



INDIGENOUS ALL STARS

INFORMATION GUIDE



[ALLSTARS.AFL](https://www.allstars.afl)

The AFL acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country across Australia. We acknowledge that we play our great game on this land, and respect the cultures of all First Peoples, their contribution to our nation and contribution to the game of Australian Rules Football. The 2025 Indigenous All Stars game is played on Whadjuk Country, and we thank the Noongar Elders for welcoming us to their Country for this significant occasion.



Sir Doug Nicholls poses for a portrait in Fitzroy uniform.
Credit: AFL Photos



STEEPED IN HISTORY THE INDIGENOUS ALL STARS' 81-YEAR EVOLUTION

By Sarah Black

Think the AFL's Indigenous All Stars side is a relatively recent concept? Think again.

One of the very first representative sides was pulled together by **Sir Doug Nicholls** to play a charity match in June, 1944.

Nicholls recruited players from Cummeragunja and Lake Tyers for an "all Aboriginal team" to take on VFA team Northcote, where more than 10,000 people attended Northcote

Cricket Ground, with 450 pounds donated to The Children's Hospital.

The venue was chosen because Nicholls had played for Northcote either side of his 54-game stint with Fitzroy in the VFL.

Games against Northcote were played over the following two years – a period which spanned the end of the Second World War – with the third squad recruited from Gippsland and Goulburn regions.



Stephen Michael in action for WAFL club South Fremantle.
Credit: WA News

THE '70S AND '80S

By Sarah Black

An Indigenous side toured Papua New Guinea in 1973, with the reverse fixture held in Canberra the following year.

Following the conclusion of the 1983 VFL season, a combined Richmond-Mildura team took on an Aboriginal All Stars squad.

The Tigers – who had strong links to the Sunraysia region,

with local hero **Dale Weightman** playing – were no match for the All Stars, losing by 138 points, 14.11 (95) to 37.11 (233).

The '83 All Stars were coached by **Michael Wanganeen** (uncle of future Brownlow medallist Gavin), while Richmond players **Maurice Rioli** and **Phil Egan** lined up against their club.



Jim Krakouer playing football for North Melbourne on Anzac Day in 1983
Credit: AFL Photos/GSP

THE '70S AND '80S

By Sarah Black

West Australian ruck great **Stephen Michael** was captain and the team also included **Phil** and **Jim Krakouer**, **Robbie Muir** and large SANFL representation.

Eighteen months later, Essendon faced an All Star team in a pre-season scratch match in Tatura, near Shepparton.

In September 1985, premier John Cain selected a combined VFL side – coached by

Tom Hafey – to face the All Stars in just the third match played under the new lights at the MCG.

The game was held during what was then called NAIDOC week, and the clash with the VFL finals meant a number of star players – including the Krakouer brothers – were unavailable for the **Syd Jackson** – coached side, while Muir came out of retirement to play alongside skipper Rioli.



Nicky Winmar's
immortal stand at
Victoria Park in 1993.
Credit: Wayne Ludbey

THE EARLY '90S FLASHPOINT

By Sarah Black

Race had become an international talking point in the media during the early 1990s and in Australia, **Nicky Winmar's** courageous stance – lifting his guernsey and pointing to his skin in response to horrific abuse from the Victoria Park crowd in April 1993 – was making waves.

Collingwood president Allan McAlister's racist comments in the wake of Winmar's actions prompted a pre-season

exhibition match to be organised for February 1994 between Collingwood and an Indigenous All Stars side, 10 years after the last All Stars game had been played.

Two-time Brisbane Bears best and fairest **Michael McLean** captained the team, while players – with every state and territory purposely represented – included a young **Darryl White, Dale Kickett,**

THE EARLY '90S FLASHPOINT

By Sarah Black

Derek Kickett, Gilbert McAdam and **Willie Rioli** snr, while **Michael Long** was sidelined with a freshly torn ACL.

Winmar was blocked from playing by St Kilda, who wanted its star to participate in a scratch match instead, with federal Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander minister Robert Tickner providing a public plea to both the Saints and West Coast (**Chris**

Lewis) to release their players, which the Eagles did.

