

Bulldogs Bark - Edition 1

An exciting football season gets under way at Fremantle Oval on Thursday night when the battling Bulldogs take on reigning premiers Subiaco commencing at 7:40pm

Hot premiership fancies Subiaco have added Daniel Chick, Phil Read and ex Bulldog ruckman Adam Hay to their 2008 playing squad and should be a formidable opponent to South's team which has strengthened its playing stocks with the acquisition of James Walker and Robert Hadrill from the Dockers.

Last week Toby McGrath and Ray Smithers were selected as Captain and vice captain of a leadership group which includes Keren Ugle, Kris Miller, Robert Hadrill, Tim Malseed, Hayden North, Andrew Siegert, Craig White and Gerard Wilkie.

The reserves game will commence at 5pm. Full bar, catering and TAB facilities available in the visitors Bar.

Bulldogs Bark - Edition 2

Former player Tom Grljusich was formally inducted as a vice patron of the club in a special ceremony prior to the first home game against last years premiers Subiaco

Big Tom had an outstanding career with South Fremantle and Central Districts in the SANFL as well as representing both states at interstate level.

His inclusion in the Fremantle Team of Legends in 2007 was fitting acknowledgment of his playing history.

Seven members of the Grljusich family have played league football for the Bulldogs stretching back to 1940 when his uncle Andy made his debut.

Tom is now a very successful and professional real estate salesman whose good countenance, influence and profile in the community makes him an ideal inaugural vice patron of the club.

Bulldogs Bark - Edition 3

Mallory Lundeen, a visiting American student spent five months last year studying at the university of Notre Dame, Fremantle

During her last semester she joined the US Footy program at the South Fremantle Football Club and after a couple of weeks training began playing.

When word had circulated around campus that American women were welcome at Fremantle Oval to attend well organised training sessions with their male counterparts the birth of the inaugural Yankaroo football team was formed with their own coach, Bulldogs Development Officer, Jason Burton.

Though only in it's infancy, this program did produce some amazing results with three of the Yankaroos invited to play with South Fremantle Women's team, also in it's first year.

Mallory returned to the USA in June 2007 to pass on her experience and guidance to future footy players.

The sequel to this story is the continuation of the Yankaroos by the second intake of American female students in July who combined to form a very fit, attacking and skilful team that travelled by bus from Fremantle Oval to Goomalling in September to win the Women's Football Carnival, remaining undefeated.

In a recent email received from Mallory Lundeen attending Saint Benedicts College in Minnesota she wrote, " I hope that others realise footy isn't bound by the borders of it's home country"

Bulldogs Bark - Edition 4

Peter Bell's 277th AFL game versus Richmond has earned him the honour of equalling Wayne Richardson and surpassing Glen Jakovich as the West Australian playing the most VFL/AFL games.

Wayne Richardson Son of Arnold (Boof) Richardson who represented South Fremantle on 84 occasions between 1934 and 1947 played 277 games for Collingwood between 1966 and 1978. Wayne was an outstanding footballer who was inducted into the AFL Hall of Fame.

Glen Jakovich played a total of 276 AFL games for the West Coast Eagles placing him now in third position in the highest tally of AFL games for a West Australian

Two other South Fremantle champions Peter Matera and Nicky Winmar notched up over 250 AFL games giving the Bulldogs an illustrious list of achievers at AFL level.

Bulldogs Bark - Edition 5

Toby McGrath and Keren Ugle will qualify for life membership of the club this year upon playing their 150th league game

Toby qualified in round 5 against East Perth at Medibank Stadium and Keren will qualify in round 9 against Swan Districts at Fremantle Oval on May 17th 2008

Toby and Keren have both been outstanding players and role models around the club, each tasting premiership success in 2005

They will join an impressive list of indigenous footballers in Stephen Michael, Benny Vigona, Maurice Rioli, Wally Matera, Brad And Cliff Collard who have earned the club's highest honour.

We are extremely proud of the contribution made by our Indigenous players and the inclusion of Toby and Keren in 2008 as life members will hopefully be incentive enough for our younger players to strive for that 150 game milestone.

Bulldogs Bark - Edition 6

The centenary of the national game was commemorated and celebrated in 1958 by the running of the 14th Australian Football Championships at the Melbourne cricket ground from the 2 July–12 July inclusive.

It was appropriate that these championships were held at the site of the first recorded game of Australian football between Melbourne grammar school and scotch college in 1858.

At the opening ceremony the Prime Minister, Robert Mengies stated “ I make no apologies for my firm belief that Australian football is the greatest winter game devised by mortal man”

On May 10 the, 2008 the AFL will commemorate and celebrate the 150th anniversary of Football at the MCG with a tribute Match between Victoria and a dream team comprised of the remaining states of Australia.

This game will give the people of Australia the opportunity for the first time to see the 50 best players in the AFL playing in a match that pays tribute to the greats of the game from across Australia.

Bulldogs Bark - Edition 7

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Bulldogs Bark - Edition 9

Austen Wonaeamirri the AFL’s latest Rising Star Nominee hails from Milikapiti the home turf and playground of the famous Rioli clan.

Wonaeamirri is an uncle of the fellow AFL Rising Star Nominee “Junior Boy” Cyril Rioli who has been burning up the track for the all conquering Hawthorn.

Milikapiti situated on picturesque Melville Island just north of Darwin is a small community often frequented by the great Maurice Rioli and other members of his extended family.

During the AFL bye weekend Austen travelled back to the territory to see his family and promised coach Dean Bailey that he’d look after his diet and give his favourite eating delicacy, turtle wing a miss.

