



CHARLES BROWNLOW MEDAL

PROGRAM



Another Legendary Brownlow Moment...

The Brownlow is one of footy's great traditions. A night that recognises excellence, consistency and impact across an extraordinary season. Tonight, one player will join a legendary group of medallists and become part of AFL history.

If the pundits have it right, Nick Daicos may finally, and deservedly, get the chocolates. But Brownlow Night has a habit of writing its own script. Could Bailey Smith or the Bont cause an upset? Could Luke Jackson fly the flag for the big men? Could Patty Cripps turn back time and take Charlie home once again?

In 2026, we've seen champions add new chapters to remarkable careers, emerging talent announce itself, and clubs carve new pathways to success. From the MCG to the biggest sporting stages around the nation, Australian football is in brilliant health and has once again delivered moments we'll never forget.

At Toyota, we're proud to celebrate those moments through one of the longest-running campaigns in Australian sport: Legendary Moments. Moments that transcend the scoreboard and become part of football folklore.

We're also proud to help grow the game beyond the elite level. Through Toyota Good for Footy initiatives, more than \$14 million has been raised for grassroots clubs across Australia, supporting the players, coaches, volunteers, families and communities who keep footy thriving. That's Good for Footy.

On behalf of Toyota Australia, welcome to the 2026 Brownlow Medal. Here's to the season that was, the stories still to be written, and another legendary moment tonight.

Footy... oh what a feeling.

THE BROWNLOW MEDAL VOTE COUNT
IS PROUDLY PRESENTED BY



THE BROWNLOW MEDAL VOTE COUNT
IS PROUDLY BROADCAST BY





Program

Master of Ceremonies

Sarah Ashmore

Host

Hamish McLachlan and Rebecca Maddern

Awards

Virgin Australia Mark of the Year

Coles Goal of the Year

Jim Stynes Community Award

2026 Charles Brownlow Medallist

THE BROWNLOW MEDAL VOTE COUNT
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2026 Preview



Matt Rowell
2025 Brownlow Medallist

COULD this be the year Nick Daicos wins his first Brownlow Medal?

Following back-to-back runner-up finishes, and a third place in 2023, the young Collingwood champion has pieced together another brilliant season to make him the raging favourite entering the count.

Daicos will be chased by a plethora of midfielders who have put forward excellent seasons, led by Geelong's running powerhouse Bailey Smith, Western Bulldogs skipper Marcus Bontempelli and rising Brisbane star Will Ashcroft.

But whether it's by pure numbers or by your own visual assessment, Daicos is going to be hard to beat.

The 23-year-old averaged a League-high 35 disposals a game and, to underline his consistency, was kept under 30 on just four occasions.

It wasn't just the accumulation though, with Daicos kicking 24 goals in the home-and-away season, throwing in 21 direct goal assists and topping the competition with nine score involvements each time he ran out to play.

Smith finished on the podium last year behind Daicos and Gold Coast Suns winner Matt Rowell, and again looms as a threat with his proven vote-winning ability.

The Cat with the flowing blond locks averaged close to 33 touches and regularly caught the eye with his hard running and bouncing of the footy. He finished the season with 40 touches and three goals against Richmond to ensure he'll be in the hunt until the end.

Bontempelli will be a sentimental favourite, having finished in the top three five times without saluting. He led the Dogs superbly again in 2026 with 31 goals to complement his remarkable ball-winning prowess.

Ashcroft, who has already won two Norm Smith medals in the Lions' pair of premierships, took his game to another level this season.

The 22-year-old had some quiet moments early in the year, but stormed home in the final 10 weeks with a series of match-defining performances as Brisbane made its charge to September.

Nine-time All-Australian Max Gawn promises to be one key-position player upsetting the midfield domination, with his rucking and aerial work around the ground a big factor in Melbourne's surprise 15-win season.

Don't discount Adelaide captain Jordan Dawson, Hawthorn midfielder Jai Newcombe, or Saints star Nasiah Wanganeen-Milera, although his late season injury might rule him out.

Sydney pair Isaac Heeney and Chad Warner are also predicted to poll well and they remain eligible to win the Brownlow Medal, despite being ruled out of All-Australian contention by the AFL due to club-imposed suspensions that ended their seasons after round 23.



