career Highlights: **1986 Teal Cup, first league game**
Worst Moment in Football: **Losing the Teal Cup grand final**
Hard Things in Football: **Training**
Football Idols: **Malcolm Blight**
Toughest Opponent: **All tough**
Most Respected Opponent: **Peter Matera**
Most respected umpire: ***All of them***
Most Memorable Game: **1987 South West grand final**
Ambitions: **To win a premiership with West Perth and to play VFL**
What do you like about Football: **Meeting different blokes and comradeship**
How do you Mentally Prepare for a Game: **Listen to music**
Who Influenced Your Career: **My father, Dennis**
Guernsey Number: **7** *Any Reason:* **It was given to me**
Any Superstitions: **None**
Worst Injury: **Nothing too bad**
Luckiest Break: **Being asked to play for West Perth**



Full Name: **Heath Soutar.**
Nickname: **Souts.** *Why?* **From my surname.**
Date of Birth: **January 2, 1967.** *Place of Birth:* **Perth.**
Height: **193cm (6ft 3in).** *Weight:* **90kg (14st).**
Age Started Playing: **9.**
Junior Club: **Westminster-Balga.**
Marital Status: **Single.**
Residence: **Marangaroo.**
Occupation: **Policeman.**
Place of Work: **Central Law Courts.**
Other Sporting Interests: **Indoor cricket, basketball, golf and horse racing.**
Favourite Position: **Centre-half-back.** *First Position:* **Full-back.**
League Debut: **1985.** *Versus:* **South Fremantle.**

FAVOURITES:
Actor: **Harrison Ford.** *Drink:* **Beer.**
TV Show: **L.A. Law** *Food:* **Roast lamb.**
Movie: **Good Morning Vietnam.** *Music:* **Any modern day music.**
Book: **The Bears Tears.**
Holiday Resort: **Broome.**
Ground: **Leederville Oval.**
Car: **Subaru.** *Favourite Car:* **Subaru.**
Career Highlights: **1982 State Schoolboys, 1983 Teal Cup and League debut.**
Worst Moment in Football: **When I received a cartilage injury.**
Hard Things in Football: **Training, losing and maintaining consistent form.**
Football Idols: **Bill Dempsey, Graham (Polly) Farmer, Barry Cable.**
Toughest Opponent: **All tough.** *Most Respected Opponent:* **All respected.**
Most Respected Umpire: **None.**
Most Memorable Game: **League debut against South Fremantle.**
Football Ambitions: **To win a grand final with West Perth and to play State football.**
What do you like about Football: **Mateship and winning.**
How do you Mentally Prepare for a Game: **Relax and have a back massage.**
Who Influenced Your Career: **My parents and Tom James (junior coach).**
Guernsey Number: **24.** *Any Reason:* **No.**
Superstitions: **None.**
Worst Injury: **Cartilage and back injury.**
Luckiest Break: **Playing football.**



PERSONAL DETAILS

Full Name: **Peter Menaglio**
Nickname: **Menags** *Why:* **Abbreviated surname**
Date of Birth: **4.8.58** *Place of Birth:* **Perth**
Height: **171cm (5'7½")** *Weight:* **68kg (10st 10lb)**
Age Started Playing — Juniors: ***Seniors:***
Junior Club:
Marital Status: **Married** *Wife's Name:* Michele
Residence:
Occupation: **Primary School Teacher** *Place of Work:*
Major Awards: **Club fairest and best 1981 and 1984**
Hobbies: **Waveskiing, Eating Out**
Other Sporting Interests: **Tennis**
Favourite Position: **Centre** *First Position:*
Games played: **160**
League Debut: **1977** *Versus:*

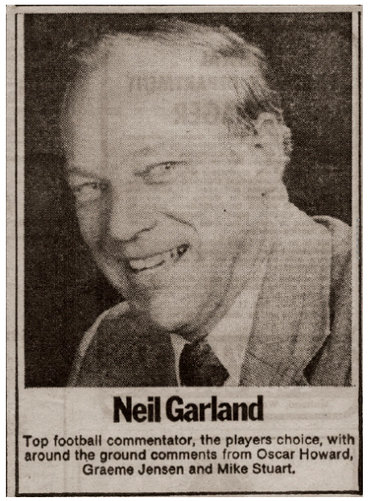
YOUR FAVOURITES:
Actor: **Donald Sutherland** *Drink:* **Dry White Wine**
Movie: **The Eye of the Needle** *Food:* **Fish**
Book: **A Fortunate Life, Albert Facey**

Your Car: **V8 HQ Holden** *Your Favourite Car:* **Honda Accord, Suzuki 4WD**
Career Highlights: **Beating East Fremantle on my 150th game and fairest and best awards**
Worst Moment in Football: **Untimely injuries**
Hard Things in Football: **Maintaining a very high level of performance in every game (mental preparation)**
Football Idols: **No particular idol, admire many players consistency**
Toughest Opponent: *Most Respected Opponent:*
Most Respected Umpire:
Most Memorable Game: **Last year's grand final**
Ambitions: **To play in and win a grand final**
What do you like about Football:
How do you Mentally Prepare for a Game: **By telling myself how hard I am going to work and by thinking a lot about the game in general**
Who Influenced Your Career: **Father, Peter**

Flashback

To a golden age of broadcasting

With Neil Garland



When we came back from our sojourn in Europe, in June 1958, it was natural that we took up life as it had been four years before. As soon as I could, I went to see West Perth play at Leederville Oval. Dad and I sat in the very small member's stand, long since demolished to make way for the new big stand. Some of my team mates were still playing but most had since retired.

"With no television at that time, football broadcasts were big business"

I was most surprised at half-time when they made an enthusiastic announcement over the loud speakers that I had returned from Europe and was in the crowd. I was even more surprised when several people and children came up to me for an autograph.

I was not tempted to resume as a player. I was approaching 33 years of age, had a weak knee, and was terribly out of condition and overweight. I did subsequently go to football training a few times, mainly with the seconds, when asked to do so by their coach, Wally Price, as a sort of a club morale gesture.

I was an invited guest together with my father, to the opening of the new grandstand at Leederville Oval in 1959. The West Perth Old Players Association had been formed while we were away, and I enjoyed the company of men who had played for West Perth Football Club from the early 1900s up to my own era.

I think it must have been in 1960 that my close friend, Johnny Loughridge, was contacted by Oliver Drake-Brockman of Radio 6PR to cover West Perth games to the extent of giving a score check at designated times during the afternoon. This meant that Johnny had to be available at the end of every quarter when there would be a "cross" from the "game of the day" being broadcast in full by Oliver Drake-Brockman and Frank Sparrow. This innovation, which became known as "round the grounds", started from very humble beginnings and was considered to be "ground breaking" for the times and we were the first to introduce it in Western Australia.

Right from the start, Johnny was not keen to be tied down during his Saturday afternoon pastime of watching the game, socialising, and having the odd ale. He asked me if I would assist him. At first we shared the duties and then he handed over totally to me.

In those days radio stations, 6WF, 6PM, 6IX, and 6PR, conducted a draw each week and allocated a game each to be broadcast in full. All League games were broadcast every week. Oliver Drake-Brockman, the consummate radio man, led the field in broadcasting and 6PR became the top sporting station. With no television at that time, football broadcasts were big business and keen rivalry existed between the radio stations involved.

When I was playing the game, the football commentators usually sat on a wooden bench inside the playing arena, between the boundary line and the boundary fence. It was not unusual for the players to run into them when chasing the ball out of bounds. On rainy days they attempted to keep dry with overcoats and a tarpaulin stretched over them. A technician who ensured that the equipment was functioning also attended each game.

Things had progressed somewhat by the time Johnny and I started "round the grounds". The main broadcast positions were under cover, mostly in the grandstands. At the Perth City Council grounds Leederville and Lathlain, a free standing, special "box" had been incorporated in the new grandstands recently built at those ovals. Like many things to do with architects, the "broadcast box" was perfect in all respects except for broadcasting. Each of them was an echo chamber where sounds reverberated. Later we tried to overcome this problem by opening the door and window and hanging a microphone out of the window so that the listeners would hear some crowd participation.

The "round the grounds" service, being secondary to the main full broadcast given by one of our rivals, was the poor relation. A line was run from the panel in the main broadcasting position, out of the window to where we stood and worked. I remember one occasion when good old Jack Sweet, doing the main broadcast for 6PM, took pity on Johnny and me standing in the rain without any shelter and passed us out his umbrella.

Not long after Johnny Loughridge asked me to carry on with the "round the grounds" job on my own, the service developed from pre-arranged times for a crossover, to having to monitor the line full time with crosses coming unexpectedly at any time during the game. This extension of the service propelled the "round the grounds" radio reporters from rank amateurs who rolled up to the microphone at designated times, to professionals who had to listen to the broadcast game at all times plus watch and report on the game they were attending.

The next expansion to the coverage was the addition of pre-match comments, quarter, half, and three quarter time summaries, final match summary, and voting for best players. Gone were the days of standing outside the main broadcast box in all weathers. We graduated to a set position on proper seating. At most grounds in the early days, we were adjacent to, if not entirely surrounded by, noisy supporters who made it difficult to hear the "cross" from the studio amidst the boos or cheers of the fans.

Games were only played on Saturday afternoons, the only variation being for Monday public holidays when the round would be split with two games on the Saturday afternoon and two games on the Monday afternoon.

6PR were the trendsetters and it wasn't long before all the other stations followed in establishing a "round the grounds" service. This had the effect of introducing many ex-players into the football media. In the early days there was little or no pay for the duties and we did it for the fun or the experience.

Oliver Drake-Brockman ran sport on 6PR from their studios in Hay Street, Perth. He was a natural broadcaster and sportscaster and was head and shoulders above anyone else in the industry. He had the wonderful ability at the microphone to cover any sport with consummate ease, to grasp the essentials, to overcome any obstacle and keep going without pause. His own background had been in football for Swan Districts, cricket and baseball.

At 6PR, he covered all sporting events of importance often travelling interstate if he thought it was warranted. Certainly he covered the football matches whenever the WA side travelled east. He covered athletics, rowing, tennis, boxing, yachting, anything at all, and did it well. Not for him the extended reference library and reams of paperwork, he carried most of it in his head and had the ability to sort out the important from the dross.

6IX football commentators Frank Sparrow and Neil Garland compare notes.

Oliver's co-commentator for the football was Frank Sparrow who had had a distinguished football career both as an East Perth and state player. He had coached Swan Districts and West Perth as a player-coach. I knew him as a fierce competitor and opponent, a no nonsense player who would not back off in a tough situation. Frank's father, Val, had been a good player and umpire and also coached East Perth when I was playing. In fact, I had played against Frank in the Temperance League when I was about 11 or 12 years of age.

When Oliver left 6PR and went to 6WF, Frank Sparrow took over and asked me to try the commentary with him. I jumped at the chance and thus began a 30-year association with him.

Johnny Loughridge and I had tried a few commentaries before that. I remember one afternoon at East Fremantle Oval, we were sitting on a pine varnished box containing our portable battery driven equipment, alongside the boundary line, trying to get the feel of commentating. Our words were not going to air but simply into some recording device.

During the course of play, the ball came right at us and we had to dodge not only the ball but several bodies of players who charged towards us. The central umpire, Fred Woods, whom we knew quite well started shouting and blowing his whistle. He yelled, "Get back, right back, I won't restart this game until you get right off the arena!" I said, "Turn it up, Fred, it's only us, don't get carried away!"

More whistle blowing ensued as we tried to make a dignified retreat while spectators and players, frustrated by the hold up to the game, gave us their full derision. Humiliated in the extreme, that put an end to our afternoon's rehearsal. Down through the years Fred Woods and I had a laugh about this incident. I had played with Fred with Subiaco Police Boys, against him when he played a few games at East Perth, and with him when he tried out at West Perth. He became a first class umpire and then worked with me at 6IX and Channel 7.

