



**West Brunswick Amateur Football Club Inc.**  
Affiliated with the Victoria Amateur Football Association

Mail - PO Box 32, East Brunswick, Vic 3057  
Home Ground - McAlister Oval, Park Street, Parkville

President: Anthony Gibson  
Secretary: Ben Lichtenstein  
Senior Coach: Angus Hamilton

Senior Premierships: 1960, '80, 2002, '08, '14  
Premiers & Champions: 1976  
Reserves Premierships: 1989, '98

Proud Major Sponsor: **Capital** RADIOLOGY

**Season 2015**  
**The Birdsnest Vol 45 No 8**  
**History in the making..**

West Brunswick joined the VAFA in 1959 and in its first season was very competitive. Over the next four seasons West won the 'E' Section premiership in 1960 and made the grand finals in the next three years, to play in 'B' Section in 1963 for a couple of seasons.

In the period 1976 -78, West was in 'F' Section winning the premiership and moved up in the following two years to 'D' Section. Relegated in 1979 the club got back on its feet in 1980, winning the 'E' section premiership and playing in the subsequent grand finals to be playing in 'C' Section from 1982-83.

And so it goes. Over the following seasons West has not been able to string premiership success into ongoing promotions and has hovered in D3 and D4 for around the past 20 years. Much of this happens because clubs seeking success put so much effort into short term strategies that they take their eye off the long term needs of recruiting and rebuilding their players and networks. And there is always an element of luck with personnel.

Does the current West Brunswick teams have what it takes to string success from one year to the next, as was done in the 60's, 70's and 80's?

This question was raised in round 10 this season, and the answer is 'Yes' they are in the grand final on Sunday.

The hurdles that have not been crossed is 'back to back' winning consecutive flags and the Seniors and Reserves both winning premierships in the same season. The Seniors and Reserves teams have both made many grand finals together, the most recent being 2014, also 2008, 1981, 1976 but the Reserves teams have only 1989 and 1998 premiership flags hanging on the wall, neither won in a year when the seniors played in the grand final.

Will 2015 be a new chapter in our clubs great history.?

**Grand Final**

Currently on the VAFA website:

**Sunday 13 September**  
**Trevor Barker Oval,**  
**Beach Road, Sandringham**  
**Seniors v Emmaus St Leos at 2:15**  
**Reserves v Swinburne at 11:30am**

**Seniors:**

**Round 18 v Aquinas**

Aquinas were third on the ladder for most of the season and were talked up by the VAFA scribe as the team 'most likely' to challenge the Magpies come September. Senior coach Angus Hamilton was having nothing of that and had the boys firing from the outset.

There was a breeze favouring the Park Street end of the Ransford Oval, and the Bulls had first use of it. They managed to kick five goals and had the lead at the first break. The Magpies defence took over in the second term and shut down any initiatives of the Bulls, keeping them to a solitary behind for the term.

After the break the Bulls had another go at taking the game over, but that was short lived. The Aquinas lads grouped up on the half forward flank decided that 'Pickles' was worth a 'rev up' but he answered his critics with some solid marking and kicked a goal. That kept them quiet. The final term was one way traffic, with West running out winners by a comfortable 73 points.

<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	4.3-27	8.6-54	12.12-84	<b>18.22-130</b>
<u>Aquinas OC</u>	5.1-31	5.2-32	9.3-57	<b>9.3-57</b>

**Goal Kickers:** S. Devlin 4, D. Muscat 3, C. Germon 2, X. Fowler 2, C. Cashin, W. Dillon, J. Beer, L. Buckler, M. Holmes, B. Simpson, P. Carroll

**Better Players:** S. Devlin, C. Cashin, W. Baker, W. Dillon, E. Lloyd, B. Simpson

**Semi Final v Swinburne**

The semi final was played at the Garvey Oval where the Magpies were successful last season. The players were familiar with the ground and knew it would be a hard fought match with plenty of run and carry required. The wind favoured the pavilion end of the ground but it wasn't a deciding factor.

The Razorbacks had some new faces from the team that was flogged by the Magpies five weeks ago, mostly tall timber in key positions. They took the first term up to West but favoured the 'man out the back' style of play, leaving them one man less on their forward line. This playing strategy forces them to move in numbers across the lines, and the Magpies knew that the big ground would make that task very difficult. There were few goals scored in the first half with both backlines dominating.