The 2026 Finalists

At the conclusion of the 2026 Toyota AFL Premiership Season, the League's Game Analysis Committee creates a shortlist for the AFL All-Australian selection panel of the best marks and goals from the season, which includes the 25 weekly winners.



The All-Australian panel then determines the three finalists based on a 5/4/3/2/1 vote given by each member of the selection committee.

The overall winner is determined by a combination of votes from the AFL All-Australian Panel and the public.

The winners will be announced during the Brownlow Medal count.

AFL | australia MARK OF THE YEAR

ROUND 7

Kysaiah Pickett

v Richmond



Superstar Demon launches off an unsuspecting Tiger to create a memorable Anzac Day Eve moment

ROUND 15

Shai Bolton

v Geelong



Bolton soars over the pack from the side, gets a lift off the rucks and hangs on for an incredible grab

ROUND 24

Nick Watson

v West Coast Eagles



'The Wizard' flies high in the wild, wet west, pushing off Liam Baker and landing with an acrobatic finish

AFL | coles GOAL OF THE YEAR

OPENING ROUND

Bailey Williams

v Brisbane Lions



In a rare foray forward, Williams hits a spilt mark at speed, breaks a tackle, fakes out two Lions and snaps truly

ROUND 12

Kysaiah Pickett

v GWS Giants



'Kozzy' gathers a loose ball, swings on to his right boot and splits the middle from the boundary in Alice Springs

ROUND 24

Conor McKenna

v Collingwood



The veteran Lion knocks a handball to ground before poking through a soccered goal from an impossible angle



Jim Stynes Award

The Jim Stynes Community Leadership Award highlights the enormous contributions that AFL players make off the field to a wide range of communities and recognises the outstanding commitment of the three finalists.

Season 2026 marks the fifteenth occasion the award will be presented. In partnership with the Jim Stynes Foundation, the winner will receive \$40,000 to be donated to the charity or community program of their choice.

AFL CEO Andrew Dillon said:

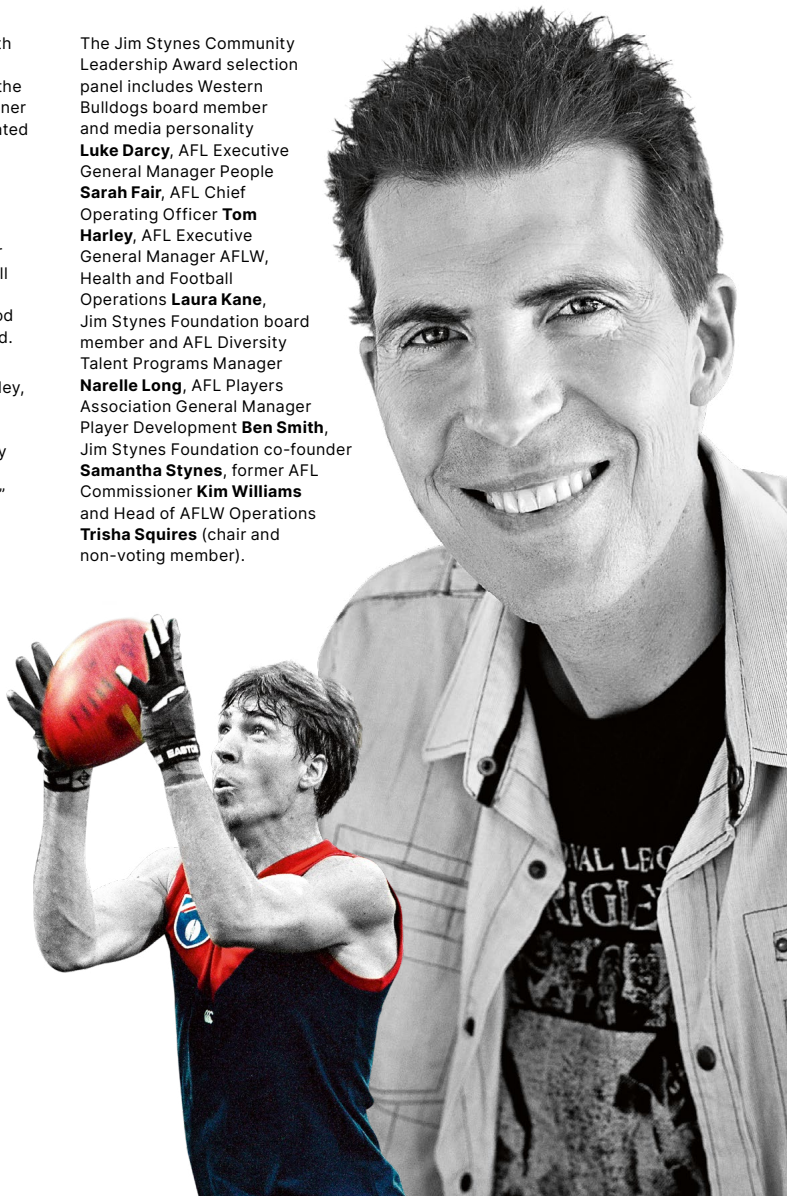
"Jim Stynes left a legacy that continues to inspire not just our players, but the broader football community, and his belief in using football as a force for good continues on through this award.

