



HONOURING
THE PAST

2020 ANNUAL REPORT





2020 is one for the history books. In this unforgettable year, our community's health has been our primary concern, and much was re-imagined. On the field our players adapted to hub-life and overcame a disrupted year to play in an historic AFL Grand Final. Whilst we didn't get the result we wanted on the field, off the field the Club has adapted to take on all of the year's challenges. In the Honouring the Past area we continued to pursue our vision to preserve and promote the Club's history and connecting our people. We recognise the hard work that many have contributed to bring this history to the fore and recording history in the making.

– Bob Gartland, Honouring the Past Committee Chair

STRATEGIC PLAN

CONNECTION WITH OUR PEOPLE

In 2020 we have continued to honour, recognise and engage with our past players and community. At the beginning of the year we co-hosted the Past Players BBQ in the Players Garden with the Past Players & Officials Association. On a balmy February evening we welcomed more than 100 guests including over 30 past players and their families. This would be our only 'in-person' event for the year. To keep in touch with our past players, all players over the age of 70 were called. In September we held our first virtual event for our past players, Life Members, Hall of Famers, Legends and RJ Hickey recipients. The event hosted by Ray Card and Barry Stoneham saw 30 alumni tune in to hear from Brian Cook and Harry Taylor reporting from the Gold Coast hub.



7 debut boxes presented to debutant senior players across the men's and women's teams



375 History Society members

PRESERVE AND PROMOTE

In 2020 we continued our commitment to preserving the Club's history and promoting it to our community. With the history making 2020 season, we have sought to build our memorabilia collection and record this time. Additions to the collection will include a hub crew photo, milestone guernseys, Harry Taylor's hub diary and photos of our AFLW players training at home. During this time we have ensured the protection of our memorabilia collection. The team has also commenced to create fact files on different subjects on the Club's history, drawing on the vast knowledge of our historians, Bob Gartland and Col Hutchinson. These will build on our existing website content ([Website](#)) and provide a wonderful resource for our staff and supporters.



6 History Society newsletters



Harry Taylor laid a wreath at the Remembrance Garden for Anzac Day and in November a Remembrance Days service was broadcast to pay tribute to our servicemen

VALE

In 2020 we sadly farewelled some Geelong greats with the passing of six past players.



JOHN HYDE

11·4·1930 – 26·3·2020

[Online Vale Article](#)

Dual premiership player John Hyde passed away 26 March 2020 aged 89 years. He was recruited from Portarlington and debuted for the Cats in 1948, playing 108 games from 1948-1954 in the number 16 guernsey. He won the Best and Fairest in 1950 and played in the 1951 and 1952 premierships. In 1955 John moved to the Western Australian Football League to coach/captain Claremont. John returned to Geelong and served on the Club committee for 21 years, serving as Vice-President 1972-1975. In 1961 John received Life Membership and was inducted into the Club's Hall of Fame in 2002.



GEOFF WILLIAMS OAM

18·11·1930 – 20·7·2020

[Online Vale Article](#)

Premiership player Geoff Williams passed away 20 July 2020 aged 89 years. Geoff played 121 games for the Cats between 1952 and 1959 wearing number 21. He won Best and Fairest in his debut year and again in 1955. A community minded man, Geoff helped found the YMCA Little League competition in Geelong. In 1959 he received Life Membership and was awarded the Reg Hickey Award for services to Australian football in 1984. In 2016 he received the Order of Australia for services to football and community.



BRUCE WEBB

27·11·1939 – 6·4·2020

Bruce was recruited from Beeac for the 1959 Season and played 4 senior games in 1960. He kicked 3 goals wearing the number 23 guernsey. He also played in the Reserve Grade from 1959-1961. He played a total of 24 Reserve Grade games including in the 1960 Reserve Grade Premiership team. Bruce was a lifelong supporter of the club and enjoyed watching the team and catching up with his past player friends.



HUGH ROUTLEY

19·6·1940 – 12·9·2020

[Online Vale Article](#)

Hugh Routley was recruited from Eaglehawk. He played 27 senior games at the club from 1959-1964, wearing guernsey number 29 (1959), 41 (1960) and 45 (1962-1964).

Hugh was known for his pace, ability to break away with the ball, willingness to chase and prevent opponents from easy kicks. He was part of the 1963 premiership, and also played in the Reserve Grade premiership team in 1964 .



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GARRY DAVIDSON

10·2·1954 – 26·11·2020

[Online Vale Article](#)

Past player and club administrator, Garry Davidson passed away 26 November 2020, aged 66 years. Recruited from Devonport, Garry played 30 games in the hoops from 1972-1974 wearing number 2. He also played 30 games in Reserves. After his retirement Garry would continue to play an important role in the football community across Australia. He was an important figure in Tasmanian football as a player, coach and administrator before serving as our club's Football Manager (1998-2006) and then relocating to Western Australia.



DAVID HINCHLIFFE

12·1·1939 – 27·9·2020

David Hinchliffe was recruited from the Geelong College where he was a talented sportsman. In his final year at school he Captained the 1st XVIII Football team and was a member of the 1st XI Cricket team.

In 1960 he played 3 games for Geelong Football Club wearing number 13. An allrounder, David played for the Geelong Amateurs and was a member of the Victorian Amateur Football Team. He played in the Newtown cricket team, who were the 1959-60 premiers. He was also selected as a bowler with Geelong's successful Country Week eleven.



AUDREY COPE

31·12·1935 – 21·8·2020

[Online Vale Article](#)

Audrey Cope was the captain of the club's first women's exhibition team in 1954. She was also involved in a number of sports and played for the Victorian Softball team, went to the World Series in Japan, and won a Victorian golfing Championship.

In 2019 Audrey spoke about her memories about the 1954 women's game. You can watch the interview [here](#).



SANDRA MCCALL

28·1·1952 – 26·10·2020

Sandra was a valued member of our Honouring the Past volunteer team. As a lifelong Cats supporter she brought a wealth of knowledge about the history of the Club.



HONOURING
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OUR PEOPLE

In 2020 the Honouring the Past Committee was reviewed. We thank Carly Flakemore and Kevin Diggerson for their service over the year and we welcome Dr Hugh Seward, Andrew Bews and Kevin Krastins to the committee.

Bob Gartland – Chair

Dr Hugh Seward – Director

Colin Hutchinson – Historian

Stephen Wells – Life member representative

Harry Taylor – Current player representative

Andrew Bews – Past player representative

Kevin Krastins – Honouring the Past Advisor

The Honouring the Past Volunteers have continued to work tirelessly during this disrupted year. They have ensured that this point in our history is preserved. We are grateful for their contributions.

Michael Auciello

Sandra McCall

Jeanie Morgan

Ron Morgan

Maria Pitaro

Judy Williams

Sarah Albon will continue as the Executive Lead of Honouring the Past. The unit will be managed with the incredible expertise of Caroline Stok and Jane Guthrey.





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