The Razorbacks gave a short grunt in the third term and the Magpies were very resilient across half back, repelling many forward thrusts. The goal kicking inaccuracy by the Razorbacks helped West who managed to maintain the half time margin throughout the third quarter. The final term was all West, too fit and too fast, leading to a victory of 44 points

<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	2.4-16	3.10-28	5.14-44	<b>9.17-71</b>
Swinburne University	1.0-6	1.1-7	3.6-24	<b>3.9-27</b>

**Goal Kickers:** D. Muscat 4, M. Holmes 2, D. Ferrier, C. Germon, X. Fowler

**Better Players:** J. Simpson, C. Cashin, W. Baker, J. Beer, L. Martin, D. Fuzzard

### Preliminary final v Hawthorn

The Hawks had made it to the preliminary final on the back of seven wins in a row for the final part of the home and away season. They made claims about atoning for their 2014 grand final melt down, and with a number of their 'stars' coming back into the side, felt confident of a victory.

In the first quarter West won the toss and kicked with the five goal breeze. Good ball movement and significantly more endeavour by the Magpies led to a 52 point lead at quarter time. West welcomed back Billy Morgan and Hulmy into the side and their presence allowed the forward thrusts to be spread across all parts of the fifty metre arc. At half team West held a handy lead and knew they would need to keep their focus come the third term.

The Hawks kicked to first goal of the quarter into the breeze and appeared to be playing with new vigour. The magpies withstood the pressure and turned the screws tighter to kick 8 goals 9 behinds for the quarter, with multiple thrusts being capped off by different players. The wind was

blowing strongly making it difficult to kick accurately from a long way out from goal.

The final term was played out with most of the 'zing' out of the game. The Hawks added a few goals but the Magpies were able to take it up to them; keeping the ball in the West forward line for much of the term. West played the better football all day and ran out winners by a convincing 55 points.

<u>West Brunswick</u>	7.10-52	9.11-65	17.20-122	<b>18.21-129</b>
<u>Hawthorn AFC</u>	0.0	5.7-37	6.8-44	<b>10.14-74</b>

**Goal Kickers:** D. Muscat 3, B. Irving 3, L. Buckler 3, S. Hulm 2, A. Gibson 2, M. Holmes 2, J. Taylor, C. Cashin, W. Dillon

**Better Players:** W. Baker, C. Cashin, B. Simpson, E. Lloyd, L. Buckler, L. Martin

## Reserves

### Rounds 18

The final home and away game against Aquinas was somewhat of a walk in the park. The Bulls had very little interest in playing the game and allowed the magpies to do as they pleased.

Of significance was the West Brunswick battle for goal kicking honours between Bingle and the Chairman. Having a career including two eleven goal hauls, Bingle managed to kick six for the afternoon and lead the goal tally at the season's end.

<u>West Brunswick</u>	4.7-31	10.14-74	12.20-92	<b>21.25-151</b>
<u>Aquinas OC</u>	0.0	0.0	1.0-6	<b>1.0-6</b>

**Goal Kickers:** A. Thompson 6, R. Benjamin 4, B. Shepherd 4, W. Vagg 2, B. Rodin, B. Wynne, V. Townsend, C. Naldrett, C. Bull

**Better Players:** W. Vagg, C. Bull, A. Thompson, C. Borovac, R. Touzel, C. Mitchell

### Semi Final v Hawthorn

The Magpies finished the season undefeated at the top of the ladder, as they did in 2014, and played the Hawks who finished sixth. This was a genuine final against a team we had little respect for, they having won the flag last season and were keen to rub our noses into the ground.

They say the pride goes before a fall...and fall they did. The West players had far too much fitness for their opponents and ran hard and fast from the outset. The Hawks tried their off the ball tactics to intimidate the Magpies, but the less focus they had to the ball accelerated their downfall. West had a 47 point lead at half time and were full of running.

After the break the hawks packed the backline and scrambled the game to a series of ball ups and sideways kicking. West only managed three goals in the second half, but pleasingly held them goalless for the game, a solid 66 point win and one step closer to the grand final.

<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	4.3-27	7.6-48	8.9-57	<b>10.9-69</b>
<u>Hawthorn AFC</u>	0.1-1	0.1-1	0.1-1	<b>0.3-3</b>

**Goal Kickers:** A. Thompson 3, B. Rodin 3, B. Shepherd 2, B. Wolfenden, C. Bull

**Better Players:** J. Tennant, H. Paez, B. Rodin, C. Borovac, H. Lewis, J. Sandow

### Preliminary final v VUHSOB

There is a claim that we see the team from Bren's Oval as friendly neighbours. I cannot recall any moment in the clubs history that supports that view, and the preliminary final was another example of the club's hostilities. Winning the toss and kicking with the wind helped West to a handy lead at the first break. In the second term West won the game by outscoring their opponent into the wind and taking a dominating lead at half time.

