



# 2021 Annual Report





















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This publication is very important in documenting the yearly performance of the Werribee Football Club. The competition has been adversely affected by the worldwide pandemic and that is reflected in these pages. Let's hope 2022 is the start of a rich new history for our club and our supporters.





## From the President

WHILST the 2021 VFL season came to a premature end without a premiership awarded, it was a year where the WFC again came to the fore in showing true leadership in collaborative discussions with the AFL regarding the future direction of an expanded VFL competition, which ultimately became the largest and most expansive premier second tier competition ever seen.

In conjunction with our respected integral role within the wider football world, I am enormously proud of the camaraderie and tremendous resilience our club has displayed in the face of adversity, supporting each other and continuing to lay solid foundations for success both on and off the field in 2022 and beyond.

The enormity of the hurdles we faced were crystalised when one considers that throughout the COVID-19 seasons of 2020 and 2021, we only played a combined nine games, with uncertainty over income streams, employee tenure, and the social ramifications of lockdowns totalling 263 days in Victoria alone. Without a doubt this period of uncertainty was the most challenging in our 56-year history, but I fondly reflect upon how we responded as a club, from top down to bottom up.

Without wanting to highlight individuals that have gone over and beyond for fear of my report becoming "war and peace," I must make special mention of Mark Penaluna and his Executive Team, the football side of our organisation with Michael Barlow at the helm, the players, coaches, support staff, volunteers, sponsors, members, supporters and everyone within our club and community that has sacrificed time, sweat, tears and financial support to ensure their club would be there for them for seasons, decades and centuries to come.

On the achievement front, 2021 was an extremely fruitful year. Highlights included the further advancement in additional revenue streams, with Club Tarneit and Invicta progressing well, stability in the playing list, with our experienced leaders showing the way and pledging their support in the year ahead, definite improvements in the football and list management arenas and in social media, as well as Board additions with new directors bringing targeted skills. COVID-19 funding and grants received post strategic positioning, not to mention the further evolution of our club in a governance, compliance and professionalism sense.

The common denominator in all of the above is the influence and persistence of Mark Penaluna in driving these initiatives forward, and as we've said countless times throughout Mark's eighteen-year reign, he is the hardest working and most respected CEO in the VFL, without fear of contradiction. Accordingly, at the VFL/VFLW presentation night, Mark was awarded Life Membership, and I know how proud Mark and Narelle were. It truly was the crowning of his distinguished career in the VFL.

Now, on the year ahead, it is my pleasure to be able to give you a snapshot of the 2022 VFL season, one which will showcase 21 teams and 22 rounds in scheduled duration with 18 games to be played, 9 at home and three interstate trips that we look forward to navigating. Wisely, the VFL draw allows for four byes during the season, thereby mitigating the possible lingering effects of the pandemic to a degree, not to mention allowing WFC the time to recharge and reignite throughout the season.

Financially, I am extremely pleased to be able to report that in uncertain economic times we continue to be prudent and compliant, with the benefits of a year of COVID-19 experience, a slightly longer trading period at our prime revenue stream, ongoing support from our committed sponsor base, State Government subsidies and a limited nine game season resulting in the recording of a most commendable profit in 2021 of \$429,258, post a substantial loss of \$1,582,202 in 2020.

As I stated at our 2020 AGM, I implore all layers of our club to be mindful of the fact that the financial pressures of fielding a successful team in the VFL becomes increasingly difficult in every sense. Accordingly, in 2022 I strongly urge you to continue to support your club - our club - a strong stand-alone community football club, successfully competing in the VFL landscape against monoliths within the AFL. Whilst we are seen to be punching above our weight, we continue to embrace and lead change with gusto, cautiously optimistic of our long term prospects and success both on and off the field.

In 2022, our membership slogan is Remember, Rediscover and Renew, and I strongly believe we should add Rejoice to the mix, rejoicing in not only the connection we will once again experience on the terraces, barracking loudly, passionately and proudly for the Big W, but equally as important, the feeling of success as we strive to complete "unfinished business" as a united force!

2022 it's me and you, onwards and upwards, Big W!







## From the CEO

It almost goes without saying that 2021 was another year of frustration, not just from a VFL season perspective, but as a broader community.

After sacrificing so much in 2020, stakeholders at every level continued with diligence and relentless authenticity to support us and provided the Werribee Football Club (WFC) with the best opportunity to "bounce back" – emotionally and fiscally. There were many peaks and troughs in 2021 but I am as proud as ever for the continued opportunity to steer the club through these and believe we continue to grow and build WFC into a leading club in the VFL competition. When I look at the achievements and resilience exhibited in such a stop/start and difficult season, I can't help but feel amazed at the level of commitment of everyone involved in the club has shown.

I am incredibly proud to announce a profit of \$429k after depreciation and amortisation.

The Werribee Football Club Board - led by Martin Carter - should be congratulated for its tireless desire to ensure we remain at the forefront of State League clubs in Australia.

During 2021 our Football Department was led by Senior Coach Michael Barlow and Football Manager Mark Micallef, who both joined WFC only 3 months on from Round 1, 2021. Both worked tirelessly and brought new ideas. Michael, Mark and everybody associated within our football club should be buoyed by winning 5 of our 9 matches this year, including significant victories against Richmond and the Northern Bullants, given the difficulties the year presented. However, we remain committed to continuing our path of continuing improvement both on and off the field.



Following on from a tumultuous 2020, where unfortunately we were unable to participate in games, our players, coaches, medical staff, high performance team and others showed wonderful maturity, fearlessness, consideration and professionalism in 2021, and I would like to offer my sincere appreciation.