I'd like to acknowledge all the nominees and congratulate Bailey, Tom and Kysaiah as this year's finalists. Their contributions to communities across the country reflect the positive impact our players have beyond the game."

The Jim Stynes Community Leadership Award selection panel includes Western Bulldogs board member and media personality **Luke Darcy**, AFL Executive General Manager People **Sarah Fair**, AFL Chief Operating Officer **Tom Harley**, AFL Executive General Manager AFLW, Health and Football Operations **Laura Kane**, Jim Stynes Foundation board member and AFL Diversity Talent Programs Manager **Narelle Long**, AFL Players Association General Manager Player Development **Ben Smith**, Jim Stynes Foundation co-founder **Samantha Stynes**, former AFL Commissioner **Kim Williams** and Head of AFLW Operations **Trisha Squires** (chair and non-voting member).



Jim Stynes >
1991 Brownlow medallist





The 2026 Finalists



Bailey Banfield

Banfield has built long-standing partnerships with the Starlight Children's Foundation, Worthy Australia and the Purple Hands Foundation. In 2026, he also established a player-driven program, Freo Cares, that supports five community causes including delivering meals to people experiencing homelessness and helping build safe havens for women and children escaping domestic violence.

A Starlight ambassador for eight years, Banfield also helped Fremantle's annual Purple Haze game raise more than \$300,000 this year, while his work with Worthy Australia helped grow community support for families rebuilding their lives after domestic violence.



Tom Liberatore

Through his involvement with the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation (WBCF), Liberatore played a key role in the opening of the Lighthouse Café in Footscray, which provides meals, connection and support for people experiencing homelessness. The café is an initiative of The Salvation Army which is a partner of the WBCF. Liberatore coordinates ongoing food donations through his hospitality businesses and volunteers his time at the café each week.

Liberatore also supports wider youth engagement programs through the WBCF, bringing together teammates, local businesses and community partners to contribute to the foundation's initiatives.



Kysaiah Pickett

Pickett has become a trusted ambassador for Melbourne Football Club's partnership with Melbourne University's Indigenous Eye Health Unit (IEHU), Minum Barreng.

As a proud First Nations man and ambassador for the 'Clean Faces, Strong Eyes' campaign, Pickett has spent years travelling to remote communities, helping drive awareness and behaviour change to eliminate trachoma, the world's leading infectious cause of blindness.

Through school visits, community engagement and health education initiatives across the Northern Territory, Pickett has helped deliver critical health messages to First Nations children and families.

Past Winners (2012-Present)

2012 Daniel Jackson
Richmond

2017 Jack Hombsch
Port Adelaide

2022 Joel Selwood
Geelong Cats

2013 Zac Smith
Gold Coast Suns

2018 Neville Jetta
Melbourne

2023 Sam Docherty
Carlton

2014 Beau Waters
West Coast Eagles

2019 Stephen Coniglio
GWS Giants

2024 Reilly O'Brien
Adelaide Crows

2015 Dennis Armfield
Carlton

2020 Bachar Houli
Richmond

2025 Harris Andrews
Brisbane Lions

2016 Jimmy Bartel
Geelong Cats

2021 Travis Boak
Port Adelaide



Harris Andrews (2025)
Brisbane Lions



Adelaide



Izak Rankine is set to finish with a flurry of high-polling games and will challenge skipper Jordan Dawson as the Crows' best.