As has been the pattern of the season, West simply ran faster and worked harder than the opposition. The team contained seven players with senior premierships experience and quite a number of first time finals players. This mix has also been a great benefit to the team who now play in their third successive grand final next Sunday

<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	5.4-34	9.6-60	13.11-89	<b>13.13-91</b>
<u>Uhs-Vu Afc</u>	1.0-6	2.4-16	2.4-16	<b>4.12-36</b>

**Goal Kickers:** A. Thompson 4, B. Shepherd 2, B. Rodin 2, R. Devlin, T. Costa, J. Sandow, R. George, M. Graham

**Better Players:** J. Sandow, B. Lichtenstein, C. Bull, A. Thompson, T. Costa, H. Paez

### Tremendous Coaches.

How lucky are we at West to have such tremendous coaches.

In 2012 Angus Hamilton was joined by Matthew Drain to coach the senior team. He had extensive coaching experience at the club, picking up the reins from Julian Siebrand who coached in 2003, and getting the team to preliminary finals in 2005, and 2006. Following a stint in the UK, Angus returned to the club in 2011 and picked the job up again without missing a beat.

A former senior captain at West, 'Hamma' is very familiar to the vagaries of amateur football, as well as alert to the difficulty in balancing football with other life commitments. His methods of player accountability and communication have

made the club a place for people to enjoy their football.

Angus is joined in part by Scott Hulme and Billy Irving who manage training drills and assist with selection. On Saturday's the trio are joined by Bingle Thompson to assist in game time management.

The reserve team is coached by Angus Campbell who took the job last season and put his hand up for the successive year. Angus prepares his game preparation address with many interesting anecdotes. Interesting, thought provoking pre game addresses are rather new to the coaching genre that is notably shown to be loud and expletive ridden. Angus never loses his cool, and whenever the team is under pressure he calmly assesses the situation and guides the players' response.

Yelling and swearing, not our coaches. Calm, measured and with vision, they collectively make West Brunswick a great place to enjoy football and their commitment to the club is exceptional. Hats off to the coaching panel.

### Noticed That...

- Bingle Thompson kicked six goals v Swinburne in round 18 to become the D3 Reserves competition leading goal kicker with 46 goals. The VAFA footy record is not updated as often as it should be, Sunday's edition no exception.
- Great to see more of our members along over the past few games with Fletch, Frank Vitale, Jacko, Wayne Ivey and Ricky Hokkanen to name a few.
- Thanks Boycie for inviting yourself to address the winning reserve team as they defeated VUHSOB by 55 points.
- Hello Lampy and Hicky and thanks for the beers.
- Vote count will be a bit different this year, given we have now the thirds votes to count in addition to the seniors and reserves, following the mad Monday we face next week.

### The Division 3 Finals

The first week of the finals included St Leos, Aquinas, Hawthorn, West Brunswick, Swinburne and UHSOB (senior teams) and Power House (reserve team). Most sporting competitions have the finals series staged at neutral grounds that are geographically located between the competing clubs, to make it easy for players, club personnel and supporters to attend the games.

We play our games during the season on Saturday afternoons, so when finals come around there are lots more grounds becoming available. Do we need to have games scheduled for Sundays? And the first Sunday in September is 'Fathers Day'; so many players with children face the problem of putting football and family into different baskets.

And what about the players who have work on Sundays? Throughout the year their routines of work, study recovery are settled, so changing the finals games to Sundays forces these chaps to make choices between income and football.

There are circumstances where a club may have their senior team in the one semi final and their reserve team in the other semi final, thus making it difficult for clubs to provide off field support, BUT these situations do not occur every finals series AND there are a number of councils that have two playing fields side by side that could be used (Albert Park, Royal Park, etc).

Having adopted a process of playing games on Sundays then leads to the time elapsed between the next games being six or seven days later. So the Preliminary final was played on Sunday and having committed the first mistake, the seven day 'rule' means the grand final has to be played on Sunday.

As to a suitable middle placed neutral ground, lets ensure there is no alcohol available (unless it's a sanctioned club luncheon, with no service after the commencement of the senior game) as that is an underlying philosophical standard of the VAFA that is never compromised. And for all of our home and away games it's free to get in to watch the games, family football etc.

So how did we have the preliminary final game played in CLAYTON, at a ground serving alcohol (from noon) as the best ground available for a VAFA fixture?

And the grand final? At the Trevor Barker Oval in Sandringham on SUNDAY.

We should have known better. The 2008 grand finals were played at Vermont, another SFL club with a licensed bar, pokies and not used for the earlier Division 4 finals. Also, money raised from entrance fees do not go to the participating clubs but to the VAFA to cover costs associated with hosting the finals. Maybe those who write the press release need to stick to the facts rather than marketing spin.

## Social Plans: Presentation Night Friday 25 Sept

Turf Club Hotel, commencing at 7:00pm

### Current Sponsors

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