Unlike 2020, we were able to conduct the Bruce Montgomery Trophy (albeit remotely) with Matt Hanson becoming a 4 time winner! Matt, we are so fortunate that you continue to serve the WFC, especially at such an exceptional level.

I would also like to recognise Michael Sodomaco, who of course holds the record as our longest serving captain, and who played his 100th match in 2021, becoming a Life Member of our club. A fantastic achievement Michael!

We also welcomed new administration staff in 2021 with Genevieve Lamb replacing Deanne Musa as our Venue Manager, as well as, Justin Jenvey coming onboard as our Communications Manager. It is hard to imagine beginning a new position in more difficult times, yet both made outstanding contributions. I also would like to acknowledge Deanne for her service which continued in 2021 as a club volunteer.

I would also like to acknowledge office staff - Hamish MacInnes (Community Development Manager), Jodie Martin (Accounts), Kevin Hillier (Media and Marketing), Lisa Hogan (Accounts) and Mar Gattek (Diversity Officer). Thanks so much for another outstanding year, in incredibly tough times.

Also to members of the Tigers Clubhouse staff led by Rhys New and Tracey McDermott, thanks for your resilience over the past 2 years, an outstanding effort.

From a personal perspective I was delighted to launch our new joint business with Scott Graham and Jmara Hockley, that being Invicta. Of course, beginning such a venture during a pandemic is tough, but it is a wonderful concept and therefore we must exhaust every avenue to enable this to be successful. I am also proud to announce that after 4 years (2 during Covid) we received positive outcomes via VCGLR and VCAT regarding applications for our new entertainment venue Club Tarneit. Club Tarneit will become a wonderful asset to the club and will consist of a bistro (including alfresco dining), sports bar, three function rooms, gaming facilities, café, children playground and more.

Upon completion of my 18th year at Werribee Football Club, I wanted to personally thank everybody for your support, in particular our strong and loyal volunteers, who continue to serve our club and offer their services selflessly. I am thrilled that, despite disruptions, we have achieved major objectives like progression of our Club Tarneit strategy, fiscal diligence and continued member and sponsor engagement, to name just a few. I can't wait to work with you again in 2022.





## From the Coach

It was my 33rd Birthday on December 18th 2020 when Mark Penaluna called me to offer me the opportunity to coach the Werribee Football Club. This was one of the most humbling and exciting experiences of my preceding 33 years. My passion for the club, it's people and history had strengthened further in my return for the 2019 season. Learning under Mark "Choco" Williams across 2019 and the Covid interrupted 2020 season made it clear to me that coaching an aspirational group of players and staff was an opportunity I could not pass up!

2021, despite only producing nine home and away games, was one that provided further scaffolding for our club to build sustained success. We grew together through the stop/start nature of the season, allowing the playing, coaching, high-performance and football staff a stronger connection and understanding of each other.

The club's values of 'community, care and driven' are evident within the behaviours of our core playing group. The driven nature of this aspirational group is evident through the recommitment to season 2022. Michael Sodomaco, Tom Gribble, Matt Hanson, Dom Brew, Jack Henderson, Hudson Garoni, Joe Maishman, Louis Pinnuck, Nick Coughlan, Bior Malual, Kye Declase and Keegan Gray are names that continue to commit themselves to VFL level football in pursuit of team success and were unwavering in committing to 2022 and the Werribee Football Club.

Mark Micallef our Football Manager and myself hit the ground running in the early period of 2021, with a playing list and coaching group that had been solidified by the great work of Mark Williams and Stu Balloch prior to our arrival. Within two months of our official start date, we were competing in practice matches and readying ourselves for the season. The practice matches gave us an opportunity to look at new members of our playing squad such as Nick Hayes (from the SANFL), Wylie Buzza (from Port Adelaide AFL), Matt Lobbe for his first official season beyond 2020's Covid year and Shaun Mannagh (Richmond VFL). The mix of players and exposure through practice matches to VFL football gave us optimism of a competitive season despite the compressed preparation time within the role.

With a competitive first fortnight against Collingwood and the always admirable Williamstown, our players had shown the willingness to compete and bring supreme effort. Unfortunately, we finished both games on the wrong side of the scoreboard. The resilience of our group became very apparent in the following four matches, in which we had four winning results, highlighted by a victory against Richmond in Round 3 to celebrate club champion and captain Michael Sodomaco's 100th game. A couple of Covid interruptions along the way and we landed at a win-loss record of 5-4 as the curtain was eventually pulled on another disjointed year, not only in a footballing sense but a societal sense.



Huge credit must go to High Performance manager Scott Graham and his team, particularly Jmara Hockley-Samon, who ensured our strength and rehab programs were at an elite level for State League football. In an interrupted season, Scott and Jmara ensured the players were adequately physically prepared for the unknown and delivered their roles strongly. Scott and Jmara have been hard at work to ensure the football program is only strengthened for season 2022 as they continue their ongoing journeys in the sporting landscape.

The support, expertise and guidance of my coaching group in Tom Perrett, James Canale, Matthew Lobbe, Nick Daffy, Luke Gallaher, Wassim Rafihi and Nick Condos made my existence as a first-year coach a fulfilling one. Tom was unwavering in his delivery of content and feedback for the players. James and Lobbes challenged my thinking and were innovative in their ability to give us a competitive advantage. Daff was tremendous in his ability to know what lever to pull with me as a coach as well as a source of guidance for our young forward group – plus our leadership group – to prioritise being a competitive, aspirational VFL team. Wassim's enthusiasm and commitment to be a personable and connected member of our Werribee FC community is amazing. Luke had relocated from Queensland to chase an involvement in high level football and no task was too big or small for him to pursue ongoing improvement. Nick Condos has been around football for a long time and his ability to read feelings, emotions and particular situations was invaluable feedback for me at the right time.