Best Chance

Izak Rankine

Get ready for a late charge from Rankine. His last eight weeks were extraordinary and featured performances worth 23 disposals and three goals against Essendon, 36 and one against Richmond, 39 and one against Fremantle, then 35 and four to finish off the year against Greater Western Sydney. He'll come home like a steam train but will spend the earlier part of the night vying with skipper Jordan Dawson for votes.



2025 Leading Vote Winner

Jordan Dawson
(27 votes)



Brownlow Predictor

- 24 Jordan Dawson
- 23 Izak Rankine
- 9 Wayne Milera

Predicted Team Total

88

Quick Single

Mark Keane

Round 15 v Melbourne

The big Irishman got himself back in the side late in the year and had a day out against the Demons, finishing with 22 disposals, 10 marks and nine intercepts. Could slide into the best and add to his solitary career Brownlow vote.

Ineligible Players

Riley Thilthorpe, Taylor Walker, Darcy Fogarty

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Mark Ricciuto (2003)



Brisbane Lions



Can Will Ashcroft add a Brownlow to his two Norm Smith Medals? His form in the second half of the year suggest he's a chance, while Lachie Neale should poll well again.

Best Chance

Will Ashcroft

Two flags, two Norm Smiths, why not add a Brownlow Medal to the collection? It could be that type of night for Ashcroft, who shook off a relatively slow start to the year and fired Brisbane back into premiership contention across the back half of the season. He ended the year with seven games in 12 weeks where he had more than 20 disposals and a goal. Can he steal enough votes from two-time winner Lachie Neale to challenge?



2025 Leading Vote Winner

Hugh McCluggage
(21 votes)



Brownlow Predictor

- 27 **Will Ashcroft**
- 22 **Lachie Neale**
- 7 **Zac Bailey***,
Logan Morris

Predicted Team Total

85

Quick Single

Ryan Lester

Round 9 v Carlton

After polling only once in 250-odd games, could we hear 'R. Lester' called once again on Brownlow night? A performance worth 20 disposals, 11 marks and 11 intercepts in a win over Carlton will put him right amongst the best.

Ineligible Players

Harris Andrews, Zac Bailey,
Ty Gallop, Darcy Gardiner

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Haydn Bunton (1931, 1932, 1935)

Wilfred Smallhorn (1933)

Denis Ryan (1936)

Allan Ruthven (1950)

Kevin Murray (1969)

Bernie Quinlan (1981)

Michael Voss (1996)

Jason Akermanis (2001)

Simon Black (2002)

Lachie Neale (2020, 2023)



Carlton

Two-time winner Patrick Cripps is set to add another pile of votes to his career tally after another brilliant season leading Carlton to a shock wildcard final appearance.

Best Chance

Patrick Cripps

Cripps popped when Carlton did. Enjoyed a stellar start to life under Josh Fraser and had 29 disposals and two goals in their first game together against the Bulldogs, 32 and one against Port Adelaide the week after, then 30 and one against Geelong after that. The two-time winner is a proven poller and will collect a stack of votes, even despite Sam Walsh and Jagga Smith claiming their fair share across the night.



2025 Leading Vote Winner

Patrick Cripps
(19 votes)



Brownlow Predictor

- 19 Patrick Cripps
- 16 Sam Walsh
- 12 Jagga Smith

Predicted Team Total

67

Quick Single

Talor Byrne

Round 20 v Gold Coast Suns

The first-year youngster cemented his place in Carlton's plans this season and could earn his first Brownlow votes in the win over Gold Coast. Finished with three goals, two goal assists and 12 score involvements in a brilliant 17-disposal outing.

Ineligible Players

Will Hayward

PREVIOUS WINNERS

- Bert Deacon (1947)
- John James (1961)
- Gordon Collis (1964)
- Greg Williams (1994)
- Chris Judd (2010)
- Patrick Cripps (2022, 2024)**



Collingwood



Will Nick Daicos finally claim his first 'Charlie' after years of near-misses? The Pies superstar has produced an incredible campaign and will take some beating.