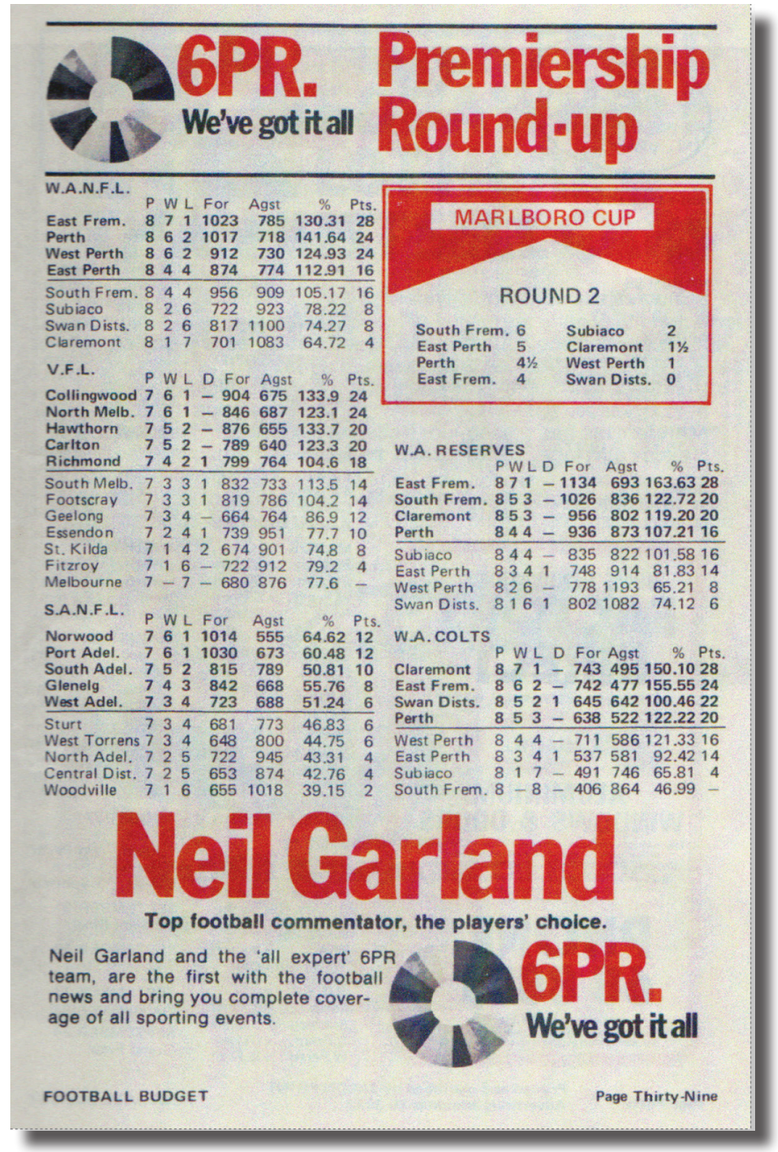
I took my new role as commentator for the main match quite seriously. There were eight teams in the competition and it became routine to study the name and number of each player. West Perth players were no problem because of my special interest in them. Others required a bit of study and perhaps a visit to watch them training.

After a while, I found that players are recognisable because of the way they run or walk, the way they kick, the way they stand or hold themselves. It is not possible to read their numbers unless they have their backs to you. Even so it is not possible to call correctly 100% of the time, but that was the aim. I felt badly if I had to correct myself more than two or three times during an afternoon. Right from the start I imagined that I was describing the match to a blind man, which of course was what we were doing. Years later, when doing a stint of television commentary, I marvelled at how much easier it was. Sometimes there is no need to describe at all... the picture tells the story.

Nowadays the commentators allow their allegiance for a particular club to peep through their remarks, especially on radio. I guarded against such an indulgence, sometimes being harsher in judgement against West Perth than their opponents.

After the game, Frank and I would race back to 6PR for the 6 o'clock news and sport. Frank headed for the studio while my job was to grab the green sports edition of the Daily News and take it to him so that he could read from it all the days sporting results other than horse races. If we had been at Fremantle Oval or Bassendean, it was a race to get back to the studio in time, often requiring daring and unorthodox driving tactics in the 6PR Volkswagen.

At 6.30pm, we continued on with a football show with a panel reviewing the day's matches. By about 7pm our job was done and we would adjourn to the Grosvenor Hotel for a few drinks. I cannot remember how much I was paid in the early days... not much I am sure. The payment for the panel show was a packet of Craven A cigarettes, a packet of Samboy potato chips, and a bottle of Valencia wine. These were the products of our sponsors. To make matters worse, the normal radio announcers invariably raided the wine cartons held in the store during the week, leaving a particularly nasty



6PR. We've got it all

Premiership Round-up

W.A.N.F.L.

	P	W	L	For	Agst	%	Pts.
East Frem.	8	7	1	1023	785	130.31	28
Perth	8	6	2	1017	718	141.64	24
West Perth	8	6	2	912	730	124.93	24
East Perth	8	4	4	874	774	112.91	16
South Frem.	8	4	4	956	909	105.17	16
Subiaco	8	2	6	722	923	78.22	8
Swan Dists.	8	2	6	817	1100	74.27	8
Claremont	8	1	7	701	1083	64.72	4

V.F.L.

	P	W	L	D	For	Agst	%	Pts.
Collingwood	7	6	1	–	904	675	133.9	24
North Melb.	7	6	1	–	846	687	123.1	24
Hawthorn	7	5	2	–	876	655	133.7	20
Carlton	7	5	2	–	789	640	123.3	20
Richmond	7	4	2	1	799	764	104.6	18
South Melb.	7	3	3	1	832	733	113.5	14
Footscray	7	3	3	1	819	786	104.2	14
Geelong	7	3	4	–	664	764	86.9	12
Essendon	7	2	4	1	739	951	77.7	10
St. Kilda	7	1	4	2	674	901	74.8	8
Fitzroy	7	1	6	–	722	912	79.2	4
Melbourne	7	–	7	–	680	876	77.6	–

S.A.N.F.L.

	P	W	L	For	Agst	%	Pts.
Norwood	7	6	1	1014	555	64.62	12
Port Adel.	7	6	1	1030	673	60.48	12
South Adel.	7	5	2	815	789	50.81	10
Glenelg	7	4	3	842	668	55.76	8
West Adel.	7	3	4	723	688	51.24	6
Sturt	7	3	4	681	773	46.83	6
West Torrens	7	3	4	648	800	44.75	6
North Adel.	7	2	5	722	945	43.31	4
Central Dist.	7	2	5	653	874	42.76	4
Woodville	7	1	6	655	1018	39.15	2

MARLBORO CUP

ROUND 2

South Frem.	6	Subiaco	2
East Perth	5	Claremont	1½
Perth	4½	West Perth	1
East Frem.	4	Swan Dists.	0

W.A. RESERVES

	P	W	L	D	For	Agst	%	Pts.
East Frem.	8	7	1	–	1134	693	163.63	28
South Frem.	8	5	3	–	1026	836	122.72	20
Claremont	8	5	3	–	956	802	119.20	20
Perth	8	4	4	–	936	873	107.21	16
Subiaco	8	4	4	–	835	822	101.58	16
East Perth	8	3	4	1	748	914	81.83	14
West Perth	8	2	6	–	778	1193	65.21	8
Swan Dists.	8	1	6	1	802	1082	74.12	6

W.A. COLTS

	P	W	L	D	For	Agst	%	Pts.
Claremont	8	7	1	–	743	495	150.10	28
East Frem.	8	6	2	–	742	477	155.55	24
Swan Dists.	8	5	2	1	645	642	100.46	22
Perth	8	5	3	–	638	522	122.22	20
West Perth	8	4	4	–	711	586	121.33	16
East Perth	8	3	4	1	537	581	92.42	14
Subiaco	8	1	7	–	491	746	65.81	4
South Frem.	8	–	8	–	406	864	46.99	–

Neil Garland

Top football commentator, the players' choice.

Neil Garland and the 'all expert' 6PR team, are the first with the football news and bring you complete coverage of all sporting events.

6PR. We've got it all

FOOTBALL BUDGET

Page Thirty-Nine

drop called Flor Sherry for the football panellists. Australians had not yet developed a palate for wine, so that all wine was known collectively as "plonk". I don't think you could dignify Flor Sherry by even calling it "plonk".

Some of the broadcasting positions taxed the patience but we were fairly philosophical about it and saw the job through. At Bassendean the broadcast position was at ground level. What the commentator sees are a lot of arms, legs and torsos at fairly close range. It is well nigh impossible to appreciate the tactics employed by either side. Still, our predecessors worked under those conditions very often so who were we to complain?

As soon as the final siren blew, we had a particularly busy time getting ready to give an overall match summary, pick best players and explain why, work out the premiership ladder, leading goalkickers, and progress scores for the various awards. You had to be on the ball, no slip-ups allowed!

A particular hazard at Bassendean before they built new premises for the media, was that, on the final siren,

The panel from Channel 9's Football Preview program featured (L-R) Cyril Casellas, Neil Garland as chair, Alan Killigrew and Clive Lewington

young people from teenagers down, rushed from all directions to crowd around us to listen to our match summary, best players and the rest of it. Being at ground level three or four metres from the boundary line we were fairly exposed to the rush of bodies who had gathered up a fair speed in their attempts to be first at our bench, some coming from the opposite part of the oval.

Frank was getting increasingly fed up with the vigorous intrusion of these spectators and, one particular day we saw the throng charging at us led by a rather large teenager well known to us as a regular participant in the dash to be first to arrive. Frank stretched out his arm and hand to fend him off and caught him in the upper chest and face and set him back on his heels crashing into the pack just behind him, at the same time Frank had continued broadcasting. Hi did not miss a word. There were no ill feelings after this incident and the mad dash continued in subsequent matches albeit with a bit more decorum.

At one time at Claremont Oval the grandstand was being rebuilt and we were forced to sit right in the middle of the supporters out in the open. It was disconcerting to say the least, to have people at your elbow listening to each uttered word. It is hard to concentrate and to resist the tendency to play up to the crowd.

One Saturday afternoon at Lathlain Oval we arrived in the 6PR Volkswagen with the technician whose job it was to plug in all the wires, set up the microphones and make sure that our broadcast was going to air. Frank and I used this time to stroll down to the players' rooms to have a chat to both teams. This helped us to get a feel for the impending contest, and gain knowledge about players which we could use in the match description or the pre-match lead up. Nowadays, commentators, even if they have the inclination to visit the players rooms, are prevented from doing so by club policy and secrecy. We sometimes gleaned information about a drama in a particular club or a "scoop" which we would have dearly loved to put to air, but such was our relationship with all the football clubs that we tried to check with the coach or administration to seek their permission. Several times we were asked to honour the promise of confidentiality and did so without question, despite knowing that we had a "scoop" on our hands.

We were freely admitted to all the WANFL clubs and invariably warmly welcomed. The only rooms we were literally thrown out of were the Victorian state sides. We could usually get into their rooms for a while until the coach spotted us. I remember David Parkin, the Victorian coach, asking, "Who are these people, throw them out!"

Getting back to that day at Lathlain, when we got back to the broadcast position we found the technician in a panic. The line was dead and no amount of checking and re-checking could rectify the problem. It turned out that the Postmaster General's Department, in today's terms a combination of Australia Post and Telstra, had forgotten to "patch" the line through to 6PR and being Saturday afternoon it would take about an hour to arrange.

We were resigned to having a rest for at least the first quarter of football but the thought of letting down thousands of our listeners weighed heavily upon us. Parked behind the grandstand was the bright blue Volkswagen with 6PR boldly painted over it. Suddenly the technician had a brainwave. Why not broadcast the game over the two way radio in the car. It would be worth a try!

"The only rooms we were literally thrown out of were the Victorian state sides"

First we had to get the car into a position where we could see the match. After much horn tooting and shouting, we manoeuvred the car into the crowded spectators to where we could see some, if not all of the oval. The two way radio was fairly primitive and a button on the microphone had to be pressed and kept pressed continually for the voice to be picked up at 6PR studios. This required a bit of juggling when handing over from

NEW TV TONIGHT

Pictured above, from left: Cyril Casellas, Neil Garland, Alan Killigrew, Clive Lewington

See the new Football Show at 10.30 tonight!

The season kicks off tonight on Big Chief Channel Nine, with a big, new Football Preview.

MEET THE PANEL

ALAN "KILLER" KILLIGREW (Chairman): Played for and was captain-coach of St. Kilda; won reputation as football dynamo as coach of Nth. Melbourne; recently coached Norwood (S.A.); newly appointed coach of Subiaco.

NEIL GARLAND: Former West Perth ruckman who played in 1940 and 1941 Premiership sides; after 4 years overseas returned to become prominent football commentator and panelist; now on Nine.

CLIVE LEWINGTON: Regarded as top centre man of his era; won Sandover Medal in that position in 1947; became captain-coach of South Fremantle.

CYRIL CASELLAS: Played over 100 games during four seasons as back man for Claremont; while in Melbourne signed up with South Melbourne; now a prominent football writer.

And every week there'll be a special guest from one of the eight league teams!

BIG CHIEF TELEVISION

Frank to myself and vice versa. There was no room to spread out papers or the football programme because we found that we had to stand outside the car and even then our vision was restricted. We battled on in the best traditions of pioneer radio for the first ten minutes or so before the technician realised that the car battery would be drained if we didn't have the motor running. So we started the car up and then had to keep a foot on the accelerator pedal. Meanwhile the technician had to keep running back to our proper broadcast position to check on the progress with the Postmaster General Department.