The All Stars defeated the Pies by 20 points in Darwin, in front of 15,000 fans, with Prime Minister Paul Keating (a Collingwood fan) tossing the coin. Local star Dennis Dunn and North Melbourne's **Warren Campbell** booted five apiece, while **Russell Jeffrey**, the father of current Gold Coast Sun Joel,



Chris Lewis in action during the match between West Coast and Melbourne in round five, 1995.
Credit: AFL Photos/GSP

THE 2000s

By Sarah Black

An Indigenous All Stars match was played every two years from 2003 to 2015, although the 2011 edition verse Richmond was a wash-out at TIO Stadium.

McLean coached the first three editions, while **Chris Johnson** (2009), **Michael O'Loughlin** (2013) and **Andy Lovell** (2015) have also taken the reins.

Shaun Burgoyne, **Aaron Davey** and

Nathan Lovett-Murray (the great-grandson of Nicholls) played four matches, while **Andrew Krakouer, McLeod, Antoni Grover, Chris Johnson, Danyle Pearce, Des Headland, Jarrod Harbrow** and **Josh Hill** played in three games over the period.

The 2013 International Rules series saw Australia represented by an Indigenous All Stars side, although the Aussies lost by a

THE 2000s

By Sarah Black

collective 101 points over the two Tests to an Ireland team which also contained Zach Tuohy, Colm Begley, Ciaran Byrne and Ciaran Sheehan.

With **Lance Franklin** a late withdrawal from the second Test, **Daniel Wells** captained the side with **Davey** serving as vice-captain, while **O'Loughlin** was coach.

Goalkeeper **Ash McGrath** won the Jim

Stynes Medal as the team's best player while **Steven Motlop**, **Eddie Betts**, **Mathew Stokes** and **Lewis Jetta** also starred.

The 2017 edition was delayed until 2019, with the AFLPA and its Indigenous player advisory board wanting to focus on the player camp and its education sessions.

Instead, 2019 saw an Indigenous side – captained by **Eddie**



The 2013 Indigenous All Stars squad.
Credit: Lachlan Cunningham/AFL Photos

The 2007 Indigenous All Stars squad.
Credit: AFL Photos



THE 2000s

By Sarah Black

Betts and named **Deadly** – take part in the AFLX pre-season tournament.

With COVID affecting the following years, the 2025 game against Fremantle will be played a decade after the last match was played in earnest, with **Bradley Hill** (2013, '15), **Jarman Impey** (2015) and

Steven May (2015) suiting up again, while **Jase Burgoyne** and **Jesse Motlop** are set to follow in the footsteps of their fathers **Peter** and **Daniel**.

Saturday afternoon will mark the time for this generation to inspire the next.

MATCH INFORMATION

1.10pm – WA NGA Indigenous Showcase

4.00pm – Pre-match Performance commences

4.12pm – Both teams run through joint banner

4.20pm – Ceremony commences

4.30pm – Match commences

BROADCAST INFORMATION

FOXTEL



Kayo

4.00pm Broadcast commences



4.00pm



4.00pm



3.30pm



4.00pm



3.45pm

*Times are shown in AWST and subject to change



PARTNER PROFILES

The Indigenous All Stars Game offers an extraordinary opportunity to connect, inspire, and support Aboriginal organisations in Western Australia. The Indigenous All Stars is working with three community organisations during the match, each with a different focus, and in a different partnership capacity.



INDIGENOUS ALL STARS LEGACY PARTNER



The AFL is proud to have the Polly Farmer Foundation as the official All Stars Legacy partner for the Indigenous All Stars vs Fremantle match. The AFL will donate a portion of all All Stars merchandise sales to the Polly Farmer Foundation.

The Polly Farmer Foundation's vision is for all Aboriginal people to have an enriching and successful education and a wide range of career and life choices. Since inception over 25 years ago, the Foundation has been committed to a strengths-based approach, supporting students who have the potential to succeed and who have the support of their family/carers. The Foundation's academic enrichment programs empower Aboriginal students to complete school and move into successful post-school pathways, including university, direct employment, apprenticeships, traineeships and technical training.