Best Chance

Nick Daicos

Surely, it'll be Nick's night. After a series of near misses, Daicos looks set to blow the competition out of the water in 2026. The Collingwood champion did it all this season, producing a campaign so dominant that it will perhaps even make Brownlow night more a case of 'will he break the all-time votes record?' as opposed to 'will he walk home with Charlie?' Looks set to crack the rare 40-vote barrier following his blistering year.



2025 Leading Vote Winner

Nick Daicos
(32 votes)



Brownlow Predictor

- 47 Nick Daicos
- 9 Josh Daicos,
Jordan De Goeij
- 5 Scott Pendlebury

Predicted Team Total

84

Quick Single

Tim Membrey

Round 17 v Gold Coast Suns

Membrey could sneak in his first votes since his St Kilda days after spearheading Collingwood's victory over Gold Coast late in the year. Finished with three goals and two goal assists to go with 18 disposals, nine marks and 10 score involvements.

Ineligible Players

N/A

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Syd Coventry (1927)
Albert Collier (1929)
Harry Collier (1930)
Marcus Whelan (1939)
Des Fothergill (1940)
Len Thompson (1972)
Peter Moore (1979)
Nathan Buckley (2003)
Dane Swan (2011)



Essendon

In a tough year for the Bombers, proven vote-getter Zach Merrett starred in the Dons' two wins to give himself a strong chance of leading his side's count again.

Best Chance

Zach Merrett

Merrett is Essendon's most prolific poller and will fancy his chances at claiming the most votes for the club amid a disappointing two-win Bombers season. Had 31 disposals and a goal and then 35 disposals and a goal in the side's only victories against Melbourne and Greater Western Sydney, putting him in prime position to win votes.



2025 Leading Vote Winner

Zach Merrett
(14 votes)



Brownlow Predictor

- 6 Darcy Parish,
Archie Roberts
- 4 Sam Durham,
Zach Merrett
- 2 Nate Caddy

Predicted Team Total

24

Quick Single

Peter Wright

Round 5 v Melbourne

Went into the ruck to inspire Essendon's first win of the year. Finished with 18 disposals, 14 hitouts, eight clearances and a goal to give himself a chance at claiming some rare votes.

Ineligible Players

Kyle Langford

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Dick Reynolds (1934, 1937, 1938)
Bill Hutchison (1952, 1953)
Graham Moss (1976)
Gavin Wanganeen (1993)
James Hird (1996)



Fremantle

Appears to be a close race at the Dockers with midfield stars Caleb Serong, Luke Jackson, Murphy Reid and Andy Brayshaw to challenge for leading votes.



FREMANTLE
DOCKERS

Best Chance

Caleb Serong

Could be anyone at Fremantle, but Serong has the runs on the board having won 24, 28 and 25 votes across the last three seasons. Had a prolific campaign and was among the Dockers' best midfielders but will have the likes of Murphy Reid, Luke Jackson and Andrew Brayshaw stealing from him across the night, while the side's lethal forwards group will be another hindrance to his overall chances. Still, he's the club's most proven poller.



2025 Leading Vote Winner

Andrew Brayshaw
(26 votes)



Brownlow Predictor

- 17 Murphy Reid
- 16 Luke Jackson
- 13 Caleb Serong

Predicted Team Total

101

Quick Single

Karl Worner

Round 21 v Western Bulldogs

An unsung member of Fremantle's elite backline, Worner had a breakout year and could even earn his first Brownlow votes. A win over the Dogs will give him the best chance at doing that having finished with 28 disposals, 13 marks, 10 intercepts and eight score involvements. Could even bring home all three.

Ineligible Players

N/A

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Nat Fyfe (2015, 2019)



Geelong

A noted vote-getter, Bailey Smith should be a clear leader at the Cats in a season where he was second in the competition for disposals.

Best Chance

Bailey Smith

Smith earned himself a spot on the Brownlow podium last season and enjoyed a campaign that was just as prolific in 2026. Will start and finish the year strong, while his chances could be aided by Max Holmes' injury that ruled him out for the final five games. Smith had 30 or more disposals in 17 of his 22 appearances this year, ensuring he'll once again be among the lead contenders as the count reaches its climax later in the night.