Despite only playing the nine games, some notable individual performances from our players were apparent. Matt Hanson entered Werribee FC immortality with a 4th Bruce Montgomery trophy. Matt had a busy year, also welcoming son Henley into the world with partner Kat. Matt also made the VFL team of the year along with ruckman Matt Lobbe. Tom Gribble played his 100th VFL game and continued to show that he is a premier player in the competition.

We are excited to pursue a strong 2022 season. The players are at the core of this pursuit and it acts as great motivation for myself, other coaches and football staff to deliver on our roles and responsibilities. We have a commitment to this playing group and club to give individuals the opportunity to advance their football and personal lives, as well as pursue the thirst for finals football and the opportunity of what the 1993 Werribee Tigers achieved. Right now this is a nice thought and pursuit, however we are realistic in the work and connection required to give ourselves our best chance.

On a personal level, I would like to commend the Werribee FC board for its ability to navigate a challenging two seasons in the VFL program. Also, the support, guidance and trust of CEO Mark Penaluna and Football Manager Mark Micallef allows me to be my own person in this role. We have learned and grown a lot together in the season of 2021. This will give me my best chance to coach this great group of young men and club to it's potential in 2022.

See you all in black and gold in 2022.

### Michael Barlow - Senior Coach



























## 2021 VFL Ladder

POS	POS TEAM		W	L	D	В	FOR	AGST	%	PTS
1	Footscray Bulldogs	10	10	0	0	4	976	575	169.74	40
2	Southport	10	9	1	Ο	3	1162	643	180.72	36
3	Box Hill Hawks	10	8	2	Ο	2	1085	647	167.70	32
4	Geelong Cats	9	7	2	Ο	4	885	529	167.30	28
5	Casey Demons	9	7	2	Ο	5	818	491	166.60	28
6	GWS Giants	11	7	4	Ο	3	819	868	94.35	28
7	Williamstown	9	6	2	1	5	768	563	136.41	26
8	Frankston	11	6	5	Ο	3	903	870	103.79	24
9	Collingwood	9	6	3	Ο	4	684	738	92.68	24
10	Werribee	9	5	4	0	5	851	577	147.49	20
11	Richmond	10	4	5	1	5	822	795	103.40	18
12	Carlton	9	4	5	Ο	5	790	780	101.28	16
13	Sandringham	9	4	5	Ο	5	754	801	94.13	16
14	Gold Coast Suns	10	4	6	Ο	3	745	970	76.80	16
15	North Melbourne	10	4	6	Ο	3	578	1015	56.95	16
16	Coburg	10	3	7	Ο	3	773	813	95.08	12
17	Brisbane Lions	10	3	7	Ο	3	732	1114	65.71	12
18	Northern Bullants	10	3	7	Ο	4	618	987	62.61	12
19	Sydney Swans	10	2	8	Ο	3	721	811	88.90	8
20	Essendon Bombers	10	2	8	Ο	3	590	916	64.41	8
21	Aspley	10	1	9	0	3	806	1104	73.01	4
22	Port Melbourne	9	1	8	Ο	5	565	838	67.42	4





### 2021 VFL TEAM OF THE YEAR

B:	CHARLIE DEAN	JACK LESLIE	DAMIAN MASCITTIE
	Williamstown	Williamstown	Box Hill
НВ:	HAVEY COOPER	JACK MAIBAUM	JAMES PEATLING
	Port Melbourne	Coburg	GWS
C:	ELI TEMPLETON	JAI NEWCOMBE	NATHAN FREEMAN
	Port Melbourne	Box Hill	Frankston
HF:	JACKSON McLACHLAN	PETER McEVOY	JAMES PASONS
	Geelong	Coburg (C)	Carlton
F:	BEN CROCKER	MATT HAMMELMANN	VICENT ADDUCI
	Carlton	Aspley	Box Hill
R:	MATT LOBBE	JACOB DAWSON	ROBBIE McCOMB
	Werribee	Southport	Footscray
INT:	MATT HANSON	TOM WILSON	JAMES MUNRO
	Werribee	Northern Bullants	Casey Demons
	BILLY GOWERS	FLYNN APPELBY	MARCUS LENTINI
	Southport	North Melbourne	Coburg



## Life Members

Dr Greg Anderson Simon Atkins Joskun Aziz Tino Ballan Cyril Beer\* Steven Berry Scott Bishop Jim Bourke\* Mary Brinkman\* Roland Brohaska David Brown Henry Button Andrew Button Cath Byrne Rick Carrington Martin Carter Robert Castello Graeme Cations Trent Churchill

Alan Clayton Nicky Comben John Comben Bill Dean Stephen Douglas Jeremy Dyer Anthony Eames Terry Edwards\* Scott Faulkner Lynton Fitzpatrick Michael Frost Dom Gleeson Ted Goodall Paul Gudde Ivo Havard Teghan Henderson Stan Hodson Jim Hudson Merv Hughes

Marty Jack Doug Joiner John Lamont Nathan Laracy Kevin Leece David Lyons Russell Mark Eddie Marriott Jimmy Masterson John McCarthy Julie McCarthy\* Donald McDonald Ted McMaster\* Michael McMaster John McNaughton\* David Mitchell Ashley Moloney Bruce Montgomery Ray Nash\*

John Nicol\* Kirk Norton Kerryn O'Brien Diarne O'Brien John Pavlidis James Podsiadly James Puli Frank Purcell\* John Pyne\* Chad Ravlich\* Les Richens George Riddiford Travis Robertson Harold Rogers\* Len Ryan\* Paul Satterley Nathan Saunders Stephen Sells Scott Sherlock