The intrepid commentators thus had one more thing to worry about. Standing outside the car with an extended foot on to the accelerator, juggling the microphone, trying to give a coherent broadcast of the game which we could only catch glimpses of, trying to record goals scored, prominent players, I am afraid that our standard was severely compromised.

Listeners, of course, are entitled to a first rate, top class coverage of the game. For us there was no use lamenting or making excuses, we had an obligation to do the very best that we could. To our profound relief, not far into the second quarter full facilities were restored and we were able to shift back to the grandstand and give a proper broadcast.

When I first started football commentating, we used a single microphone for the commentators. The "mike" had a short desk stand and remained stationery on the desk or table. I remember learning the technique to lean forward to the mike when dramatically lowering the voice to express the drama of a set shot at goal in a close game... or to lean back from the mike when getting excited when the voice got louder and louder with the game's excitement. Failure to do this meant that the technician had to adjust the controls up and down all afternoon. The technician at that time liked nothing better than to rock back in his chair and have the occasional snooze so he became our tutor in "microphone technique" hoping that he could have a peaceful and restful afternoon.

If I remember correctly, the commentators had no headsets and the technician signalled us when to start speaking. In the very early days, an announcer came to the game with us to read out commercials at the appropriate times, usually in a posh voice which all announcers possessed.

It was a huge advance when the headsets with a face microphone were introduced. We could ignore the microphone and move forward, backwards, left or right, up or down, without any worry. An automatic control in the studio prevented the blurring of sound through loud commentators becoming excited. It became more important to use the pitch of the voice to register drama and excitement rather than the voice volume which was effectively neutered.

By this time the commercials were read from the studio. Frank Sparrow and I continued as the main commentary team for 6PR right through to 1967. We enjoyed a lot of publicity through newspaper advertising, 6PR promotions which included our own

The early days of Ch7's World of Football. Panellists featured (L-R) Marty McDonnell, Steve Marsh, Mick Cronin and Jack Sheedy

football fixtures, and one season huge, possibly 15 feet by 10 feet billboards of each of us were mounted on the 6PR building facing Hay Street. The attempt at reproducing our photographic likenesses was not altogether successful but there was no mistaking who we were.

When one is caught up in a position of sporting prominence, quite often there is no attempt to keep memorabilia because one foolishly imagines that the situation will remain the same indefinitely. I should have at least taken a photograph of those billboards but it didn't enter my head to do so.

When the 1968 season was being prepared, I had an offer from Channel 9 to help run their football programmes. I left the radio scene with 6PR to take on the television job. My duties were to be a panellist on Friday nights while a leading radio personality, Lionel Lewis was to be the chairman of the panel.

On Saturdays I would do a ten minute commentary at a game for inclusion in Channel 9 news and then I would be chairman of the Saturday night panel. It didn't work out with Lionel Lewis who was a legend on radio where he brilliantly ad-libbed comedy "off the cuff". TV is much more structured with a floor manager and a producer running the programme to a strict timetable. At least that was how it was then. Lionel Lewis, talented as he was, did not fit the television world. I then became the front man of football for Channel 9.

In the early days of Ch9, it was a struggle to become established as a creditable rival to Ch7 which had several years start with no opposition from any other commercial channel. This meant that Ch7 had the expertise and the financial means to frustrate and block Ch9's efforts. Bob Mercer was Ch9 manager. He came from a radio background and had gathered around him some Perth radio people and Melbourne TV personalities such as Ron Blaskett and Denzil Howson. I remember that there was a strategy to put to air variety programmes with

1973 Friday Football Preview. Oliver Drake-Brockman, Brien Thirley (Chairman), Neil Garland, Bob Miller, Marty McDonnell standing at back

visiting Eastern States "stars" who flew in and out of Perth continually. To accommodate them on their fairly brief visits, pre-fabricated huts were erected in the Ch9 grounds at Tuart Hill. This strategy was costly and largely unsuccessful.

In particular with football, Ch7 planned to weaken and frustrate the newcomer at every turn. Top rating Ch7 programmes were moved to the same time slot as our fledgling football shows and we found that ex-players we wanted to use were already tied to Ch7 although hardly ever used by them. No stone was left unturned by Ch7 to make life extremely difficult for Ch9 as a whole which, of course, included any football coverage. From prime-time television our football panel show was moved to later times, going direct to air in each case. Later our shows were "in the can", meaning that they were pre-recorded.

Channel 7 had exclusive rights to televise all of the actual games so Ch9 was limited to panel shows. Ch9 was permitted to show small segments of a football game as part of their evening news and I would provide commentary for the short film.

My previous experience had been with radio, so it was a new learning curve to suddenly be fronting TV football shows straight to air, warts and all.

If I made a mistake, became tongue-tied, or just plain froze, then I alone had to overcome the difficulties and get on with it. No one could rescue me if I was the initiator. I remember that we were trying to create a pub scene at one stage, so that the football discussion around the matches played that day would be just like you would hear men talking in a pub. I would start the show on my own pulling the imaginary pot of beer from an English style pump lever.

Then I would saunter over to where the rest of the panel (group) sat in armchairs. Naturally, I was to talk to the cameras all the while that I pulled the beer. No one gave me a script, it was left to me to run the whole thing and say what I thought was appropriate. All the while I was to appear calm and relaxed and to be totally in control of the situation. Critics said that the show was too relaxed. I suppose they meant that it looked unstructured which it certainly was. I felt far from relaxed personally. Probably my singing experiences were the only thing that saved me from making a complete fool of myself.

Some of the ideas for our football show were quite innovative but it was clear that all involved were feeling their way and lacking firm direction from full time television people. The only professionals were the floor manager and the cameramen. The director and producer were journalists or ex radio announcers. We all tried our best in the very early days of Ch9 although I am glad that home VCRs were still in the future so that I am not embarrassed by being able now to see how amateurish our efforts were. Some of those working with me were Alan "Killer" Killigrew from Victoria, who coached Subiaco for a time, Clive Lewington (ex South Fremantle player), Charlie Skehan (ex Perth player), Lindsay Johnston, (Swan Districts and umpire) and Cyril Casellas (The West Australian newspaper). The producer was Alan McIntosh, and Peter Conroy, who I think was sales manager for Ch9, and Norm Manners were advising in a managerial capacity. None of us had experience with football on TV.

In July 1968 I was transferred to Canberra in employment and so I left the football media in Perth. It turned out that the only commercial television station in Canberra was embarking on an Australian Rules football panel show and two of my old team mates from West Perth were panellists. Both Don Scott and Brian Falconer had played in the VFL before being transferred to Canberra in the public service. Bearing in mind that rugby League was the strongest football code in Canberra at the time, the Australian Rules panel show was short of resources and went through all the same teething problems we had at Ch9.

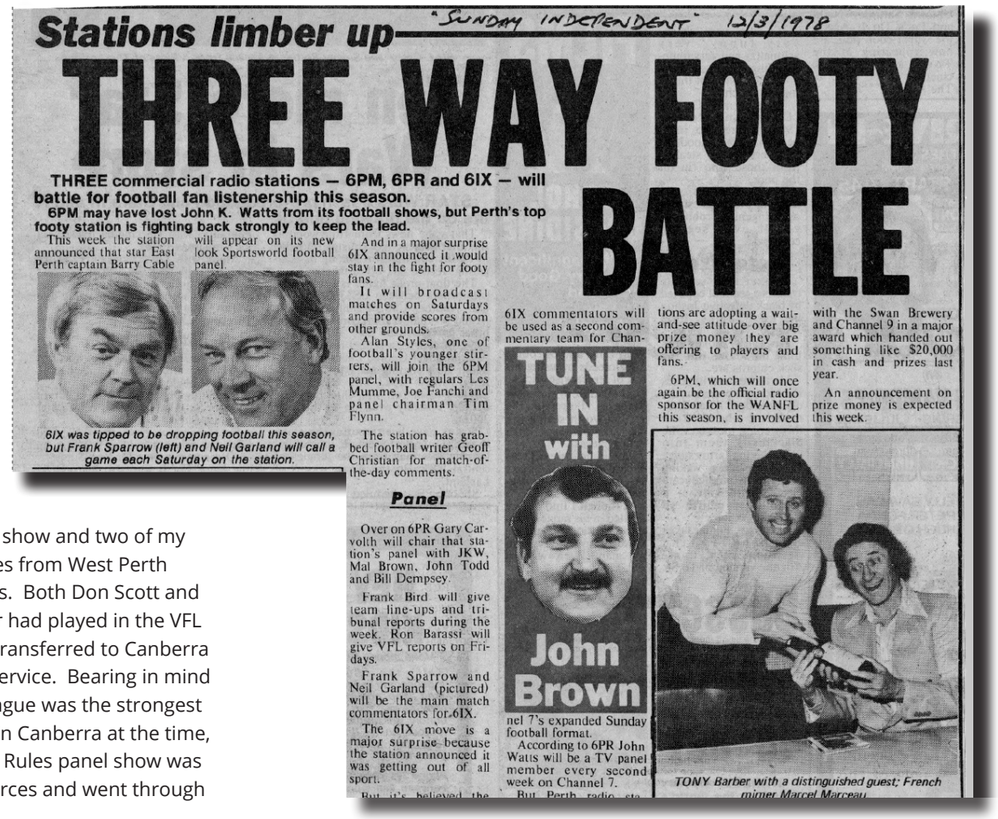
I also found that my old colleague from Austria, Tom McKernan, was a radio football commentator in Canberra, however I was not tempted to try to get into the media during our fairly brief stay in the nation's capital.

When we came back from Canberra in January 1970, I was flat out in my job and did not give a thought to football commentating. I am not sure whether it was 1970 or 1971 that Frank Sparrow, now working with 6IX, asked me to join him once again as the commentary team. I accepted and thus began several happy years in football there.

Firstly we worked from 6IX studios at 38 Mounts Bay Road, part of the West Australian Newspaper complex. The newspaper owned 6IX and the manager, John Hunn had been a WA Newspaper employee. The first manager of Ch7, Jim Crothers, later Sir James, had been at the Daily News which was owned by WA Newspapers. So the newspaper was heavily involved in both radio and television, owning both radio 6IX and Ch7. When the new Ch7 studios were built at Tuart Hill, 6IX moved there also. To us, working at 6IX, there was an interweaving of interests and personnel and I found myself on Ch7 from time to time as well as 6IX.

Frank was the chairman of Ch7's World of Football which was a top rating Sunday show. One season, I forget which, but possibly 1973, the WANFL had a disagreement with Ch7 and the Sunday television show was suspended. 6IX radio took over the Sunday timeslot which incorporated a talk back section. As well as the Saturday commentary and the Saturday evening panel, I was involved with the Sunday talk back programme, and a Friday evening football preview. I had not been involved with Ch7 World of Football.

Conditions at the new 6IX studios were infinitely better than previously.


Stations limber up

"SUNDAY INDEPENDENT" 12/3/1978

THREE WAY FOOTY BATTLE

THREE commercial radio stations — 6PM, 6PR and 6IX — will battle for football fan listenership this season.

6PM may have lost John K. Watts from its football shows, but Perth's top footy station is fighting back strongly to keep the lead.

This week the station announced that star East Perth captain Barry Cable will appear on its new look Sportsworld football panel.

6IX was tipped to be dropping football this season, but Frank Sparrow (left) and Neil Garland will call a game each Saturday on the station.

And in a major surprise 6IX announced it would stay in the fight for footy fans.

It will broadcast matches on Saturdays and provide scores from other grounds.

Alan Styles, one of football's younger stirrers, will join the 6PM panel, with regulars Les Mumme, Joe Fanchi and panel chairman Tim Flynn.

The station has grabbed football writer Geoff Christian for match-of-the-day comments.

Panel

Over on 6PR Gary Carvolth will chair that station's panel with JKW, Mal Brown, John Todd and Bill Dempsey.

Frank Bird will give team line-ups and tribunal reports during the week. Ron Barassi will give VFL reports on Fridays.

Frank Sparrow and Neil Garland (pictured) will be the main match commentators for 6IX.

The 6IX move is a major surprise because the station announced it was getting out of all sport.

6IX commentators will be used as a second commentary team for Channel 7's expanded Sunday football format.

According to 6PR John Watts will be a TV panel member every second week on Channel 7.

TUNE IN with John Brown

tions are adopting a wait-and-see attitude over big prize money they are offering to players and fans.

6PM, which will once again be the official radio sponsor for the WANFL this season, is involved with the Swan Brewery and Channel 9 in a major award which handed out something like $20,000 in cash and prizes last year.

An announcement on prize money is expected this week.