LEARN MORE

COMMUNITY TICKETING PARTNER



Waalitj
FOUNDATION

The AFL thanks the Waalitj Foundation for their sponsorship of the community ticketing program for the Indigenous All Stars match. Sponsorship of the community ticketing program means that 2,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members are able to attend the game free of charge.

The Waalitj Foundation leads the provision of education, employment and business opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by working together to empower and build capacity amongst individuals, their families and their communities. Through the establishment of a number of successful programs in Perth, regional Western Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, ACT, and Queensland, the Waalitj Foundation has reached more than 60,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people nationally.

LEARN MORE

SIR DOUG NICHOLLS ROUND HONOUREE FOUNDATION

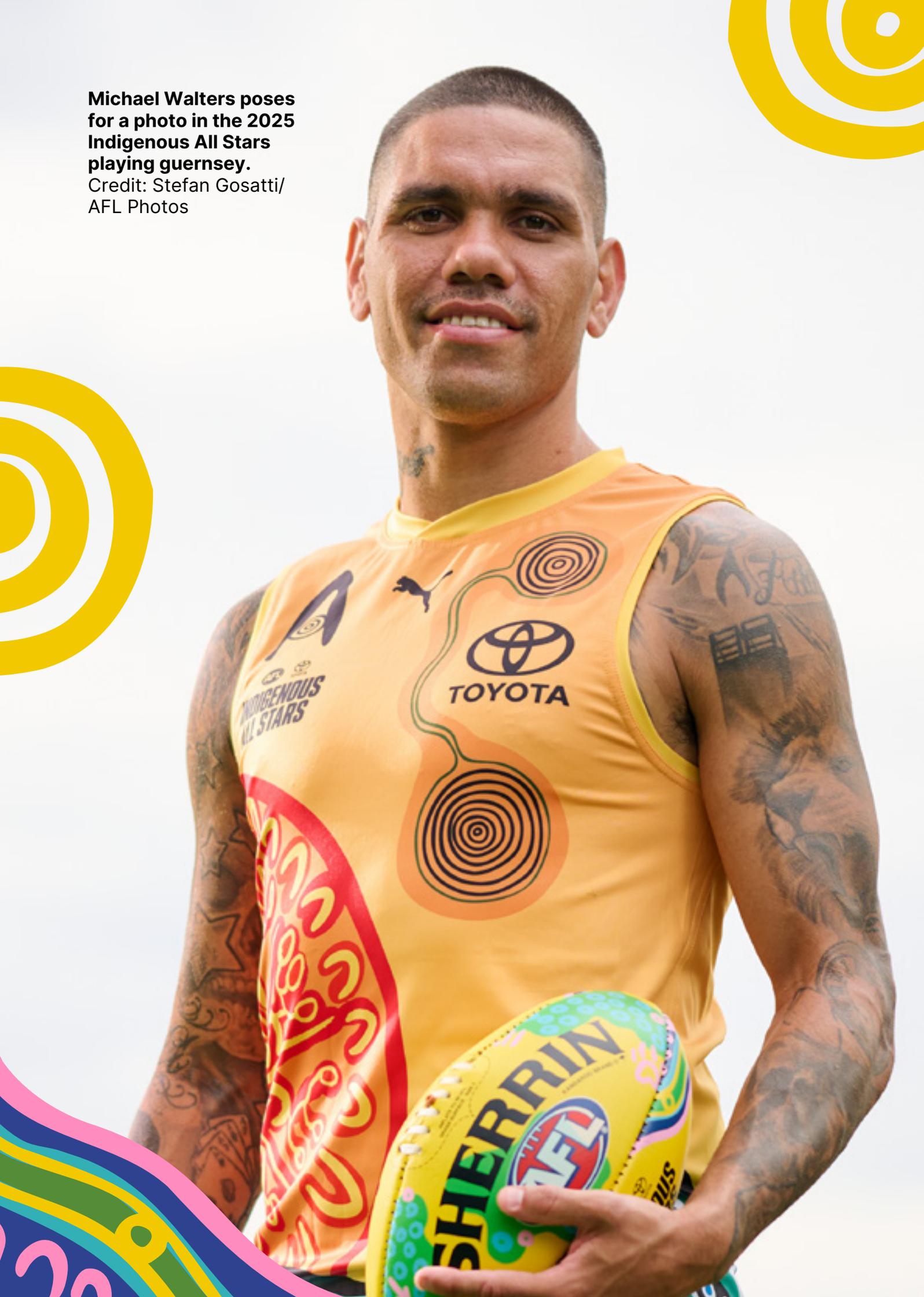
The logo for the Stephen Michael Foundation is displayed within a dark blue rectangular box. The text "STEPHEN MICHAEL" is in white, uppercase letters, and "FOUNDATION" is in orange, uppercase letters below it.