Ray Smith\* Shaun Smith Michael Sodomaco Bob Soulsby\* Ben Speight John Squadrito Charlie Stemp\* Lou Tardrew\* Robert Taylor\* Adam Taylor Tom Toohey\* Michael Turner\* Ben Warren Greg Welsh Peter Williams Rick Wolany\* Lyn Wood Sam Wormald



## Hall of Fame

### **LEGENDS**

Ray Smith\* (2004) Bruce Montgomery (2004) Len Ryan\* (2004) David Lyons (2006) Dr Greg Anderson (2007) John Comben (2014) Eddie Marriott (2014) Kerryn O'Brien (2014) Kevin Lecce (2019)

### **VALE**

### CHAD RAVLICH



Chad was a Life Member of the club but he was much more than that and his contribution laid the foundations on which the club now sits. Chad gave over a quarter of a century of his life to the club in a myriad of roles but officially as a committee man and as Treasurer, a position he held for more than a decade.

Former President Greg Welsh remember how dedicated Chad was to the club

"The Werribee Football Club was Chad's life for 25 years, he was always at the club, working tirelessly to keep the club afloat during some very difficult times. He started his volunteer duties with the juniors then joined the senior body as treasurer. He was basically a full-time volunteer; he was never paid a cent. He worked very closely with then Secretary Ray Smith and later, John Pyne."

Current President Martin Carter joined the board during Chad's time and remembers a humble and hardworking man.

"He put in countless hours; he was the glue that held the novel together. I remember we had to ring him around 11pm during a board meeting to check some contractual details and he arrived at 11.30pm to address the Board in his pyjamas, a sight to behold, but true testament to his commitment to our club. It's these unsung heroes that are the very backbone of clubs such as ours."

For a bloke who never played football Chad left his mark at Chirnside Park.

We pass on our condolences to his family and many friends

### **JORDAN BARHAM**

Jordan died in a tragic accident on January 20th in Nagambie. Jordan was a rookie listed player at Port Adelaide and St. Kilda and joined Werribee in 2006. He played 30 games in his two seasons and was a very popular player with his teammates and Werribee supporters. He was only 38.

Our thoughts are with his family. Our condolences to his wife Lauren and two children River and Hudson, his mother and father Jill and Bill and his many relatives and friends. RIP.