TONY Barber with a distinguished guest: French mimer Marcel Marceau

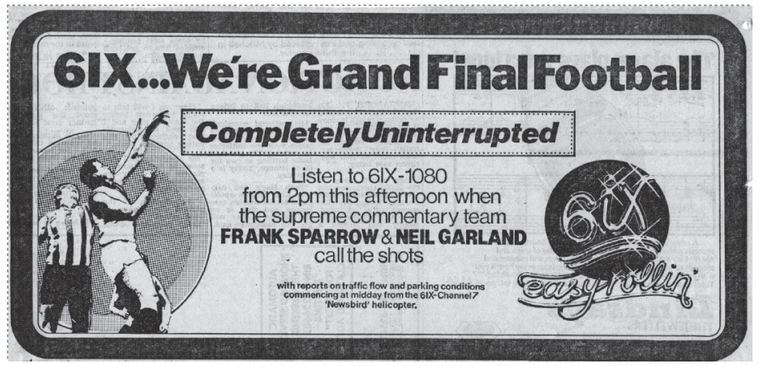
At Mounts Bay Road talk back radio was in its infancy and I can remember taking a listener's call on a single head piece (one ear) while another of the panel had the other ear piece. Other panellists heard nothing. We didn't complain at these hardships but got on with it as best we could.

Talk back radio at the new studios at Tuart Hill was easy from the technical stand point, the only one feeling the pressure was the producer who ran the whole programme from an adjoining studio, visible to us through a glass window. One of the main concerns for the producer was that the calls may be libellous, objectionable, drunken or may use unacceptable language.

In order to prevent such a call from going to air, there was a 7 second delay from the caller's actual voice to the broadcast of it. The producer therefore could abort the call before the offending portion was broadcast. Often Harry Kelly's finger hovered over the button trying to decide whether the caller was about to cross the boundary and potentially drag 6IX into the law courts or place the broadcasting license in jeopardy.

I called the 1973 grand final for television and I suppose that a few copies of the video would still be saved by avid Subiaco supporters. I was not satisfied with my coverage and made no attempt to obtain a copy. The television position was in the eastern part of the member's stand which restricted the view of the forward pocket at the Perth end of the ground. When the ball is in the forward pocket at any game, the play has reached a vital and exciting stage and much more so in a grand final. The camera view was unobstructed but mine was partially blocked by a wooden supporting beam. I was anxious from the start and I felt I had not done my best.

Frank Sparrow and I broadcast the Head of the River for 6PR one year. In those days college sport was important to the sporting public and the "inters" athletics, and "Head of the River"



rowing, were popular. We took up our positions in a tower on top of the Swan Brewery which was near the finishing line. Commentary for the start of the race and the early stages was from the 6PR car which moved along Mounts Bay Road abreast of the rowers. It then handed over to us when we had the rowers in sight. Sounds simple enough.

To prepare ourselves for the commentary, there was not a lot of study that we could do. Neither of us had any connection with rowing. Frank had not been a college boy and in my time at Wesley there had not been any rowing. By the time the commentary was handed over to us we could see oars flashing in the distance and then, in no time at all, the crews were fast approaching us then racing past us to the finishing line about one hundred yards further on. The interschool competition had not been expanded and only Hale, Guildford Grammar, Scotch and Aquinas, were involved.

We were handling the commentary with great difficulty, trying to accurately give the placings as they approached. About the only phrase we knew and consequently overused, was that one crew or another had "lifted its rating". When the field finally swept by our commentary position, it was neck and neck between the crews and what happened in the vital last 100 yards or so was little more than a mystery to us. It was traditional that the unofficial result was displayed to the waiting crowd by the raising to the mast of a yacht, the initials of the schools in order of their final placings.

I forget now which school actually won the Head of the River, but the

initials were placed in the wrong order. Blissfully unaware, and somewhat relieved that our job was over, we announced the placings on the yacht mast, packed up our gear and repaired to the Swan Brewery canteen for a few beers before going on to broadcast the football "Match of the Day". It must have been half time at the football that the news came down the line from 6PR studios that the official placings for the Head of the River did not support our broadcast. Much embarrassment followed. We were never asked to cover the rowing again.

I covered a night athletic meeting at Leederville Oval with Oliver Drake-Brockman where, because of the primitive lighting, the runners in the 440 yard distance event ran out of sight for about half of the arena... I needn't have worried. Oliver said, "I'll handle the dark part". Being the consummate sportscaster that he was, he didn't miss a beat although his visibility was zero and when they came into sight he was correctly calling the leading bunch. What a broadcaster he was! Nothing ever fazed him when it came to doing his job.

For some years we covered the Sandover Medal count on radio. Anything about football usually involved Frank and me. We were the first to give "uninterrupted coverage" which meant that commercials were not inserted during play. This limited the number of sponsors and meant higher charges for them. Because of our high ratings we were able to pull it off.

I should mention that I took part in countless discussion panels over the years. On Ch7 and Ch9, 6IX, 6PR, football clubs mainly West Perth and Swan Districts, hotels and taverns, and even in Barton's Mill jail and for sick and disabled people at Hollywood Hospital. We were sent to cover interstate matches in South Australia and Victoria and, to top it all off we broadcast the VFL grand final one in 1979.

To be sent over to Victoria to cover a VFL grand final when it would have

been easier, and less expensive to simply take a radio broadcast from a Melbourne station, was a feather in our cap. It was not without a little trauma however. Firstly, TV coverage was well into the future, so that the VFL players were unfamiliar to us which meant that much more study had to be given to the preparation. Secondly, the Melbourne Cricket Ground and its broadcast facilities were unknown to us.

We walked from our hotel down to the MCG which didn't look far on the map. Toting our suitcase full of equipment, it wasn't long before we were taking turns in lugging the load. On reaching the ground, we had to find the correct entrance and get into the member's stand, called the Grey-Smith Stand. This accomplished, we found our allotted broadcast position somewhat removed from the Melbourne commentators but that suited us fine. We were used to connecting up our wires in Western Australia where the procedure had become routine, but the myriad of wires at our broadcast position was a little daunting.

"To be sent over to Victoria to cover a VFL grand final... was a feather in our cap."

We asked for help from a technician working for a Melbourne radio station and at last we got music down the line and decided that there was plenty of time to have lunch at the member's dining room. Lunch over and still with plenty of time, we had a quick look at the cricket museum and then back to prepare for the broadcast. On went our earphones and we started to call 6IX down the line. It is not unusual for no one to be listening so we were not too perturbed, blaming the two hour time difference for their inattention. All the time we could hear music in the headphones.

As time passed we began having a few qualms about 6IX. I was getting a bit suspicious about the type of music which didn't sound much like "middle of the road" 6IX.

Using the initiative he was renowned for, Frank persuaded a Melbourne commentator to let him use his phone and rang 6IX, who were in a panic trying to contact us. While he was away the music was interrupted by an announcer who informed all his listeners that they were tuned to Bendigo. With the help, again, of our friendly technician, we were able to select the correct wires out of what looked like a bunch of spaghetti hanging out of the wall. What a relief to hear Alan de Mello, 6IX come down the line and to get on with our pre-match broadcast commitments which we completed just before the teams took the field. The shame of making a

"SUNDAY TIMES" 26/4/1987

Footy will never be the same again

By JIM POLLARD

THE transition to a national football league has saddened many fans of the WA Football League, and none less than football commentator Neil Garland.

Radio 6IX's veteran commentator is an avowed supporter of the local code.

It's not surprising really, considering the game has been a major part of his life for more than three decades.

After seven highly-successful seasons as a player with West Perth and the State team just after the war, Garland began a broadcasting career which has spanned about 26 years.

Now 61, he has covered more than 750 league matches for radio or TV and rates as one of WA's most experienced football commentators.

Only his former partner, the highly-regarded Frank Sparrow, has covered more WAFL matches (by just a few seasons).

"The WAFL will never ever be what it was," he said this week, his mind in sombre comtemplation of better days – the good ol' days.

"The footballers are finding it difficult now, because of smaller crowds. A big crowd lifts a player and the game. The players respond.

"But there seems a lot of football on these days – over four days last weekend. Maybe the sponsors have their reasons, but it seems over-exposed.

"The national football league will be the big thing. Football purists will always go to see the best.

"Yes, the downgrading of the WAFL does sadden me greatly. These clubs have been an institution for years.

"There are people at each who have given a lifetime of service – 50 years of their lives some of them – without any glamor."

He rattles off a list of names of coaches, assistants and club trainers – holding on to each name just briefly, as if adding weight to their contribution over the years.

They conjure up images of a dozen, different craggy faces – an old Falcons supporter, a Tigers gate attendant, each with a beanie and scarf showing their club's colors.

"But," he continued, "we really had to do it (join the national league). The VFL would have decimated us anyway.

"The clubs are in a state of discomfort now. They have been drained of talent.

"It is an uncomfortable stage of readjustment. They are not enjoying playing second fiddle.

"But there is great resilience in the WAFL. I went to the West Perth-South Fremantle game last weekend and there were young players there who will be excellent players in the future.

"It gave me a big kick to see that. We still seem to be able to produce individual stars."

Garland works as an investment advisor for Wheeler, Grace and Pierucci in Kings Park Rd.

But his advice to football followers in WA is not to expect too much from the Eagles. He thinks they will find it hard to make the final five, though he would love to be proved wrong.

"The game has changed these days. The tempo is quicker and handball is used an awful lot more than it was back when I played. In those days you only handballed if you were in trouble.

"The game has become a lot messier too – the way they throw themselves on the ground to kill the play.

A lot has changed, too, in football broadcasting. Garland recalls: "We used to just stand in the crowd at first, doing score-checks.

"Then we had a fixed microphone which you leant into. We even did the commercials – and would throw in a few more if the person was a friend.

"But facilities have improved out of sight. I once had to cover a game at Lathlain Park back in the 60s from a car by the ground.

"The PMG hadn't connected the line and we had to broadcast through the car's two-way. We had to have the accelerator going to keep the battery from going flat.

"I wouldn't say it was one of the best broadcasts we ever did!"

Garland reckons it will take the WAFL about two years to adjust to the new status quo – then another shadow looms on the horizon.

"When they have a second WA side the national league, it will have an even bigger effect on the game here because one of the teams will be playing in Perth every week.

"Let's just say it's cause for nostalgic regret. It's a new scene now."

National league saddens stalwart

□ LEFT: Thirty-seven years ago Neil Garland (top left) was a proud member of the WA team. BELOW: Though he hung up his boots many years ago, he has been commentating on radio and TV for about 26 years.

hash of things after being sent all that way and then to botch the broadcast was just too much to contemplate.

In 1988, 6IX decided to get out of sport which included football. This decision was taken by their management which itself was constantly changing. Over the years that we had been associated with them, there had often been suggestions that it should become a music station and this time they meant it.

During the off season, Frank and I received an offer from ex-6IX people who had taken over the 6IX operation in Bunbury. Renamed Radio West, they wished to broadcast football live from Perth. For the next two seasons we broadcast together until I finally decided to call it a day. For some time I had found it difficult to recognise the players as quickly as I once could. Little did I realise that I was having the first signs of cataracts. With the general play becoming quicker I sensed problems in the future. Neither of us had ever used binoculars. Perhaps they would have been a help but I never seriously considered using them, preferring to bow out gracefully.

Frank Sparrow continued to call football, eventually back at 6PR. He died in 2001 not long after the new broadcasting area at Subiaco Oval was named after him.

I look back now with joy and satisfaction for my part in 30 years involvement in the football media.

I made many friends and acquaintances and was treated with respect by all the football clubs I dealt with. I possibly covered over 700 matches in all which includes night matches at the Claremont Showgrounds, matches at Bunbury, and country carnivals at Subiaco Oval.

