Terry Ronald Fulton
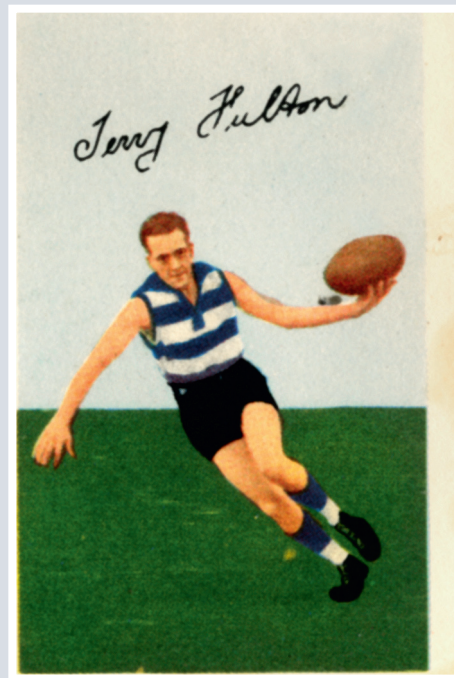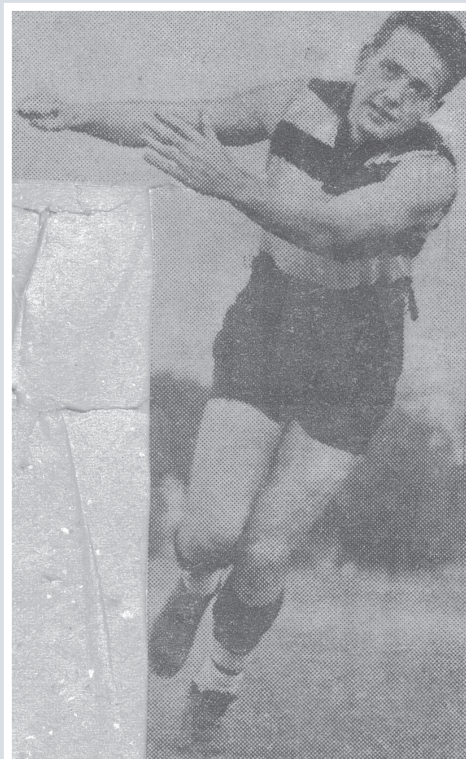
17 April 1930—

Terry Fulton attended Swanston Street State School and then Geelong High School where he was Athletics Champion in junior and intermediate years. He played for East Geelong Under-18s when they won the 1946 premiership. Terry and others from the team were invited to train with the GFC thirds (Under-19s) and he was selected to play with them in 1947. Les Laver and Fred Hawking were joint coaches.

Terry began playing in the Geelong seniors in 1949. His first League game against Richmond was Jack Dyer's last. Terry remembers it well: 'Jack Dyer couldn't run much any more, but Richmond put him in as full forward and kept passing the ball to him. He kicked seven goals and Richmond won.'[1] That year, Terry won the Ralph Lancaster Memorial Cup, given for Geelong's best player graduating from the Under-19s to the seniors. The trophy was in memory of Geelong player Ralph Lancaster who was killed in the Second World War.[2]

In 1950, Terry played a few more senior games. He was in the finals team which won the first semi-final but lost to North Melbourne in the preliminary final.

In 1951, the Geelong team was sent to Adelaide in the mid-term break for 'team bonding'. Terry says 20 hours together on a train was certainly bonding! They played the South Australian seconds on Adelaide Cricket Ground and won. Later that year they went on to win the 1951 premiership. *Sporting Globe* columnist Hec De Lacy selected Terry in his all-Victorian team and the *Herald Sun* selected him as best on ground in the preliminary final against Collingwood.

At the end of the year, the Geelong team (VFL premiers) was invited back to Adelaide to play against Port Adelaide (SA League premiers). It was billed as the Australian championship—Victoria's

best team against South Australia's best team. Geelong won. Haydn Bunton, triple Brownlow medallist, selected Terry as best on ground.

In 1952, another premiership year, the Geelong team went to Broken Hill for a week to play an exhibition match. Terry says they played on an average sort of ground, possibly gravel, and recalls that there wasn't much for the team to do in Broken Hill. They played two-up and lost all their money.

Terry played in 11 of games in Geelong's record '26-games without a loss' in 1952–53. He continued to play with Geelong until the end of 1954, playing a total of 51 senior games and kicking three goals. Col Hutchinson describes Terry as:

> A tenacious wingman with scintillating pace and considerable skill ... handled the ball surely and delivered the ball with well-placed kicks. His co-operation with team-mate Bob Davis was a noteworthy feature.[3]

In 1955, Terry received an offer to coach Geelong West for £12 per week—more than the £10 Reg Hickey was getting to coach Geelong—so Terry became captain/coach of Geelong West, which played in the Ballarat League. In his second year as coach they won the premiership, and continued to win for four years straight—1956, 1957, 1958, and 1959. He is a life member of Geelong West Football Club. Terry finished playing and coaching at the end of 1959. Over his fourteen years playing

competitive football Terry averaged a premiership every two years.

On 9 March 1957, Terry married Bev Robinson. He worked for the State Electricity Commission, then had his own home improvements company in Geelong. Later, Terry worked for Luxaflex. Terry joined the Past Players and Officials Association in the 1960s. He was Vice-President 1978–80 and 1996–98, and President 1998–2009.

As President he was the driving force behind the extensions to the clubrooms in the early 2000s, obtaining donations and organising tradespeople and materials to arrive on-site when they were needed. Terry says the Dave Hickinbotham Memorabilia Centre and the Memorial Garden were the most satisfying projects.

Terry was No. 1 member of GFC Social Club from 1970 to 1980. He was a member of the GFC General Committee from 1981–86, Vice-President 1985–86 and a member of the match committee 1984–85. Terry was made a life member of Geelong Football Club in 2001 and a life member of the Past Players and Officials Association in 2004.

Terry Fulton, June 2013, holding the Ralph Lancaster cup he won in 1949

Sources
1   Terry Fulton, interviewed by Susan Kruss, 6 Nov. 2012
2   Name inscribed on trophy
3   Hutchinson, C. 1984, *Cat's Tales*, Geelong Advertiser Pty Ltd, p.147