# Honour Roll

YEAR	PRESIDENT	CEO/ Manager	TREASURER	COACH	CAPTAIN	BEST & FAIREST	YEAR	PRESIDENT	CEO/ Manager	TREASURER	COACH	CAPTAIN	BEST & FAIREST
1965	Cr.A.E. Davis	J.R. Smith	R.G. Taylor	B. Holcombe	B. Holcombe	R. Turner	1993	B. Montgomery	G. Welsh	D. Lyons	D. McDonald	D. McDonald	J. Watts
1966	Cr.A.E. Davis	J.R. Smith	R.G. Taylor	B. Holcombe	B. Holcombe	R. Turner	1994	B. Montgomery	G. Welsh	K. Shaw	D. McDonald	D. McDonald	S. Smith
1967	R.N.V. Dawe	J.R. Smith	R.G. Taylor	N. Crompton	N. Crompton	H. Ogilvie	1995	B. Montgomery	I. Havard	K.Shaw	D. McDonald	D. McDonald	L. Fitzpatrick
1968	R.N.V. Dawe	J.R. Smith	R.G. Taylor	N. Crompton	N. Crompton	J. Comben	1996	B. Montgomery	J. Comben	K.Shaw	D. McDonald	L. Fitzpatrick	M. Mansfield
1969	T.W. Toohey	J.R. Smith	R.G. Taylor	N. Crompton	N. Crompton	H. Ogilvie	1997	D. Brown	D. McDonald		D. McDonald	L. Fitzpatrick	S. Atkins
1970	T.W. Toohey	J.R. Smith	R.G. Taylor	B. Comben	J. Comben	J. Comben	1998	D. Brown	D. McDonald	R. Hepburn	D. McDonald	J. Aziz	M. Frost
1971	C.F. Beer	J.R. Smith	R.G. Taylor	B. Comben	J. Comben	J. Lloyd	1999	D. Brown	C. Healy	R. Hepburn	D. McDonald	M. Frost	S. Faulkner
1972	C.F. Beer/	J.R. Smith	R.G. Taylor	B. Comben	I. Bryant	G. Snow	2000	D. Brown	C. Healy	R. Hepburn	A. Clarkson	M. Frost	M. Frost
1077	Dr. M Turner	ID Could	IF Townson	I Down at	I Dt	D. II	2001	D. Brown	C. Healy	R. Hepburn	C. Bond	M. Frost	T. Robertson
1973	Dr. M. Turner	J.R. Smith	J.F. Tanner	I. Bryant	I. Bryant	B. Harvey	2002	D. Brown	G. Saunders	R. Hepburn	C. Bond	S. Faulkner	T. Robertson
1974	Dr. M. Turner	J.R. Smith	J.F. Tanner	I. Bryant	I. Bryant	J. Bourke	2003	D. Brown	L. Wood	R. Hepburn	B. Prendergast	T. Churchill	T. Robertson
1975	J.C. Carroll	L.F. Vaughan	V. Ravlich	B. Burgoyne	B. Harvey	J. Scarffe	2004	G. Welsh	M. Penaluna	R. Hepburn	B. Prendergast	T. Robertson	M. Croft
1976	J.C. Carroll	L.F. Vaughan	V. Ravlich	B. Burgoyne	C. Lynch	S. Douglas	2005	G. Welsh	M. Penaluna	D. Lyons	S. Atkins	T. Robertson	J. Podsiadly
1977	J.C. Carroll	L.F. Vaughan	V. Ravlich	B. Burgoyne	J. Bourke	M. Martin	2006	J. Nicol	M. Penaluna	D. Lyons	S. Atkins	T. Robertson	R. Castello
1978	D.J. Dove	T. Edwards	V. Ravlich	T. Harris	D. Knight	B. Ough	2007	J. Nicol	M. Penaluna	D. Lyons	S. Atkins	J. Podsiadly	D. Gleeson
1979	D.J. Dove	J.A. Comben	V. Ravlich	L. Joslin	M. Martin	A. Mannix	2008	J. Nicol	M. Penaluna	D. Lyons	S. Atkins	J. Podsiadly	J. Podsiadly
1980	D. Dove/ P. Mullaney	Ravlich/ Marriott	M. Goates	A. Mannix	A. Mannix	B. Lancaster	2009	J. Nicol	M. Penaluna	D. Lyons	S. Atkins	D. Gleeson	M. Barlow
1981	P. Mullaney	J. Pyne	V. Ravlich	B. Walsh	B. Walsh	B. Walsh	2010	J. Nicol	M. Penaluna	D. Lyons	S. Atkins	D. Gleeson	D. Gleeson
1982	P. Mullaney	J. Pyne	J. Menegazzo	K. Morris	K. Morris	L. King	2011	J. Nicol	M. Penaluna	D. Lyons	P. Satterley	D. Gleeson	B. Sharp / M .O'Dwyer
1983	Dr. M. Turner	J. Pyne	J. Cations	J. Murphy	J. Murphy	G. Parkes	2012	J. Nicol	M. Penaluna	D. Lyons	S. West	R. Castello	C. Pedersen
1984	Dr. M. Turner	J. Pyne	V. Ravlich	J. Murphy	M. Redenbach	R. Christensen	2013	J. Nicol	M. Penaluna	D. Lyons	S. West	R. Castello	J. Moore
1985	Dr. M. Turner	J. Pyne	V. Ravlich	J. Murphy/ I. Dunstan	M. Redenbach/ I. Dunstan	S. Moloney	2014	J. Nicol	M. Penaluna	D. Lyons	J. Lamont	J. Moore	J. Moore
1986	Dr. M. Turner	D. McNaughton	A. Rigo	I. Dunstan	I. Dunstan	I. Dunstan	2015	J. Nicol / M. Carter	M. Penaluna	D. Lyons	J. Lamont	M. Sodomaco	M. Hanson
1987	Dr. M. Turner	D. McNaughton	J. Cations	I. Dunstan	S. Moloney	C. Vasilou	2016	M. Carter	M. Penaluna	D. Lyons	J. Lamont	M. Sodomaco	M. Hanson
1988	Dr. M. Turner	V. Ravlich	J. Cations	D. Tuddenham	P. Gudde	S. Sells	2017	M. Carter	M. Penaluna	D. Lyons	J. Lamont	M. Sodomaco	M. Hanson
1989	Dr. M. Turner	V. Ravlich	J. Cations	M. Turner	S. Moloney	D. Christensen	2018	M. Carter	M. Penaluna	D. Lyons	J. Lamont	M. Sodomaco	S. Collins
1990	Dr. M. Turner	V. Ravlich	J. Cations	L. Harris	L. Harris	D. Allday	2019	M. Carter	M. Penaluna	D. Lyons	M. Williams	M. Sodomaco	T. Gribble
1991	Dr. M. Turner	V. Ravlich	Dr. M. Turner	L. Harris	D. Drum	A. Eames/ D. Morgan	2020	M. Carter	M. Penaluna	P. Mayall	M. Williams	M. Sodomaco	Not Awarded
1992	B. Montgomery	G. Welsh	P. Kennedy	L. Harris	D. Drum	M. McMaster	2021	M. Carter	M. Penaluna	P. Mayall	M. Barlow	M. Sodomaco	M. Hanson

### VFA/VFL MEDAL WINNERS

Year	Player	Medal	Awarded for	Player	Medal	Awarded for	
1972	F. Mitchell	Gomez Medal	Best & Fairest (Division 2 Under 19s)	1997	J. Puli	Fothergill-Round Medal	Most Promising Player
1975	N. Mitchell	Disher Medal	Best & Fairest (Division 2 Reserves)	1998	M. Frost	Liston Trophy	Best & Fairest
1983	B. Vilcins	Gillon Medal	Best & Fairest (Under 19s)	2008	J. Podsiadly	Liston Trophy	Best & Fairest
1987	B. Jackson	Disher Medal	Best & Fairest (Division 2 Reserves)	2009	M. Barlow	Fothergill-Round Medal	Most Promising Player
1988	S. Sells	Field Medal	Best & Fairest (Division 2)	2012	B. Ross	Liston Trophy	Best & Fairest
1990	A. Hawkes	Gillon Medal	Best & Fairest (Under 19s)	2018	J. Corbett	Fothergill-Round-Mitchell Medal	Most Promising Player
1991	A. Eames	Liston Trophy	Best & Fairest	2019	T. Gribble	Liston Trophy	Best & Fairest
1995	P. Satterley	Liston Trophy	Best & Fairest	2019	J. Riccardi	Fothergill-Round-Mitchell Medal	Most Promising Player





# CEO Penaluna awarded VFL Life Membership

WERRIBEE chief executive officer Mark Penaluna has been awarded Life Membership of the VFL.

Penaluna received the honour for 'special service to the VFL or to football in general' during the competition's 2021 Awards Ceremony on Thursday night.