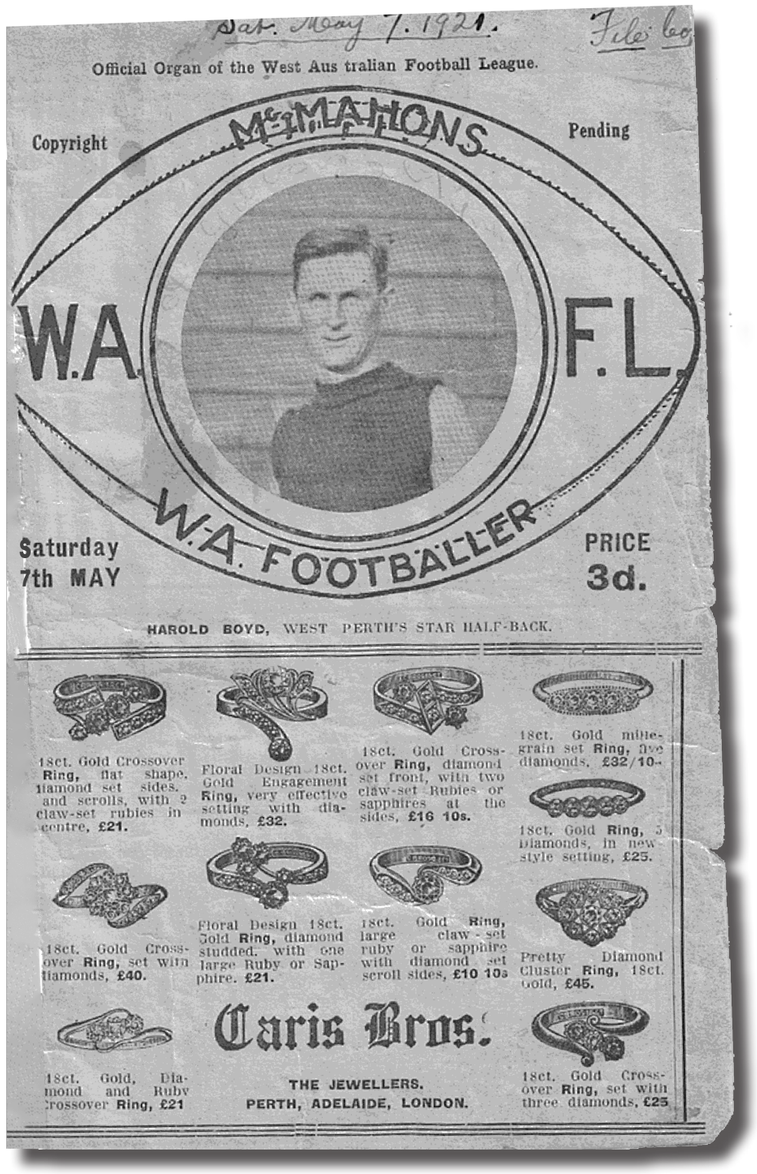
The main ones were WAFL games which went on week in and week out during the football season on Saturdays and Monday public holidays.

Neil Garland

From the Vault The first Football Budget

7th May 1921

Round one of the 1921 season marked the launch of WA Footballer, later to become the Football Budget. An official publication of the West Australian Football League, the paper's scribes professed to devotion "to the spreading the good word where it concerns football..."



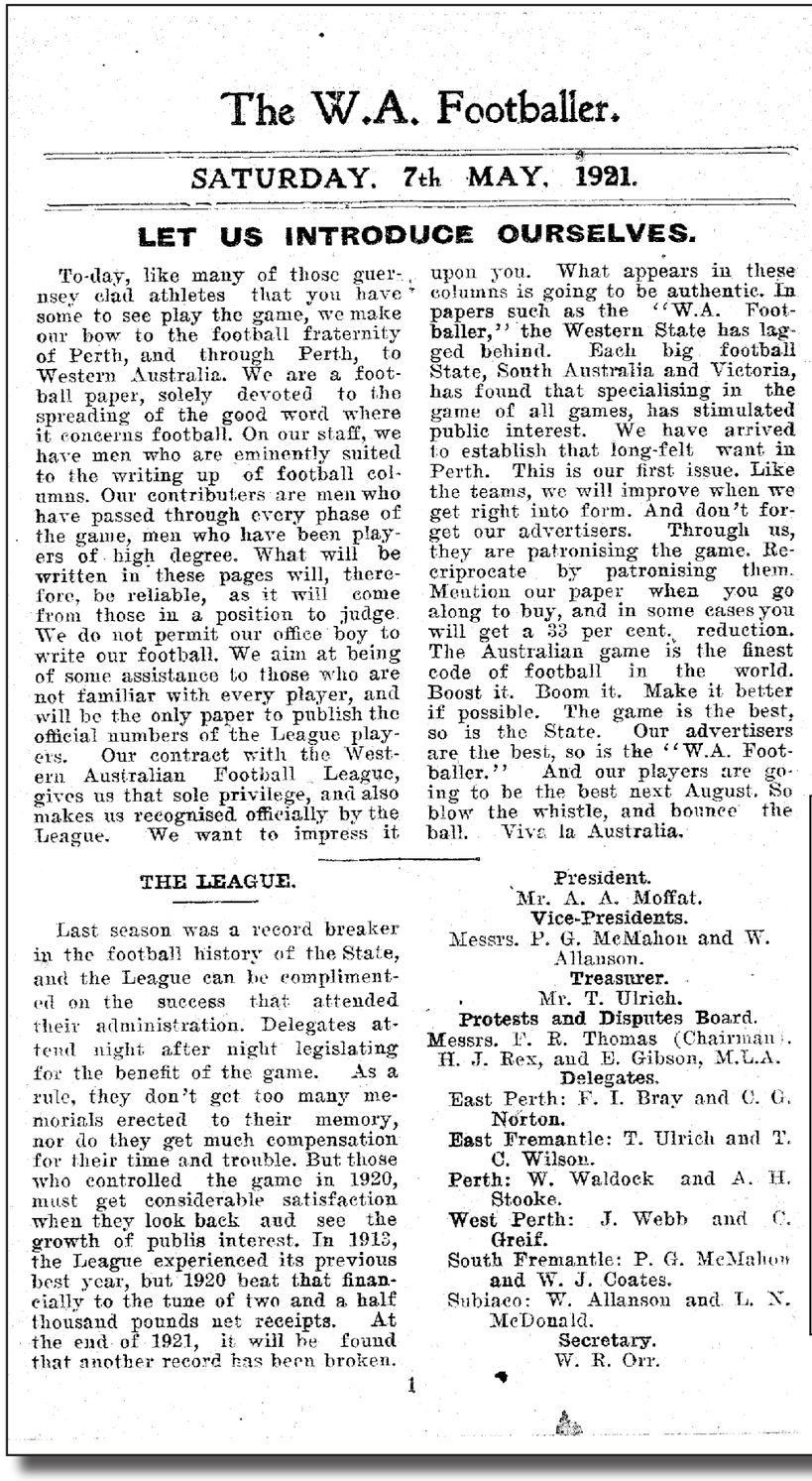
Front cover of the first football budget, 7th May 1921

"Our contributors are men who have passed through every phase of the game, men who have been players of high degree. What will be written in these pages will, therefore, be reliable, as it will come from those in a position to judge. We do not permit our office boy to write our football."

Fittingly, West Perth's Harold Boyd, who a year later was to win the Sandover Medal, was pictured on the front cover as one of the competition's football stars. One of Harold's teammates in this round was Barney Sheedy, father of Jack, a new recruit from East Fremantle. Barney was described as a "veritable tiger of the play", attributes he seemingly passed onto young Jack. Barney spent three seasons at Leederville, notching 46 games and booting 54 goals before returning to his old club, East Fremantle. In 1921, Barney was an important member of the Western Australian team that won the national carnival, held in Perth. This was the fourth national football carnival and the first to be won by WA.

Also in this 1921 team was Jim Craig. Jim was awarded the 1927 Sandover Medal, playing 203 games in a career spanning the 1918 to 1931 seasons.

The WAFL competition in 1921 comprised just six teams, with Swan Districts and Claremont yet to enter. West Perth finished third on the ladder winning seven of 15 games (plus a draw), bundled out of premiership contention in the preliminary final by eventual premiers, East Perth. This was the third premiership for "Young Easts" in as many years and they were to win again in 1922 and 1923. For West Perth, well, it was to be a long wait... our next flag wouldn't be flying until 1932.



The W.A. Footballer.

SATURDAY. 7th MAY. 1921.

LET US INTRODUCE OURSELVES.

To-day, like many of those guernsey clad athletes that you have some to see play the game, we make our bow to the football fraternity of Perth, and through Perth, to Western Australia. We are a football paper, solely devoted to the spreading of the good word where it concerns football. On our staff, we have men who are eminently suited to the writing up of football columns. Our contributers are men who have passed through every phase of the game, men who have been players of high degree. What will be written in these pages will, therefore, be reliable, as it will come from those in a position to judge. We do not permit our office boy to write our football. We aim at being of some assistance to those who are not familiar with every player, and will be the only paper to publish the official numbers of the League players. Our contract with the Western Australian Football League, gives us that sole privilege, and also makes us recognised officially by the League. We want to impress it upon you. What appears in these columns is going to be authentic. In papers such as the "W.A. Footballer," the Western State has lagged behind. Each big football State, South Australia and Victoria, has found that specialising in the game of all games, has stimulated public interest. We have arrived to establish that long-felt want in Perth. This is our first issue. Like the teams, we will improve when we get right into form. And don't forget our advertisers. Through us, they are patronising the game. Reciprocate by patronising them. Mention our paper when you go along to buy, and in some cases you will get a 33 per cent. reduction. The Australian game is the finest code of football in the world. Boost it. Boom it. Make it better if possible. The game is the best, so is the State. Our advertisers are the best, so is the "W.A. Footballer." And our players are going to be the best next August. So blow the whistle, and bounce the ball. Viva la Australia.

THE LEAGUE.

Last season was a record breaker in the football history of the State, and the League can be complimented on the success that attended their administration. Delegates attend night after night legislating for the benefit of the game. As a rule, they don't get too many memorials erected to their memory, nor do they get much compensation for their time and trouble. But those who controlled the game in 1920, must get considerable satisfaction when they look back and see the growth of publis interest. In 1913, the League experienced its previous best year, but 1920 beat that financially to the tune of two and a half thousand pounds net receipts. At the end of 1921, it will be found that another record has been broken.

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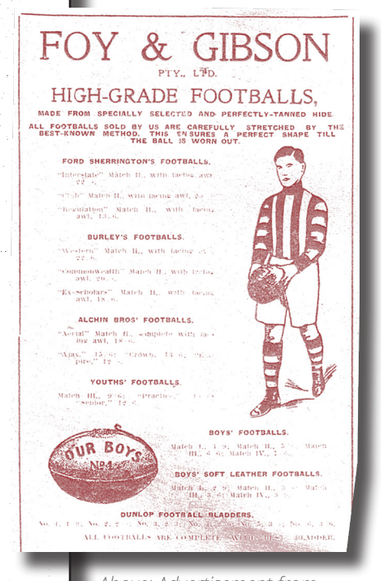
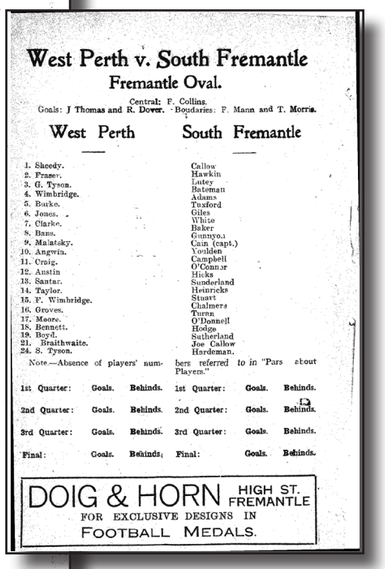
Mr. A. A. Moffat.
Vice-Presidents.
Messrs. P. G. McMahon and W. Allanson.
Treasurer.
Mr. T. Ulrich.
Protests and Disputes Board.
Messrs. F. R. Thomas (Chairman), H. J. Rex, and E. Gibson, M.L.A.
Delegates.
East Perth: F. I. Bray and C. G. Norton.
East Fremantle: T. Ulrich and T. C. Wilson.
Perth: W. Waldock and A. H. Stooke.
West Perth: J. Webb and C. Greif.
South Fremantle: P. G. McMahon and W. J. Coates.
Subiaco: W. Allanson and L. N. McDonald.
Secretary.
W. R. Orr.

1



Above: Advertisement from first WA football budget



Team lists

Above: Inside cover of first WA football budget

Future Past Player Michael Mallard

Michael Mallard joined the senior playing group having graduated from Colts at the end of last season. HeartBeat caught up with Mike to see how he's finding it.

Michael Mallard

Can you tell us a little about your junior career and pathway to West Perth?

I began my junior career at Quinn's Districts Football Club and played with them from Auskick through to Year 7 before moving to Wanneroo Football Club. I was first involved at West Perth when I was invited to join the Year 9 development squad, building my way into Colts where I played for three years. I'm now playing senior footy at West Perth, in the Reserves.

Most players have people around them who have significantly influenced their football. Who are yours?

My Dad. He is the guy I always go to for an opinion on how I'm playing my footy. He also helps me a lot by driving me to games.

Who were your football heroes growing up?

Dad made me watch North Melbourne play a lot while I was a kid and so grew up loving watching Boomer Harvey play and Daniel Wells.

You played your first game of senior football in the Reserves team in Round 2 this season. How have you found the transition from Colts to club's senior football programme?

I feel it has gone reasonably smoothly. I was lucky enough on a few occasions last season to be invited to train with the senior boys and I think this helped me get used to the new training level.

What do you do when you're not playing or training?

I'm a police cadet... I started my cadetship earlier this year. I had a fair bit of interest in getting into this line of work.

What are some of your early career highlights so far?

A couple highlights would be state honours in the 16's and the 18's. It was great playing games wearing the swan on the jumper.