**STEPHEN MICHAEL
FOUNDATION**

On the Tuesday prior to the match, Stephen Michael was announced as the Sir Doug Nicholls Round Honouree for 2025. A Noongar man from the Kojonup area in the Great Southern region of WA, Michael played 243 games and scored 231 goals for the South Fremantle Football Club between 1975 and 1985. Michael holds the WAFL record for the most consecutive league games with 217. Widely regarded as the best player never to have played in the VFL/AFL, he is the patron of the Stephen Michael Foundation, which has been operational since 2017. The Foundation collaborates with local government, peak sporting bodies, and targeted state schools to support disengaged, at-risk, and disadvantaged youth across Western Australia through their education programs. Employing 38 people, the Foundation has engaged with approximately 10,000 children and teenagers since its inception in 2017.

LEARN MORE

Michael Walters poses for a photo in the 2025 Indigenous All Stars playing guernsey.
Credit: Stefan Gosatti/
AFL Photos



CAPTAIN AND COACH INDIGENOUS ALL STARS

By Michael Rogers

Fremantle veteran **Michael Walters** will captain the Toyota AFL Indigenous All Stars team against his own Dockers teammates in the pre-season exhibition clash on Saturday, February 15.

Walters will be supported by experienced All Stars teammates **Charlie Cameron (Brisbane)**, **Bradley Hill (St Kilda)** and **Jarman Impey**

(Hawthorn) in the leadership group. “The main thing for me was that I wanted to be a role model and I wanted to lead the next generation. Hopefully they can look up to someone like me,” Walters told The West Australian.

Premiership Lion Cameron, with 229 games and 404 goals under his belt, will provide leadership in the forward line



CAPTAIN AND COACH INDIGENOUS ALL STARS

By Michael Rogers

while Hill (255 games, 103 goals and three premierships) and Impey (197 games) will bring their experience to the midfield and defensive groups, respectively.

North Melbourne assistant coach **Xavier Clarke** will coach the team, with assistants **Chance Bateman,**

Jarrood Lienert, Roger Hayden and Jason Williams. “For me it was really important in the All Stars game that we used coaches and development coaches that are currently in the pathway program,” Clarke said.

Refer to page 33 for full squads.



Caleb Serong, Liam Ryan and Jade Dolman at the Indigenous All Stars Guernsey and Sherrin unveiling at Mardalup Park on January 16, 2025. Credit: Will Russell/AFL Photos

THE ART BEHIND THE ALL STARS **GUERNSEY AND SHERRIN**

By Michael Rogers

Whadjuk, Ballardong and Eastern Arrernte artist **Jade Dolman** has designed the Indigenous All Stars guernsey and the match-day Sherrin, while former Docker **Roger Hayden** played a role in designing Fremantle's jumper.

The All Stars' guernsey design includes symbols representing the important role females play, as well as river and freshwater symbols, and the bilya, or umbilical cord, to further represent the importance of water and

protecting our future and new life.

The Fremantle guernsey artwork was created by Hayden and his uncle **Dr Richard Walley**. The guernsey design was the club's inaugural Indigenous Round jumper in 2013.

The design showcases a design that represents the ocean (Wardan) and river (Derbal Yerragan) movements that surround Fremantle (Walyalup), and its importance to Noongar People, as well as the

THE ART BEHIND THE ALL STARS **GUERNSEY AND SHERRIN**

By Michael Rogers

three boomerangs (Karli), symbolising strength, combativeness and creativity through dance and music.