A renowned football administrator for over 25 years, Penaluna's time in the VFL landscape began in October 2003 when he took on the General Manager position at the Werribee Football Club.

He is currently the longest-serving CEO of a VFL club, and even after the events of the past 18 months, the man affectionately known as Pena, continues to work tirelessly to ensure the sustained success of his 57-year-old club, while continuing to advocate for the VFL and Australian Rules football.

Penaluna has compiled a significant list of achievements in his 18 years of administration at VFL level.

His most recent feat was playing an instrumental role in securing \$975,000 in funding for VFL clubs this year, to assist with the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other milestones under Penaluna's leadership include Werribee being the first VFL club to employ a full-time Community Development Officer, a role which promotes AFL to thousands across the Wyndham community every year.

Additionally, he was one of the driving forces behind the \$11.75 million Avalon Airport Oval redevelopment which transformed the venue from a small, outdated facility to one of best amongst state-level sporting clubs.

The ground has since hosted an AFLW match, an AFL pre-season match and the 2021 NAB League Girls Grand Final.

Penaluna has also fostered a stronger relationship with the Western Regional Football League with Avalon Airport Oval becoming the unofficial home of local football finals in the west.

Werribee president Martin Carter said the Penaluna's life membership with the league was much deserved.

"Mark's longevity in the VFL and at Werribee FC particularly for 18 years is testament to his character, loyalty persistence, respect, honesty and commitment to the cause," he said.

"Mark is a hands-on administrator that has done everything from CEO down to umpire's escort, there's nothing he hasn't done to make sure that Werribee FC was and is in a better place.

"Often the catalyst for liaison with a myriad of stakeholders, from the AFL, VFL and Football Vic to local government he typifies everything that is positive about community football and community sport.

"He is a most deserving humble VFL Life Member that is respected by anyone and everyone that is lucky enough to work with him."

Penaluna joins Simon Atkins, David Lyons, Donald McDonald, John Nicol James Podsiadly, Len 'Tiger' Ryan, Nathan Saunders and Ray Smith as figures associated with Werribee to have earnt VFL Life Membership.





## Historical Performances

FOOTBALL CLUB		SENIORS				RESERVES	3	UNDER 19S			
YEAR	DIVISION	WINS	LOSSES	POSITION	WINS	LOSSES	POSITION	WINS	LOSSES	POSITION	
1965	II	5	10	7	6	10	7	7	9	6	
1966	II	2	15*	10	5	13	8	8	10	6	
1967	II	8	9*	6	9	9	6	6	12	8	
1968	II	11	6	4	4	13	8	2	15	10	
1969	II	7	11	7	5	13	8	7	11	7	
1970	II	3	15	9	4	14	9	7	11	7	
1971	II	3	15	10	3	15	9	12	6	4	
1972	II	3	14*	10	5	13	9	10	8	4	
1973	II	7	11	7	6	12	8	13	4	3	
1974	II	4	14	8	6	12	7	12	6	5	
1975	II	2	16	9	11	7	5	9	9	5	
1976	II	7	11	6	8	10	6	11	7	5	
1977	II	6	12	7	8	10	6	13	5	2	
1978	II	6	12	7	10	8	5	8	10	6	
1979	II	2	16	10	3	15	9	15	3	1	
1980	II	7	11	9	10	8	5	6	12	7	
1981	II	12	5*	4	14	4	2	7	11	8	
1982		8	10	8	2	16	11	3	15	11	
1983	I	8	10	7	5	13	9	15	3	4	
1984	I	3	15	11	6	12	10	8	9	12+	
1985	l l	2	16	12	4	14	11	11	8	7#	
1986	II	8	10	7	8	10	8	13	5	5	
1987	II	15	3	2	15	3	3	12	6	5	
1988	II	10	8	2	17	1	1	16	2	1	
1989		8	10	9	13	5	3	13	5	2	
1990		12	6	5	11	7	7	15	3	2	
1991		16	4	1	7	11	8	13	5	4	
1992		10	9	4	15	5	3	20	0	1	
1993		16	6	1	5	13	9	13	6	4	
1994		9	9	6	11	7	6	15	6	3	
1995		9	7	4	7	9	7				
1996		14	7	3	7	9	6				
1997		12	6	4	5	13	8				
1998		16	2	1	13	5	2				
1999		13	5	4	4	13	8				
2000		10	8	9	11	6	4				
2001		18	2	1	14	3	1				
2002		16	4	2	14	4	1				
2003		8	10	8	8	9	5				
2004		11	7	5	10	8	5				
2005		15	3	2	11	7	3				
2006		10	8	7	5	13	_				
2007		7	11	10	13	4	3				
2008		13	7	4	2	14	10				
2009		8	10	9	9	9	7				
2010		4	13	13	14	4	3				
2011		12	9	3	10	9	6				
2012		13	7	4	11	8	2				
2013		12	9	4	9	8	7				
2014		11	8	5	9	7	4				
2015		11	8	7	4	12	7				
2016		7	11	11	4	12	8				
2017		8	10	12	2	13	8				
2018		7	11	11							
2019		12	8	5							
2020											
2021		5	4	10							



## Community Report

2021 was a year filled with plenty of drive to see the club connect and engage with the community in ways that were not afforded to us during the challenges of 2020. Throughout many fruitful periods of the year, it was fantastic to be able to reconnect and re-engage face to face with community members, groups and organisations we missed in 2020.