And challenges you've had to overcome?

I don't like I have too many challenges just yet. I've been lucky with injuries and so there hasn't been a lot to keep me off the track.

What routine have you adopted to ensure you'll be ready to go when the season commences?

For me, I just looked to stick to the program I'd been given, trust the process and use my time to get better.

Can you share your football aspirations with us? What objectives would you like to achieve?

I'd love to play football at the highest level of footy longer term but in the short term I really would like to push to play at League level soon.

From the Vault The Friday Football Panels

Several of Perth's commercial radio stations held WAFL round preview shows across metropolitan pubs through the 1970s and 1980s, with these typically broadcast on a Saturday morning... a terrific mix of football and humour...

These shows were also often run at the WAFL clubs. This photo was taken at Leederville on the eve of the 1976 WAFL premiership season. It features Graham Farmer, Ray Cribb, Tim Flynn, Joe Fanchi and John K Watts. HeartBeat hasn't been able to locate any other photos from this day however it is highly likely the West Perth member's area would have been full of revellers.

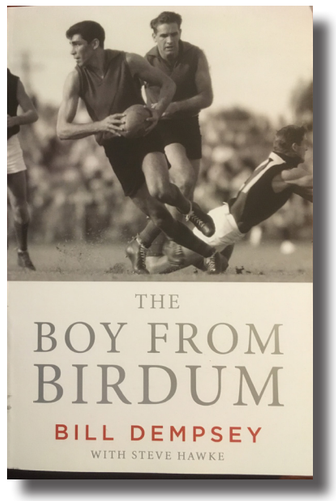
For the record, West Perth's premiership defence got off to a rather shaky start the following day. Hosting the Royals, the Cardies were soundly beaten by East Perth, to the tune of 85 points. It would be round four before the club registered a win. The Cardinals would go on to finish the season in fourth position, bowing out in the first semi-final to eventual premiers, Perth.

Bill Dempsey's book

The three events held to promote the launching of '*The Boy From Birdum*' have been resounding successes with 1,800 books having been sold.

The book is a great read. Bill and Steve Hawke have collaborated to tell some wonderful stories about Bill and his adventures.

For those who have not yet purchased books and would like to do so, they are available at the West Perth Football Club.



Saluting the 1901 Premiership Team

By 1901, our club was beginning to make a habit of winning premierships. Victors in 1897 and 1899, the 1901 season produced its third flag in five years in what was a growing local football competition. Perth had joined in 1899 and in 1901 the (at that time) WA Football Association admitted Subiaco and North Fremantle. For the first time, there were six teams.

The season began with a 12 point loss to Perth in a game played on the Esplanade. A perceived clash in team colours led to the WAFA asking Perth to wear a sash on their jumpers when playing West Perth in order to avoid confusion. The club's next loss was in round nine against third placed East Fremantle at the WACA ground. With a strong crowd in attendance and West Perth atop the ladder, the three goal loss was largely put down to the team playing out the game with 16 men. Rheumatic fever, a knee injury, sickness, work absences and a hangover explain the loss. Another loss the following week, this time by seven points to South Fremantle at Fremantle Oval, was the team's final defeat for the year.

West Perth won twelve of their fifteen games for the season, finishing two games clear of East Fremantle to claim the premiership in a competition that was yet to incorporate finals football. Finals series were played for the first time in 1904.

Front row: *Horace Wilmshurst, Jack Morphett, Alec Orr*
Second row: *George Jones, Frank Allen, Jimmy Melbourne, Thomas McNamara, William Plunkett (captain), William Cross, B Stephenson, S Smith, George Lawrence*
Third row: *Daniel O'Brien, Jack Russell, L Daly, Jack Cullen, Joseph Barnett, Fred Strickland, Bert Hunt, Les Jones, William Cleland*
Back row: *W Pickup, Reg Abell, unknown, A Gordon, E Scott, E Hanley, Barney Grecian, unknown*

Remember when...The umpires went on strike?

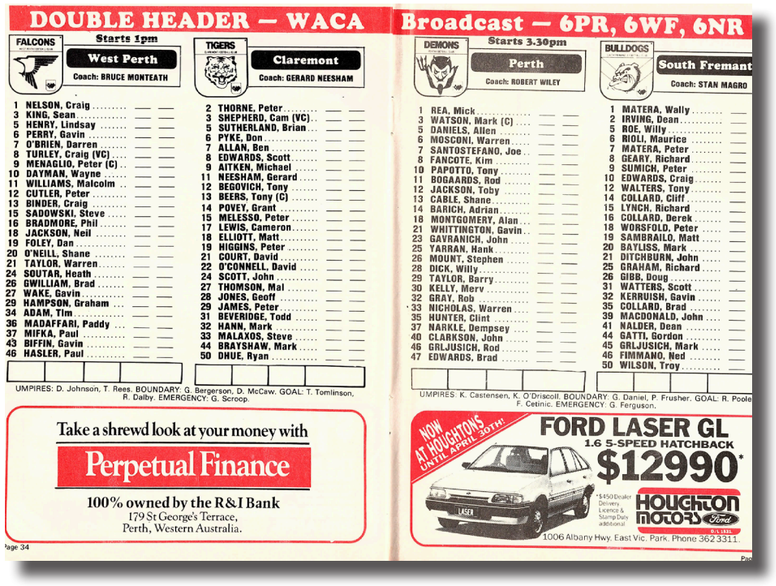
It was ANZAC Day 1988, Kylie Minogue couldn't believe she was so lucky, and Bill Medley and Jennifer Warnes were having the time of their lives at the top of the music charts.

Shayne O'Neill was feeling a bit the same way after booting six goals on debut for the Falcons against his former club, Claremont. In a double header played at the WACA in front of 9,000 spectators, Shayne's goal kicking effort was instrumental in the Falcons' 30 point win over the reigning premiers. The Tigers were captain-coached by Gerard Neesham who was playing his 200th senior game.

The round four match had some controversy to it, and resulted in WAFL chief, Peter Cummiskey, issuing a warning to umpires, players and coaches to improve their performances after a weekend of football marred by brawls and hits behind the play. He also advertised all umpiring positions vacant, calling for new applications.

Five days earlier, the WAFL umpires had gone on strike, refusing to officiate games at the weekend in protest at the WAFL's decision to revert to just one umpire for Colts fixtures. The West Perth - Claremont game was umpired by former South Fremantle champion, Noel Carter and David Fletcher who had previously only umpired junior football. Ron Alexander and Greg Brehaut officiated in other senior WAFL games.

Aside from Westside Football (overleaf), there are few photos to emerge from this game. We've included however a selection of Football Budget covers and photos from the 1986, 1987 and 1988 seasons featuring many of the West Perth players prominent in this game and across those seasons.



DOUBLE HEADER — WACA

Broadcast — 6PR, 6WF, 6NR

FALCONS — Starts 1pm — **West Perth** — Coach: BRUCE MONTEATH

1	NELSON, Craig	
3	KING, Sean	
5	HENRY, Lindsay	
6	PERRY, Gavin	
7	O'BRIEN, Darren	
8	TURLEY, Craig (VC)	
9	MENAGLIO, Peter (C)	
10	DAYMAN, Wayne	
11	WILLIAMS, Malcolm	
12	CUTLER, Peter	
13	BINDER, Craig	
15	SADOWSKI, Steve	
16	BRADMORE, Phil	
18	JACKSON, Neil	
19	FOLEY, Dan	
20	O'NEILL, Shane	
21	TAYLOR, Warren	
24	SOUTAR, Heath	
26	GWILLIAM, Brad	
27	WAKE, Gavin	
29	HAMPSON, Graham	
34	ADAM, Tim	
36	MADAFFARI, Paddy	
37	MIFKA, Paul	
43	BIFFIN, Gavin	
46	HASLER, Paul	

TIGERS — **Claremont** — Coach: GERARD NEESHAM

2	THORNE, Peter	
3	SHEPHERD, Cam (VC)	
5	SUTHERLAND, Brian	
6	PYKE, Don	
7	ALLAN, Ben	
8	EDWARDS, Scott	
9	AITKEN, Michael	
11	NEESHAM, Gerard	
12	BEGOVICH, Tony	
13	BEERS, Tony (C)	
14	POVEY, Grant	
15	MELESSO, Peter	
17	LEWIS, Cameron	
18	ELLIOTT, Matt	
19	HIGGINS, Peter	
21	COURT, David	
22	O'CONNELL, David	
24	SCOTT, John	
27	THOMSON, Mal	
28	JONES, Geoff	
29	JAMES, Peter	
31	BEVERIDGE, Todd	
32	HANN, Mark	
33	MALAXOS, Steve	
44	BRAYSHAW, Mark	
50	DHUE, Ryan	

UMPIRES: D. Johnson, T. Rees. BOUNDARY: G. Bergerson, D. McCaw. GOAL: T. Tomlinson, R. Dalby. EMERGENCY: G. Scroop.

DEMONS — Starts 3.30pm — **Perth** — Coach: ROBERT WILEY

1	REA, Mick	
3	WATSON, Mark (C)	
5	DANIELS, Allen	
6	MOSCONI, Warren	
7	SANTOSTEFANO, Joe	
8	FANCOTE, Kim	
10	PAPOTTO, Tony	
11	BOGAARDS, Rod	
12	JACKSON, Toby	
13	CABLE, Shane	
14	BARICH, Adrian	
18	MONTGOMERY, Alan	
21	WHITTINGTON, Gavin	
23	GAVRANICH, John	
25	YARRAN, Hank	
26	MOUNT, Stephen	
28	DICK, Willy	
29	TAYLOR, Barry	
30	KELLY, Merv	
32	GRAY, Rob	
33	NICHOLAS, Warren	
35	HUNTER, Clint	
37	NARKLE, Dempsey	
40	CLARKSON, John	
45	GRLJUSICH, Rod	
47	EDWARDS, Brad	

BULLDOGS — **South Fremant** — Coach: STAN MAGRO

1	MATERA, Wally	
2	IRVING, Dean	
5	ROE, Willy	
6	RIOLI, Maurice	
7	MATERA, Peter	
8	GEARY, Richard	
9	SUMICH, Peter	
10	EDWARDS, Craig	
12	WALTERS, Tony	
14	COLLARD, Cliff	
15	LYNCH, Richard	
16	COLLARD, Derek	
18	WORSFOLD, Peter	
19	SAMBRAILO, Matt	
20	BAYLISS, Mark	
21	DITCHBURN, John	
25	GRAHAM, Richard	
26	GIBB, Doug	
31	WATTERS, Scott	
32	KERRUISH, Gavin	
35	COLLARD, Brad	
39	MACDONALD, John	
41	NALDER, Dean	
44	GATTI, Gordon	
45	GRLJUSICH, Mark	
46	FIMMANO, Ned	
50	WILSON, Troy	

UMPIRES: K. Castensen, K. O'Driscoll. BOUNDARY: G. Daniel, P. Frusher. GOAL: R. Poole, F. Cetinic. EMERGENCY: G. Ferguson.