Dolman said it was an honour to be invited to create the Indigenous All Stars jumper design.

“I really wanted this design to be really fun and vibrant, so I think it’s going to really pop against the Dockers’ purple. I’m excited to see it on the field... I feel very honoured to connect these stories through my art,” she

said.

“As a matriarchal society, I really wanted to honour women in the design, and the role that women have in the community.

“In the centre of the legacy we have youth and our younger generation, which are represented as coolamons and our yandi dish. Around that we have our players, which each have a gidjie, which is the spear, and then we’ve got roots connecting off that and branching out, which



THE ART BEHIND THE ALL STARS **GUERNSEY AND SHERRIN**

By Michael Rogers

are representing growth and opportunities for youth. And around that we have women, who are the carriers of our culture and they help us keep our culture and our family strong.

“Then we have some journey lines which are representing the bilya (river) and how that connects to the fresh water. Bilya also

means umbilical cord in Noongar language so it’s important to have that connection, too, back to women.”

Dolman said the Sherrin featured animal tracks of the goanna, emu, kangaroo and dingo, the river, campsites and sacred places – all represented in “a really fun colour palette”.



Stephen Michael after being named the Sir Doug Nicholls Round honouree on February 11, 2025.
Credit: Daniel Carson/AFL Photos

WA LEGEND NAMED **SIR DOUG NICHOLLS** **ROUND HONOUREE**

Legendary ruck **Stephen Michael**, a champion of the WAFL in 243 games for South Fremantle, will be the Sir Doug Nicholls Round honouree for 2025.

Regarded as one of the greatest players to have never played in the VFL/AFL, Michael won back-to-back Sandover Medals in 1980-81 as the best player in the WAFL, while he was also a premiership player at South Fremantle in 1980 and a five-time best-and-fairest winner for the Bulldogs.

A proud Noongar man, Michael never played outside Western

Australia, but his remarkable career was recognised nationally when he was selected captain of the 1983 All-Australian side. He was also picked at centre half-forward in the Indigenous Team of the Century and inducted into the Australian Football Hall of Fame in 1999.

“Sir Doug Nicholls was a pioneer for Indigenous football and to be recognised for the round named in his honour, and alongside some of the previous honourees, is extremely humbling,” Michael said.

Michael’s status as

WA LEGEND NAMED **SIR DOUG NICHOLLS** **ROUND HONOUREE**

arguably the best ruck in Australia at the peak of his career led to multiple overtures from Victorian clubs to lure him across the country. But his connection to family and his hometown of Kojonup, south of Perth, meant he remained in the west.

“My family was my main thing and sport came second,” he said in an interview in 2020. “I just thought it would take mum and dad four hours to fly to Melbourne and it only takes two to drive from Kojonup.”

“Stephen is an incredible player and person, who is extremely deserving

of this honour, and we are delighted to have him as the 2025 Sir Doug Nicholls Round honouree,” said Tanya Hosch, the AFL’s Executive General Manager Inclusion and Social Policy.

“Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples continue to make an enormous contribution to football, and to our nation, and the AFL will once again recognise and celebrate this during Sir Doug Nicholls Round in May this year, along with celebrating the contributions of Stephen Michael.”