2025 Leading Vote Winner

Bailey Smith
(29 votes)



Brownlow Predictor

- 34 **Bailey Smith**
- 13 **Max Holmes**
- 7 **Ollie Dempsey, Shaun Mannagh**

Predicted Team Total

84

Quick Single

Gryan Miers

Round 19 v St Kilda

A frustrating year for Miers, who spent a fair chunk in the VFL before regaining his place in the back half of the campaign. Could still earn votes in round 19 when he had 22 disposals, three goals, four goal assists against St Kilda on his return from a stint out of the team.

Ineligible Players

Mark O'Connor

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Edward 'Carji' Greeves Jnr (1924)
Bernie Smith (1951)
Alistair Lord (1962)
Paul Couch (1989)
Jimmy Bartel (2007)
Gary Ablett Jnr (2009)
Patrick Dangerfield (2016)



Gold Coast Suns



Last year's Brownlow Medal winner Matt Rowell will feature prominently again, while recruit Christian Petracca had a strong start to the season.

Best Chance

Matt Rowell

He won it last year and while he's unlikely to go back-to-back, expect Rowell to still feature prominently among the votes. Had an impressive last month, as opposed to Christian Petracca who began the year strongly. Will likely poll in games where he had 30 disposals and eight clearances against Melbourne, 40 and 17 against Greater Western Sydney, 28 and eight against Brisbane and then 28 and 11 against St Kilda all to finish the year.



2025 Leading Vote Winner

Matt Rowell
(39 votes)



Brownlow Predictor

- 12 **Christian Petracca, Matt Rowell**
- 8 **Noah Anderson**
- 7 **John Noble**

Predicted Team Total

57

Quick Single

Ethan Read

Round 2 v Richmond

Gold Coast's unicorn could be set for the first Brownlow votes of his career. Played forward against Richmond early in the year and kicked four goals from 12 disposals and 11 marks, putting him right in the frame to hear his name called.

Ineligible Players

Bailey Humphrey, Sam Clohesy, Ben Long

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Gary Ablett Jnr (2013)
Matt Rowell (2025)



GWS Giants

Clayton Oliver was a revelation in his first season at the Giants, with Finn Callaghan also sure to attract votes after a stellar campaign.



Best Chance

Clayton Oliver

It's been a successful first season for Oliver at Greater Western Sydney, who won more than 23 disposals in every single game and was among the League's most prolific midfielders. He'll vie with younger teammate Finn Callaghan for the most votes at the Giants but has a proven track record after previous campaigns worth 31 and then 25 votes in 2021 and 2022 when he was at Melbourne.



2025 Leading Vote Winner

Finn Callaghan
(21 votes)



Brownlow Predictor

- 12 Finn Callaghan, Clayton Oliver
- 9 Lachie Ash, Toby Greene
- 7 Lachie Whitfield

Predicted Team Total

62

Quick Single

Phoenix Gothard

Round 11 v Brisbane Lions

The side's emphatic win over Brisbane produced a number of surprise performances, Gothard's chief among them. The youngster kicked two goals from 29 disposals, while also laying 10 tackles, perhaps putting him in line for his first ever Brownlow votes.

Ineligible Players

Joe Fonti

PREVIOUS WINNERS

N/A



Hawthorn



Ranked No.1 in the AFL for clearances, Jai Newcombe is a smoky for the Brownlow, while Nick Watson's wizardry should attract plenty of votes.

Best Chance

Jai Newcombe

Could be an outside chance to go all the way on Brownlow night. The voters love an inside ball winner and Newcombe is among the best, finishing the home and away season ranked No.1 for clearances and No.6 for contested possessions. Shouldn't have too many midfield teammates stealing votes from him, either. Barely had a bad game and has polled well in the past, making him a smoky for the game's biggest honour.



2025 Leading Vote Winner

Jai Newcombe
(17 votes)



Brownlow Predictor

- 24 Jai Newcombe
- 14 Nick Watson
- 8 Jack Gunston

Predicted Team Total

87

Quick Single

Cam Mackenzie

Round 16 v GWS Giants

Could be a decent chance for Mackenzie to find himself among the votes having finished with 27 disposals, a goal, seven clearances, seven tackles and 11 score involvements as the Hawks just held off the Giants at the MCG.