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Goals

West Perth — Shayne O'Neill (6), Dan Foley (4), Peter Menaglio (3), Paddy Madaffari (3), Lindsay Henry (1), Heath Soutar (1), Gavin Wake (1), Gavin Biffin (1)

Claremont — Ben Allan (3), Mark Brayshaw (3), Peter Melesso (3), Don Pyke (2), David O'Connell (2), Brian Sutherland (2), Mal Thomson (1)

Best players

West Perth — Peter Menaglio, Darren O'Brien, Dan Foley, Sean King, Craig Turley, Paul Mifka

Claremont — Ben Allan, Brian Sutherland, Tony Begovich, Cam Lewis, Peter Melesso, Mark Brayshaw

Umpires

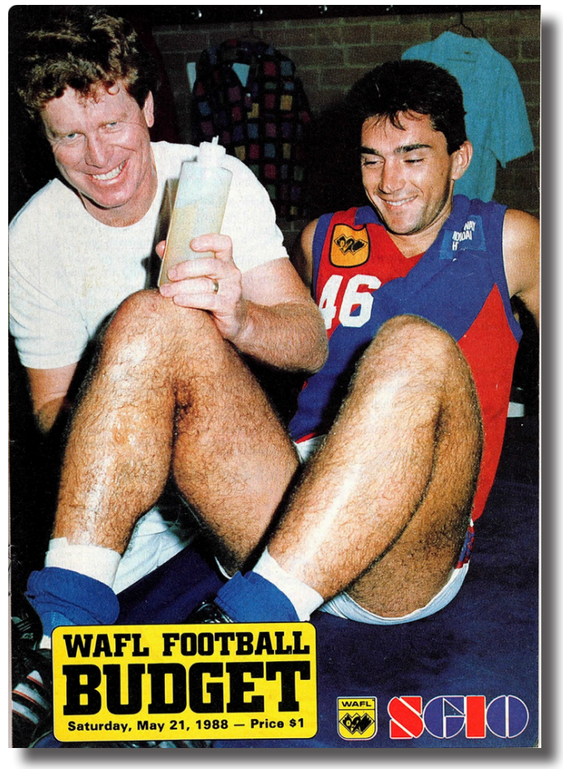
Noel Carter, David Fletcher

Attendance

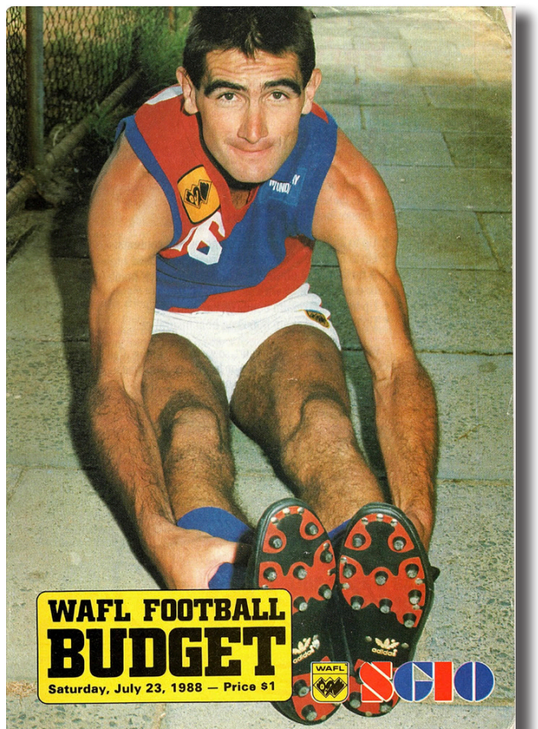
Approx. 9,000

Match Summary

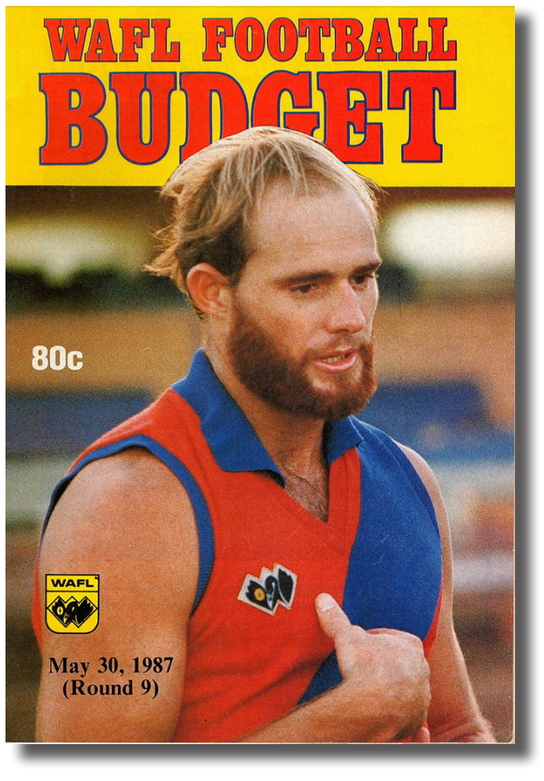
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total
West Perth	4.2	8.6	16.12	20.13	**133**
Claremont	3.3	9.5	11.5	16.7	**103**



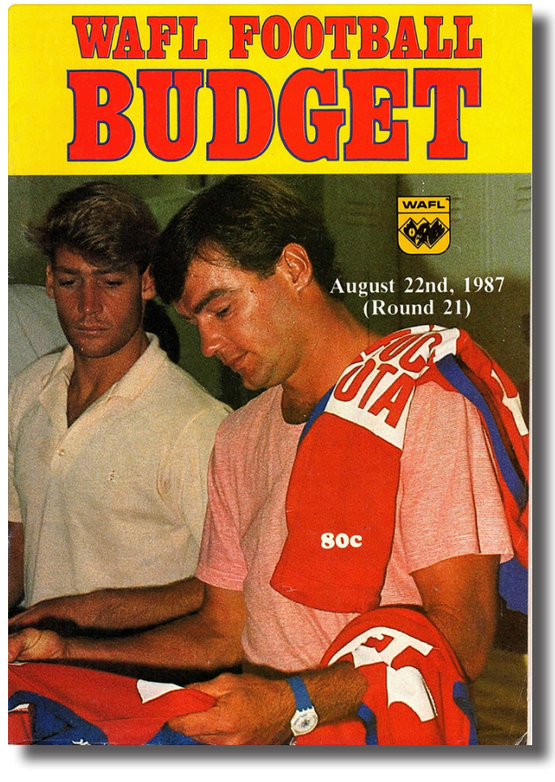
Trainer Merv Schloss with Paul Hasler



Phil Bradmore

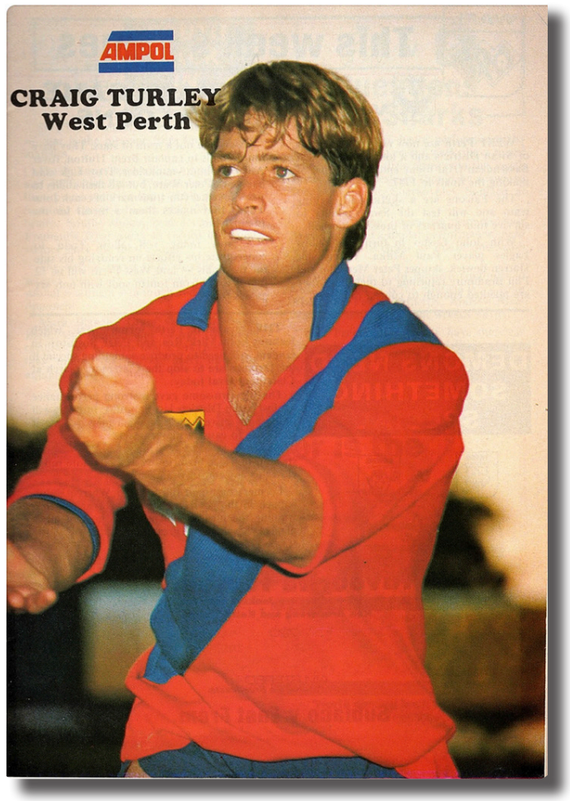


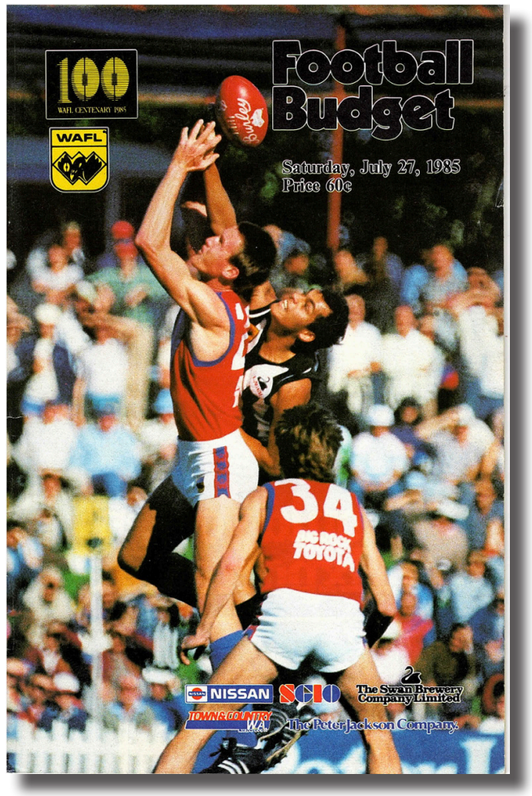
Craig Nelson



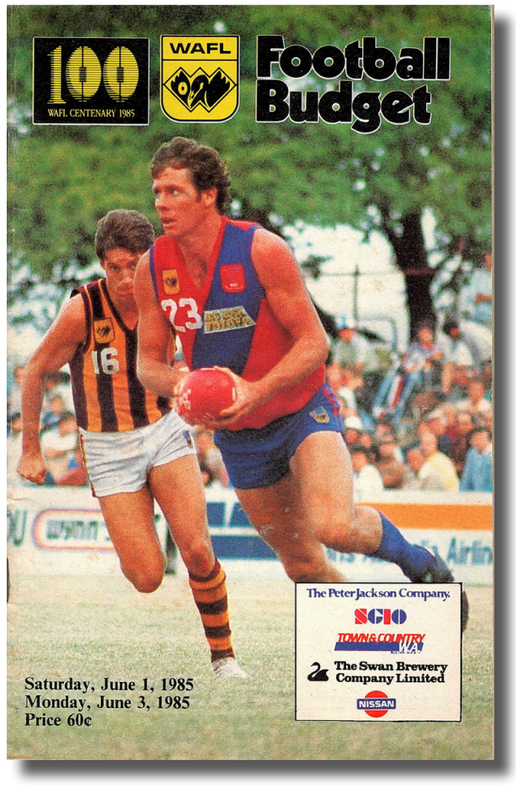
Craig Turley and Brendan Bell

does YOUR HEART beat true?