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THE **AFL** STORE



ALL STARS



XAVIER CLARKE
(COACH)
NORTH MELBOURNE
LARRAKIA AND
AMREAMO/MARRITJAVIN



MICHAEL WALTERS
(CAPTAIN)
FREMANTLE
WHADJUK, WILMEN
AND NGARRINDJERI



CALLUM AH CHEE
BRISBANE LIONS
NOONGAR, PALKU
AND NYIKINA, YAWURU



KARL AMON
HAWTHORN
NOONUCCAL



SHAI BOLTON
FREMANTLE
MINANG AND WILMAN



JASE BURGOYNE
PORT ADELAIDE
KOKATHA, LARRAKIA,
WARAI



CHARLIE CAMERON
BRISBANE LIONS
WAANYI AND LARDIL



JEREMY FINLAYSON
PORT ADELAIDE
YORTA YORTA



JADE GRESHAM
ESSENDON
YORTA YORTA



JOEL HAMLING
SYDNEY SWANS
YORTA YORTA



BOBBY HILL
COLLINGWOOD
WHADJUK, BALLARDONG,
NOONGAR



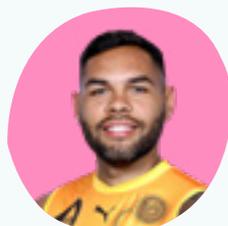
BRADLEY HILL
ST KILDA
WILMEN, NOONGAR



JASON HORNE-FRANCIS
PORT ADELAIDE
WARDAMANA



LAWSON HUMPHRIES
GEELONG CATS
NYUL NYUL, OOMIDAY,
WORRORA



JARMAN IMPEY
HAWTHORN
YORTA YORTA



JOEL JEFFREY
GOLD COAST SUNS
KUKATJ, WULWULAM





ASH JOHNSON
COLLINGWOOD
JARU, KIJA



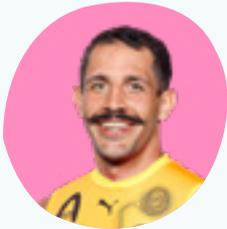
LIAM JONES
WESTERN BULLDOGS
KIJA



TIM KELLY
WEST COAST EAGLES
NOONGAR, WONGI,
YAMATJI



COEN LIVINGSTONE
WEST COAST EAGLES
BALARDONG, NOONGAR



BEN LONG
GOLD COAST SUNS
ANMATJERRE



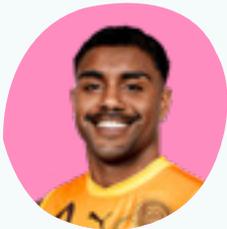
STEVEN MAY
MELBOURNE
LARRAKIA



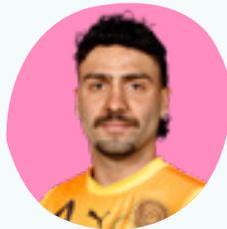
JESSE MOTLOP
CARLTON
LARRAKIA



ALEX PEARCE
FREMANTLE
PALAWA



KYSAIAH PICKETT
MELBOURNE
YAMATJI, NOONGAR



IZAK RANKINE
ADELAIDE CROWS
KOKATHA AND
NGARRINDJERI



MAURICE RIOLI JNR
RICHMOND
TIWI



WILLIE RIOLI
PORT ADELAIDE
TIWI



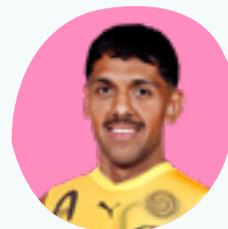
LIAM RYAN
WEST COAST EAGLES
YAMATJI



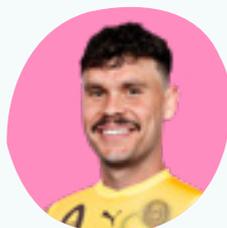
JY SIMPKIN
NORTH MELBOURNE
YORTA YORTA



TYSON STENGLE
GEELONG CATS
WIRANGU



**NASIAH
WANGANEEN-MILERA**
ST KILDA
KOKATHA, NARANGGA



ZAC WILLIAMS
CARLTON
WIRADJURI





FREMANTLE



JUSTIN LONGMUIR
(COACH)



CALEB SERONG
(CAPTAIN)



JAMES AISH



JYE AMISS



BAILEY BANFIELD



ANGUS BRAYSHAW



WILL BRODIE



HEATH CHAPMAN



JORDAN CLARK



BRENNAN COX



HUGH DAVIES



JOSHUA DRAPER



NEIL ERASMUS



MICHAEL FREDERICK



LUKE JACKSON



MATTHEW JOHNSON





NATHAN O'DRISCOLL



JAEGER O'MEARA



MURPHY REID



LIAM REIDY



AIDEN RIDDLE



LUKE RYAN



JEREMY SHARP



COOPER SIMPSON



SAM STURT



SAM SWITKOWSKI



JOSH TREACY



PATRICK VOSS



COREY WAGNER



BRANDON WALKER



KARL WORNER