With the promise of football back at Avalon Airport Oval in 2021, the club delivered a hugely successful Werribee In Schools program from February to May that saw eight schools participate in a class based program designed to introduce young people to football and provide them with pathways to play our great game at local clubs and Auskick centres throughout Wyndham. Over 1250 students took part in these programs, 130 of which became junior members and 319 went on to join their local Auskick centre or junior football club. It was not only in school where the kids were able to take part in football fun put on by the club. A number of free school holiday programs run at Avalon Airport Oval saw families of all ages enjoy the fantastic facilities that the club has to offer. Over 150 kids and their families took part in holiday programs in 2021.

Just as the club is driven to see people from all walks of life seek footballing opportunities on the field, we are equally as committed to supporting local organisations to improve the lives of the people of Wyndham away from the sporting field. The club's partnerships with its community partners Pacific Werribee and CDC allow the club to codeliver a number of local initiatives that support those in need in our backyard. A highlight for our community team has always been and will continue to be the sponsorship and volunteer support of the Salvation Army lunches, which



provides free meals to those in need in our community. We would also like to thank the amazing team at the Salvation Army for cooking and serving the playing group and staff with dinner on a number of occasions throughout the season. Our partnership with the Salvation Army was this year highlighted by the Christmas generosity of the club, staff and players volunteering for a day of gift wrapping at Pacific Werribee, donating gifts that helped deliver joy to 744 children (who otherwise would have gone without) and helping to cook and serve Christmas lunch for over 50 people at the Salvos' annual Christmas lunch.

The club's support of people from all walks of life in the city of Wyndham was extended in 2021 with the club hosting the Reclink Football Development Day at Avalon Airport Oval. Players, staff and supporters volunteered their time to more than 80 people who participated in the day. Attendees engaged in football related drills and activities as well as being shown the Werribee facilities and hearing from coach Michael Barlow. The development days bring all 18 Reclink football teams together and founder and director Peter Cullen said the occasion is significant in the lives of many of its participants:

"To have the Werribee Football Club with its motto of 'Community, Driven, Care' open up its doors to some of the most disadvantaged Victorians and give them the opportunity to play on the great Chirnside Park is just amazing," he said.

The club's programs also saw a number of initiatives that reached new markets in developing areas within Wyndham. Highlighted by Multicultural Auskick and The Unity Cup, the club's Multicultural Development Officer Mar Gattek delivered a number of programs that provided multicultural communities with the opportunity to engage with our great game and become a part of the club's bright future. The impact of these other types of programs delivered by the club is highlighted by the number of young people joining the club as junior members. In 2021 we saw 162 new junior members join the club, a number we hope to see increase in 2022.

The club's community team, members and supporters would like to acknowledge the continued support from community partners CDC and Pacific Werribee, Wyndham Council, AFL Victoria and other local organisations. If the past two years has taught us anything, it is the need for community and connection and the ability to share the opportunities that the Werribee Football Club provided with the people of our local community. We look forward to the opportunities to connect with and support the community of Wyndham in 2022.

### Hamish MacInnes - Community Development Manager





# SCHOOLS PROGRAM

**SCHOOLS** 





















**CLINICS** 



**PARTICIPANTS** 



**2021 JUNIOR MEMBERS** 

**NEW LOCAL AUSKICKERS** 

131

319







## 2021 Debutants

Player: Matt Lobbe

Jumper No.: 16

**Debuted:** Round 1 vs Collingwood

**WFC Player No.:** 911 **2021 Games:** 9

**Recruited from:** Carlton (AFL) **Interchange club:** Uni Blues (VAFA)

Player: Nick Hayes

Jumper No.:

**Debuted:** Round 1 vs Collingwood

**WFC Player No.:** 912 **2021 Games:** 9

**Recruited from:** Woodville West Torrens (SANFL)

Interchange club: Strathmore (EDFL)

Player: Jesse Clark

Jumper No.: 27

**Debuted:** Round 1 vs Collingwood

**WFC Player No.:** 913 **2021 Games:** 9

**Recruited from:** Geelong Falcons (NAB League)

Interchange club: St Josephs (GFL)

Player: Wylie Buzza

Jumper No.: 1

**Debuted:** Round 1 vs Collingwood

**WFC Player No.:** 914 **2021 Games:** 9

**Recruited from:** Port Adelaide (AFL) **Interchange club:** St Mary's (GFL)

Player: Jay Dahlhaus

Jumper No.: 24

**Debuted:** Round 1 vs Collingwood

**WFC Player No.:** 915 **2021 Games:** 2

**Recruited from:** Geelong Falcons (NAB League)

Interchange club: St Mary's (GFL)

Player: Ryan Pendlebury

Jumper No.: 9

**Debuted:** Round 1 vs Collingwood

**WFC Player No.:** 916 **2021 Games:** 3

Recruited from: Port Melbourne (VFL)
Interchange club: Melton South (Ballarat FL)

Player: Lucas Rocci

Jumper No.: 30

**Debuted:** Round 1 vs Collingwood

**WFC Player No.:** 917 **2021 Games:** 6

**Recruited from:** Western Jets (NAB League)

Interchange club: Aberfeldie (EDFL)

Player: Nathan Cooper

Jumper No.: 18

**Debuted:** Round 1 vs Collingwood

**WFC Player No.:** 918 **2021 Games:** 8

**Recruited from:** Richmond (VFL)

Interchange club: Wangaratta Rovers (Ovens & Murray FL)

Player: Shaun Mannagh

Jumper No.: 6

**Debuted:** Round 2 vs Williamstown

**WFC Player no.:** 919 **2021 Games:** 8

**Recruited from:** Richmond (VFL)

Interchange club: Lavington (Ovens & Murray FL)

Player: Harry Stubbings

Jumper No.: 20

**Debuted:** Round 2 vs Williamstown

**WFC Player No.:** 920 **2021 Games:** 6

Recruited from: Geelong Falcons (NAB League)