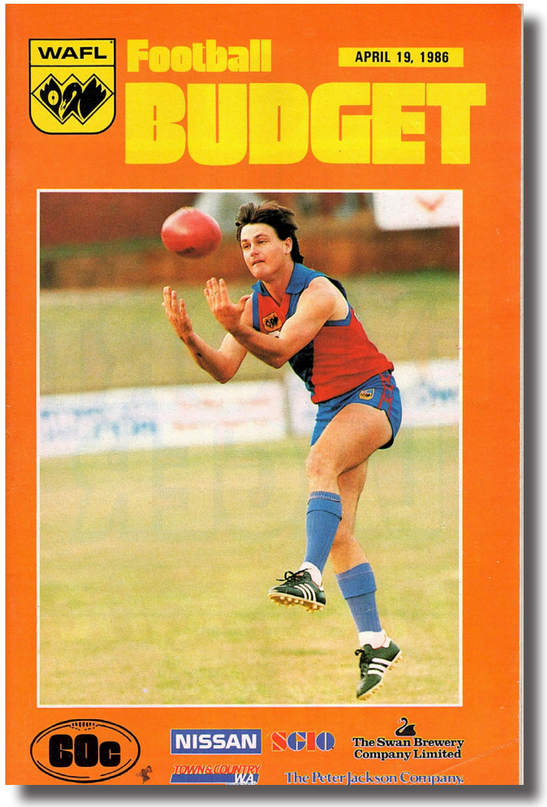




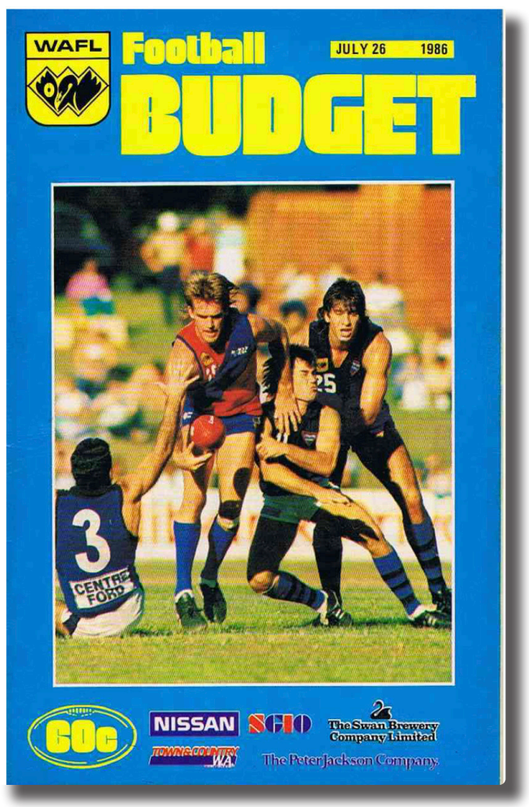
Mark Stephens and Dani Laidley



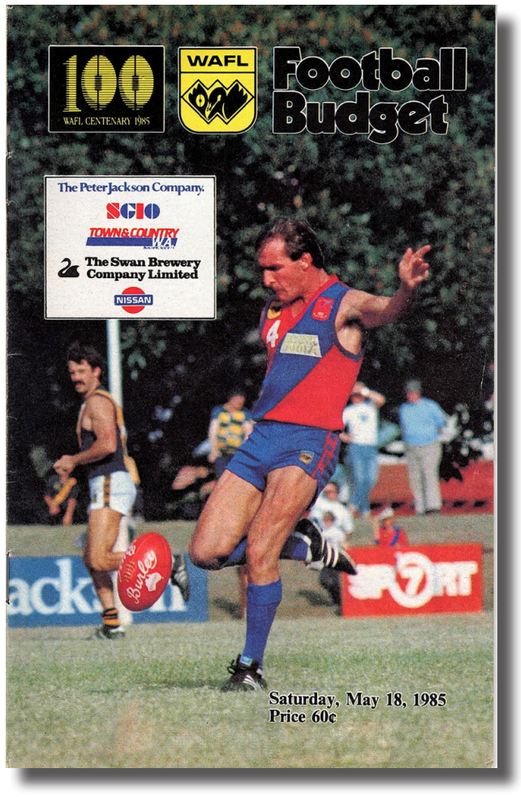
Kim Rogers



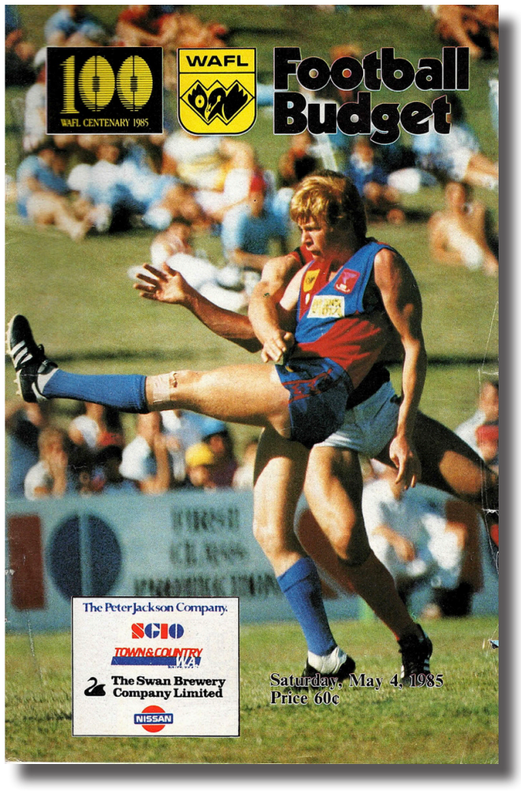
Gavin Chaplin



Dan Foley



George Michalczyk



Darren Bewick

The day the players took over!

BIG Ron Alexander on the side of the umpires! If you said that five years ago, football fans would have laughed at you.

But on Monday the former East Perth, Fitzroy and East Fremantle toughman was in the thick of the action, this time as an umpire refereeing the fisticuffs.

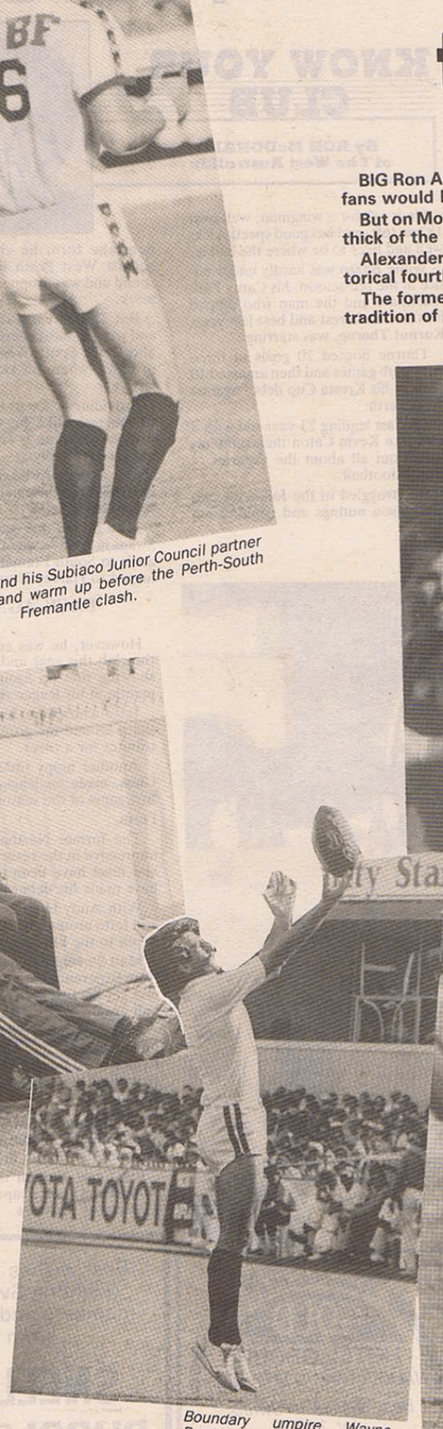
Alexander was one of several past players who replaced the striking umpires in an historical fourth round of WAFL football.

The former footballers, junior council and country umpires did a fine job in the finest tradition of the game must go on.

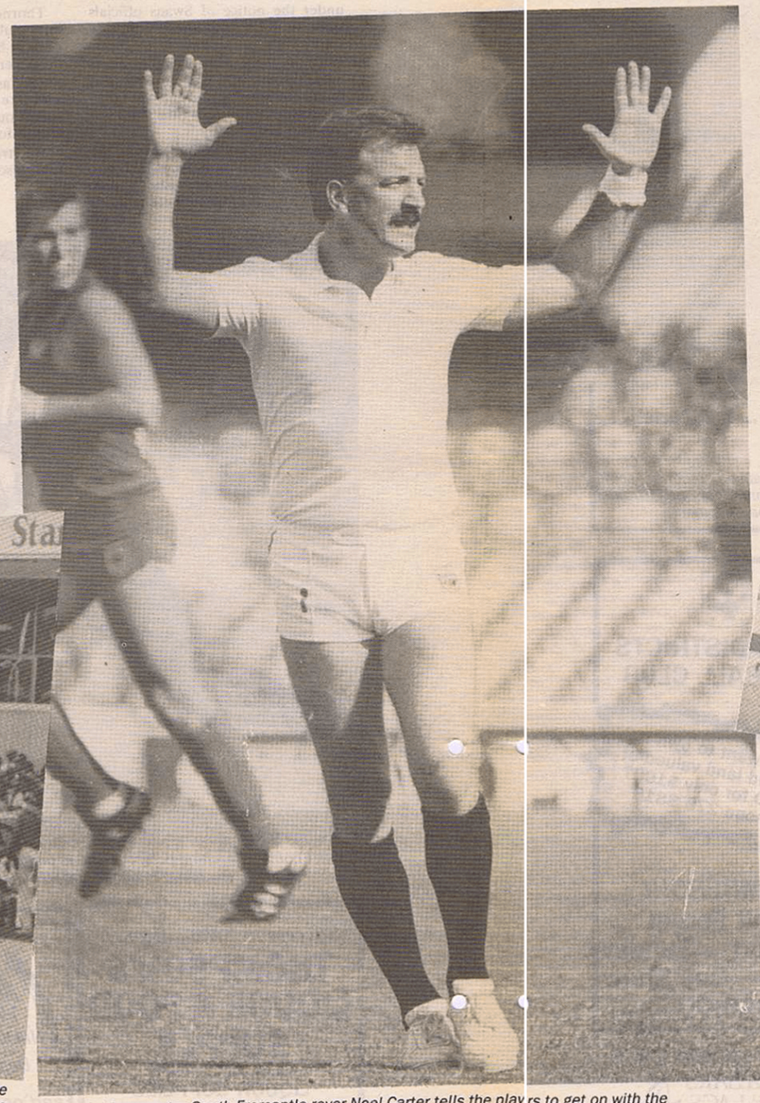
Ron Alexander and his Subiaco Junior Council partner Darren McPartland warm up before the Perth-South Fremantle clash.

Big Ron Alexander towers over the players as he tries to break up an ugly melee.

Sitting on the bench were three former football faces from the past — (from left) boundary umpire Andy Hocking, who returned to the game after 17 years, Umpires Board member Bryan Cousins and former Perth and East Perth star John McGuire, who was an emergency umpire.



Boundary umpire Wayne Bradshaw looks like he's done this before.



Former star South Fremantle rover Noel Carter tells the players to get on with the game.

David Fletcher, from junior ranks, holds the ball aloft to start the West Perth-Claremont clash.

David Fletcher signals a mark, watched by Noel Carter with West Perth wingman Sean King in the background.

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Obituaries

We are saddened to report the passing of these players in recent times.

Fred Buttsworth
1927 - 2021

One of our club's finest.

Wally Price
1926 - 2021

One of our great clubmen.

Edwin James "Eddie" Trevaskis
1933 - 2020

Eddie Trevaskis played one game for our club in 1957. A plumber from Tuart Hill when he played, he moved to Ballidu as a storekeeper in the mid-1960s and then to Bridgetown in about 1970 where he was a mechanic and operated a school bus run. He retained his interest in football and was heavily involved in the local football club (Bridgetown Bulldogs).

Terry O'Dea
1945 - 2021

Terry (or "Datesy" as he was known to his mates) was a much heralded junior footballer from Mount Hawthorn who arrived at West Perth in 1961 as a 16 year old, following his brother, Danny who had played four games for our club across the 1954 and 1955 seasons. Terry played his first senior game in a round four 1965 win over South Fremantle at Leederville, playing just six games before suffering a knee injury that was to end his career. He played his last game for West Perth in round 15 of that 1965 season. While undergoing treatment for his injury, Terry began playing darts in the club's members' area.

Success is his new sport soon followed, initially in local pubs before he was goaded into registering for the Australian darts championships. Terry ultimately qualified for ten consecutive World Darts Championships between 1979 and 1988, advancing as far as the quarter finals in 1982 and 1986. He also made the quarter finals of the World Masters in 1984, one of darts' most prestigious events. Terry can be seen in action on YouTube, just type 'Terry O'Dea' darts player

Kenneth Roy "Lizard" Porter
1935 - 2020

Lizard played the first of his 179 games for our club in round 17 of the 1954 season. A fine ruckman and gifted athlete, he quickly settled into senior football and at the age of 18 was one of our club's best in the 1954 preliminary final loss to eventual premiers, South Fremantle. Lizard was awarded the club's best and fairest in 1956 (with 43 votes, 19 ahead of runner-up Ray Schofield) and he was a member of the 1960

premiership team, kicking three goals in the decider. In 1958, Lizard was chosen to represent Western Australia at the national carnival in Melbourne. He played two games for his state, including one against Victoria in a meritorious 19 point loss on the MCG. Lizard's final game for West Perth was in round 20 of the 1964 season, against Perth at Lathlain. He had played 175 games and booted 145 goals.

When Lizard's playing days ended, he continued as a servant of our club. He was runner for Polly Farmer, a selector on match committee, board member and club vice president. His direct involvement came to an end in 1991. He was subsequently a regular spectator at West Perth games and frequently attended Cardies Coffee Club.

Trevor Schofield
1931 - 2021

Trevor debuted for our club in round one of the 1951 season. A classy rover and dangerous goal kicker when he was resting in the forward pocket, he was one of the best afield in our 1951

premiership team, booting three goals. He was the club's leading goal kicker in 1956 with 43 goals. Trevor was selected to represent Western Australia against South Australia at Subiaco in 1952 and was listed among the best players, helping the home team overcome a five goal three quarter time deficit to win by two points. He played 144 games (285 goals) for West Perth and played out his final season in the WAFL at Claremont where he played a further 19 games (37 goals).

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Pictured: Terry Stokesbury [left], A.M. (Mel) Whinnen M.B.E. [right] with audiologist, Brad Hutchinson [centre]

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Acknowledgments

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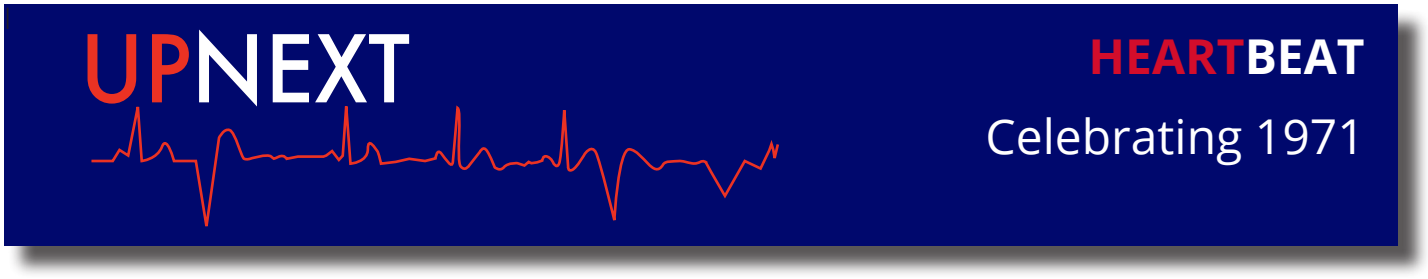
Upcoming Events

Saturday, 17 July 2021
Ladies Day

Saturday, 14 August 2021
President's luncheon
Remembering the 1971 premiership

Friday, 27 August 2021
Celebrate the Victories Night
Tuscany Association of WA
6.30pm @ 100 Jones Street, Stirling