Ineligible Players

Josh Weddle, James Sicily,
Dylan Moore

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Col Austen (1949)
Robert DiPierdomenico (1986)
John Platten (1987)
Shane Crawford (1999)
Sam Mitchell (2012)
Tom Mitchell (2018)



Melbourne

Max Gawn is poised to poll strongly once again and looks the Demons' leading chance after a season that earned him a record ninth All-Australian blazer. Livewire Kysaiah Pickett should also feature prominently throughout the count.

Best Chance

Max Gawn

What a champion. Now a nine-time All-Australian, and a two-time All-Australian captain, Gawn is likely to again feature prominently among the votes on Brownlow night. After winning a career-high 23 votes last year, Gawn has shown he polls better than most rucks and arguably went to another level in 2026. Watch out for Kysaiah Pickett potentially stealing some votes from him across the night.



2025 Leading Vote Winner

Max Gawn
(23 votes)



Brownlow Predictor

- 25 Max Gawn
- 22 Kysaiah Pickett
- 11 Jacob van Rooyen*

Predicted Team Total

84

Quick Single

Caleb Windsor

Round 7 v Richmond

We could see Windsor earn his first career Brownlow votes for his Anzac Day Eve performance against Richmond. Finished with 25 disposals and two goals to put himself in the frame but expect 'Kozzy' to nab the best-on-ground honours in this one.

Ineligible Players

Jacob van Rooyen

PREVIOUS WINNERS

- Ivor Warne-Smith (1926, 1928)
- Don Cordner (1946)
- Brian Wilson (1982)
- Peter Moore (1984)
- Jim Stynes (1991)
- Shane Woewodin (2000)



North Melbourne



Harry Sheezel looks set to edge out Luke Davies-Uniacke as North Melbourne's top poller after another outstanding season. The prolific young star had greater scoreboard impact in 2026 and should be rewarded for some dominant performances in the Roos' wins.

Best Chance

Harry Sheezel

It'll be a straight shootout between Sheezel and Luke Davies-Uniacke to see who takes home the most votes at North Melbourne, with both enjoying fantastic seasons. Sheezel was as prolific as always, but added goals to the mix more often in 2026. He also performed strongly in North's wins and had games worth 39 disposals and one goal in a triumph over Richmond, 33 and a goal against West Coast, then 43 disposals and eight tackles against Essendon late in the year. Should see him pip his teammate to the post.



2025 Leading Vote Winner

Luke Davies-Uniacke
(11 votes)



Brownlow Predictor

- 22 Harry Sheezel
- 16 Luke Davies-Uniacke
- 6 Dylan Stephens

Predicted Team Total

66

Quick Single

Cooper Trembath

Round 15 v Richmond

It was a breakout season for Trembath. Now, will he earn his first Brownlow votes? His best chance will fall in a win over Richmond where he finished with four goals from 12 disposals and five marks.

Ineligible Players

Paul Curtis, Tristan Xerri

PREVIOUS WINNERS

- Noel Teasdale (1965)
- Keith Greig (1973, 1974)
- Malcolm Blight (1978)
- Ross Glendinning (1983)



Port Adelaide



Zak Butters was tracking towards another huge Brownlow return before injury cut his season short, but he should still poll heavily. However, expect Jason Horne-Francis to take votes off him along the way.

Best Chance

Zak Butters

Expect to see Butters right alongside the contenders for the Brownlow, before he suffered his season-ending injury in round 18. Clearly one of the best players in the competition this year until that moment, Butters' influence will likely see him poll a lot of votes even in Port's losses. He'll have to battle with his ineligible teammate Jason Horne-Francis for votes, but after amassing more than 20 votes in each of his last three seasons Butters is a proven poller and will earn his fair share across the night.



2025 Leading Vote Winner

Zak Butters
(21 votes)



Brownlow Predictor

- 24 Jason Horne-Francis*
- 19 Zak Butters
- 5 Aliir Aliir

Predicted Team Total

58

Quick Single

Joe Richards

Round 19 v Fremantle

This is surely the year we see Richards poll his first Brownlow votes. Will deserve to have his name called after winning 31 disposals, six clearances, eight tackles and kicking a goal as Port bravely went down to Fremantle late in the year.