Keen to see him perform well in the AFL and another nephew of Austen in Souths 2005 premiership player Shane Tipuamantamerri.

Bulldogs Bark - Edition 10

Joe Incognito a visiting Swan Districts supporter walked into the South Fremantle Legends Bar at our last home game for some liquid refreshment and stated that he was in awe of the culture, heritage and history adorning the walls of this favourite drinking hole.

Strategically positioned on the bulkhead of the bar are black and white action pictures of past legends of the club which thrilled thousands of supporters in the 70's and 80's.

Below the bar counter is a mural of past legends of the club dating back to the 'golden years' between 1948 and 1954 when Steve Marsh, Frank "Scranno" Jenkins, Bernie Naylor and Clive Lewington were household names, and of course on the southern wall of the Legends Bar is a giant size coloured photograph of John Gerovich's mark of the century.

Leaving this bar to enter the Griff John Function Centre, Joe was impressed by the display of team photographs in the memorabilia cabinets dating back to the first Fremantle Football Club side of 1885 and the foundation South Fremantle team of 1900.

Joe's day was complete when football legend, John Todd addressed the luncheon crowd in response to being appointed a "vice patron" of the club and emphasised the need for WAFL clubs to honour, pay tribute and learn from the past experiences of former player and officials.

Bulldogs Bark - Edition 11

South Fremantle's exciting new Essendon recruit Leroy Jetta is about to emerge as a quality player after experiencing an 18 months learning curve since reaching the Bombers at the end of 2006.

As a kid growing up in Pingelly he was noted for kicking impossible goals, ducking tackles and literally dancing around opponents.

When the Bulldogs invited Leroy to play colts he moved to town to live with his grandmother and enrolled at Clontarf Aboriginal College.

Leroy always had incredible poise and amazing balance as displayed in two state 18's championships but he was getting the tag of not necessarily liking hard work.

Everything clicked for Jetta last year when he walked through the door at Essendon and realised he needed to work hard to succeed.

He played in the first game of the 2007 season, played relatively well for a number of games before a nagging groin injury unsettled his season forcing him to have surgery in Sydney in August.

When he got back to Melbourne he had no reason to come back to W.A during the break as his family had moved across to be with him and he started training for 2008 in earnest without a break.

He toned up, got fitter and was ready for the 2008 season when a third round hamstring strain interrupted his plans slightly.

Now back in the side coach Matthew Knights is looking for Leroy to switch between the wing and half forward.

With another preseason under his belt there's no reason why Leroy couldn't play in the midfield. When he does he's going to be a very exciting player for a long time.

Bulldogs Bark - Edition 12

Frank "Details" Harrison was secretary of the South Fremantle Football Club in 1940/41 and from 1945-1961. He earned the nickname from prominent sporting journalist Jack Lee who was co-author of "The South Fremantle Story" with Frank.

Jack described Frank as the doyen of football secretaries in the age when football secretaries were the packhorses of the football world.

Frank and Jack were workmates at the Fremantle Harbour Trust (now the Fremantle Port Authority) Because Frank had eye troubles, Jack was called upon to put things into shape, and do all the writing work which included annual reports and the hundred and one other writing jobs that Frank considered necessary.

Frank's search for information relating to South Fremantle since its foundation in 1900 was not a five minute job. It was spread over a period of about five years and at its conclusion the colossal amount of data was carefully placed in the archives for future reference.

In 1988 the club officially named the player's social room after Frank Harrison. It has become a very popular meeting place for our player group.

Bulldogs Bark - Edition 13

South Fremantle sent a contingent of five of the club's top executives to Townsville for the state game versus Queensland.

The playing arena was in absolutely superb condition and the facilities available were the envy of all WAFL clubs.

The stadium was built entirely by funds provided by local, state and federal grants in the heart of north Queensland's rugby stronghold.

Though WA was expected to win the game easily it was nevertheless a good hit out with quite a few of the opposition players putting in very good performances.

Post game, Queensland skipper Darryl White spoke to the Bulldogs Officials about his junior days playing with Kardinya 18's coached by Maurice Rioli.

Football Manager, Jason Burton took the opportunity to speak to former South's player's Mathew Moody and Ashley McGrath at the Gabba on Sunday after the Dockers and Lions clash.

The football world is buzzing in north Queensland about the introduction of the Gold Coast team to the AFL and only time will tell whether the timing for a second AFL team based in Queensland is right.

Bulldogs Bark - Edition 14

With the annual NAIDOC Week game between the Bulldogs and Tigers due to be played at Fremantle Oval on Saturday 5th of July it is now an opportune time to reflect on why the two clubs battle out for the “Jimmy Melbourne Cup.”

Jimmy Melbourne was the first aboriginal to play senior football in Australia.

Melbourne commenced with West Perth in 1900 and rapidly earned the description “greased lightning.” He joined South Fremantle in 1902 and finished his senior career with Subiaco in 1903-1904.

An all-round sportsman, Melbourne also tried professional running and boxing. His fate is unknown but he could be “Jack Melbourne”, the aboriginal buried in the Southern Cross cemetery in 1937.

Last year’s inaugural winners of the “Jimmy Melbourne Cup” were the impressive Tigers who were ably led by ruckman Daniel Bandy the recipient of the Chris Lewis/ Stephen Michael award for the best on ground.

Both the Tigers and Bulldogs will wear specially designed jumpers by indigenous artist, Richard Walley, at this annual fixture.