Interchange club: Old Scotch (VAFA)

Player: Logan Wagener

Jumper No.: 37

**Debuted:** Round 4 vs Box Hill

**WFC Player No.:** 921 **2021 Games:** 2

Recruited from: Newcomb

Interchange club: Newcomb (Bellarine FL)

Player: Ariek Lual

Jumper No.: 12

**Debuted:** Round 6 vs Northern Bullants

**WFC Player No.:** 922 **2021 Games:** 3

**Recruited from:** Casey Demons (VFL)

**Interchange club:** Seymour (Goulburn Valley FL)

Name: Connor Thar

Jumper No.: 45

**Debuted:** Round 11 vs North Melbourne

**WFC Player No.:** 923 **2021 Games:** 3

Recruited from: Western Jets (NAB League)
Interchange club: Werribee Districts (WRFL)

Name: Harrison White

Jumper No.: 46

**Debuted:** Round 13 vs Casey

**WFC Player No.:** 924 **2021 Games:** 1

**Recruited from:** Western Jets (NAB League) **Interchange club:** Werribee Districts (WRFL)

Name: Noah Gribble

Jumper No.: 47

**Debuted:** Round 16 vs Northern Bullants

**WFC Player No.:** 925 **2021 Games:** 1

**Recruited from:** Geelong Falcons (NAB League)

Interchange club:

Name: Aidan Johnson

Jumper No.: 25

**Debuted:** Round 16 vs Northern Bullants

**WFC Player No.:** 926 **2021 Games:** 1

Recruited from: Lavington (Ovens & Murray FL)
Interchange club: Lavington (Ovens & Murray FL)

2



## Staff Directory

### **DIRECTORS**

President

Martin Carter

Vice Presidents

Ian Hovey Michael Wasley

Treasurer

Peter Mayall

**Board** 

Simone Bellears Roland Brohaska Jack Elliott Jamie Taylor

### **ADMINISTRATION**

CEO

Mark Penaluna

**Community Development Manager** 

Hamish MacInnes

Media Manager

Kevin Hillier

**Marketing and Communications** 

Justin Jenvey

**Account Managers** 

Lisa Hogan Jodie Martin

**Diversity Officer** 

Mar Gattek

Membership and Match Day

Zach Thornton

Assistant Match Day Manager

Cody Ebbles

Venue Manager

Genevieve Lamb

Maintenance

George Riddiford

### **FOOTBALL OPERATIONS**

**Football Operations Manager** 

Mark Micallef

**Head Coach** 

Michael Barlow

**Assistant Coaches** 

Nick Daffy (Forwards) Tom Perrett (Defensive) James Canale (Midfield) Matt Lobbe (Ruck)

**Development Coaches** 

Nick Condos Luke Gallaher Wassim Rafihi

**Opposition Analyst** 

Jake Morrell

**Recruiting & Analysis** 

Luke Rosenstengel

Recruiting

Mark Stone David Supek John McLaurin Andrew Kilner

Team Manager

Joe Elevato

**Match Day Statistics** 

Ben Carbonaro Caelan Farrugia

**High-Performance Manager** 

Scott Graham

Doctor

Dr Rebecca Beaton

**Physiotherapists** 

Sam Rice James Davis

Strength & Conditioning

Jmara Hockley

Dietitian

Rylie Ellis

**Trainers** 

Samuel Borg Emylee Singarella

Isabella Ierardo

Aiden McDonald

Josh Amirikhas

Slade Ellis

Jacqueline Hilton

Emma Bramfit

Welfare Manager

Damian Frankling

Chaplain

Andrew Seedhom

**Property** 

Ashley Moloney Doug Joiner Jimmy Masterson

Interns

James Welsh (Strength) Keelin Cran (GPS) Emily Nunn (Nutrition) Adele Kent (Nutrition) Kris Molloy (Rehab) Daniel Bannister (Rehab) Kaushik Jagannathan Lachlan O'Connor

**VOLUNTEERS** 

Fundraising

Alan Clayton Eddie Marriot David Jones Trish Jones

Match Day

Alwyn Hiskins

Merchandise

Kate Hiskins Lorraine Joiner Sarah Joiner Jess Joiner

Gate

Chris Politt John Campbell Ron Black Maria Black

**Host Family** 

Dale Sayner Lyn Sayner

Time Keeper

Scott Bishop

**CBD** Relationships

Daniella Camillo

Interns

Sam Sargeant (Memberships) Harley Kilby (Memberships) Arian Sarandis (Community) Summer Prior (Community)



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Storage King Hoppers Crossing

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TFI Group Totally WorkWear West Suburban Taxis

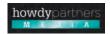
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### PLAYERS DRAFTED TO VFL/AFL

1989 - Barry Spierings (Footscray)

1993 - Dallas Normington (Fitzroy)

1993 - Jason Watts (Western Bulldogs)

1994 - Shaun Smith (Melbourne)

1999 - Chris Gowans (St. Kilda)

1999 - James Gowans (St. Kilda)

2003 - Ben Hudson (Adelaide)

2005 - Dale Morris (Western Bulldogs)

2009 - Michael Barlow (Fremantle)

2011 - Brad Mangan (North Melbourne)

2012 - Kyle Hartigan (Hawthorn)

2013 - Ben Brown (North Melbourne)

2013 - Luke McDonald (North Melbourne)

2018 - Sam Collins (Gold Coast)

2018 - Josh Corbett (Gold Coast)

2019 - Jake Riccardi (Greater Western Sydney)

2021 - Kye Declase (Melbourne)















