



LIFE MEMBER

Lindsay George White

5 January 1922–13 March 1977



Lindsay White was recruited from Orford near Port Fairy and played in the first VFL match at Kardinia Park on 3 May 1941.¹ In his first season he was Geelong's leading goal kicker with 67 goals in a year when Geelong managed to win only three games.² During his career, Lindsay played 117 games for Geelong and kicked 429 goals.

When Geelong ceased playing during the war years, Lindsay White played for South Melbourne.

He was the VFL's leading goal kicker in 1942 (82 goals for South Melbourne) and again in 1948 after his return to Geelong (86 goals).

In 1945, 1948 and 1950, Lindsay White was team captain, and in 1947 was Geelong's Best and Fairest. He was leading goal kicker for Geelong in 1944, 1947, 1948 and 1949. In the last three rounds of 1947 he scored nine, nine and ten goals—a record that remains unbeaten by any other Geelong player in three consecutive matches.³ When Geelong played Carlton in 1947 Lindsay kicked seven goals in the last quarter, including a match-winning goal (see Chapter 11).

During his football career, Lindsay White played for Victoria seven times, kicking 11 goals in Hobart against Queensland on 4 August 1947.⁴ His kicking impressed those watching and New Norfolk (Tasmania) offered him £12 per game and employment at £10 per week—a lot of money in those days—but he returned to Geelong.

Lindsay White was known for his magnificent drop-kicking. He regularly drop-kicked through the goals from sixty yards or more, and on one occasion kicked a magnificent goal from nearly 90 yards [82 metres] out.⁵ In 2004 his daughter, Debbie Hoiles, was presented with retrospective VFL goal kicking medals by AFL CEO, Andrew Demetriou. Lindsay White was a member of the GFC match committee in 1945, 1948 and 1950, players' representative on the general committee in 1947 and 1948, and was made a life member of GFC in 1950 when he was captain of the Geelong team. He was a professional runner⁶ (see Chapter 11) and that year he tore his Achilles tendon, which in those days meant the end of League football, so he missed the 1951 and 1952 premierships. The *Geelong Advertiser* reported:

Lindsay White, Geelong captain and champion forward, and one of the most colourful players in the Victorian Football League, has probably ended his career as a player. On Saturday at Kardinia Park in the game against South Melbourne, with whom he played for two seasons, he snapped the tendon from the ankle to the leg and was carried from the arena.⁷

In 1951, Lindsay White left Geelong to play in the Ballarat League, where he topped the goal kicking. In 1952 he returned to Geelong as playing coach of the seconds. After leaving Geelong, he played and coached in Canberra and coached Victorian country football.



Russell Renfrey, Lindsay White and Wayne Renfrey

He worked for Ford in his early years in Geelong and later was a wine and spirits travelling salesman. He married twice and had four children—Lindsay, Kaye, Grant and Debbie. Lindsay White was a long-serving committee member of the Past Players and Officials Association and President from 1969 to 1977. He was President when he had a heart attack while duck shooting at Menindee in 1977. His son, who was with him, flew with him to Broken Hill but he died before they landed.⁸ A minute's silence was observed at the committee meeting on 17 March 1977 'in respect for our late President' and letters were sent to Mrs White. The Lindsay White Memorial Trophy was awarded that year to player David Clarke.⁹



Leading goal kicker medal 1948



Life member badge



Orford Football Club, Runners Up 1940

Back row: J. Roberts, V. Jacobsen, F. White, J. Yung, R. Landman (ump), L. White, G. Riordan, E. Smith, E. Riordan

Centre row: A. Jacobsen, F. O'Brien, W. Spooner, F. Holmes, O. Steele (capt/coach), C. Riordan, V. Roberts, C. Coffey, F. Bartlett

Front row: J. Howell, E. Holmes, R. Hockley, G. Young

Sources

- 1 Hutchinson, C. 1984, *Cat's Tales*, Geelong Advertiser Pty Ltd, p.15
- 2 Hutchinson, C. 1984, *Cat's Tales*, Geelong Advertiser Pty Ltd, p.181
- 3 Hutchinson, C. 1984, *Cat's Tales*, Geelong Advertiser Pty Ltd, p.130
- 4 Hutchinson, C. 1984, *Cat's Tales*, Geelong Advertiser Pty Ltd, p.120
- 5 Stephens, R. *Road to Kardinia*, p.142; *The Star*, 29 July 1955, p.5
- 6 *Argus*, 3 July 1950, p.13
- 7 *Geelong Advertiser*, 5 July 1950.
- 8 Debbie Hoiles, talking to Susan Kruss
- 9 Minutes, 14 April 1977