Ineligible Players

Jason Horne-Francis,
Darcy Byrne-Jones

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Ollie Wines (2021)



Richmond

Tim Taranto should again be Richmond's leading poller after another strong season despite the Tigers' struggles. The midfielder performed consistently in both wins and losses and has shown in the past he can attract the umpires' attention.

Best Chance

Tim Taranto

Don't expect the winner to come from Tigerland, but Taranto should still poll well after an impressive season. He was a surprise vote-getter last year, finishing with 20 in a disappointing Richmond campaign, but played well in both wins and losses in 2026. He should see votes for a 30-disposal, eight-clearance game in a victory over Essendon, then a 32-disposal, one-goal game in a win over West Coast late in the year.



2025 Leading Vote Winner

Tim Taranto
(20 votes)



Brownlow Predictor

- 9 **Tim Taranto**
- 4 **Sam Lalor**
- 3 **Kane McAuliffe**

Predicted Team Total

21

Quick Single

Patrick Retschko

Round 11 v Essendon

What a rise for Retschko. A relative unknown when he joined Richmond during last year's Trade Period, he broke through and enjoyed a monster Dreamtime game to finish with 27 disposals, eight marks and nine score involvements. Will it be enough to see him win his first career votes?

Ineligible Players

Jonty Faull, Samson Ryan,
Luke Trainor

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Stan Judkins (1930)
Bill Morris (1948)
Roy Wright (1952, 1954)
Ian Stewart (1971)
Trent Cotchin (2012)
Dustin Martin (2017)



St Kilda

Despite missing parts of the season due to injury, Nasiah Wanganeen-Milera should dominate the votes for the Saints, while Max Hall and Cal Wilkie should also feature.



Best Chance

Nasiah Wanganeen-Milera

Wanganeen-Milera has now cemented himself as a perennial Brownlow challenger. After winning 23 votes last season, the St Kilda star will look to go even higher in 2026. Expect to see 'Nas' go on a tear late in the year when, in the space of five weeks, he had games featuring 44 disposals and a goal against the Western Bulldogs, 46 and a goal against Essendon, then 46 and four goals against North Melbourne.



2025 Leading Vote Winner

Nasiah Wanganeen-Milera
(23 votes)

Brownlow Predictor

- 25 Nasiah Wanganeen-Milera
- 10 Callum Wilkie
- 8 Max Hall

Predicted Team Total

75



Quick Single

Mitch Owens

Round 23 v Richmond

Owens could be in line for the first Brownlow votes of his career for his late season efforts against Richmond. Finished with five goals and also had 14 disposals, seven marks and 10 score involvements on a big afternoon.

Ineligible Players

Dan Butler

PREVIOUS WINNERS

- Colin Watson (1925)
- Brian Gleeson (1957)
- Neil Roberts (1958)
- Verdun Howell (1959)
- Ian Stewart (1965, 1966)
- Ross G Smith (1967)
- Tony Lockett (1987)
- Robert Harvey (1997, 1998)



Sydney Swans

There should be an even spread of vote-getters at the Swans, with the likes of Isaac Heeney, Brodie Grundy, Chad Warner and Charlie Curnow all expected to poll heavily, as well as Errol Gulden late in the year.

Best Chance

The even spread of vote getters at the Swans are likely to all pinch from each other across the night. A blistering start to the year should see Isaac Heeney amass votes early, but Errol Gulden also finished the campaign like a steam train once he regained full fitness. Brodie Grundy and Charlie Curnow are also likely to see their fair share of votes throughout the evening.

2025 Leading Vote Winner

Chad Warner
(21 votes)



Charlie Curnow
2026 Coleman Medallist

Brownlow Predictor

- 23 Isaac Heeney
- 15 Brodie Grundy,
Errol Gulden
- 14 Chad Warner

Predicted Team Total

99

Quick Single

Malcolm Rosas

Round 8 v Melbourne

You can just about lock Rosas in for the first Brownlow votes of his career for this effort against Melbourne. Kicked a whopping seven goals to go with 14 disposals and nine score involvements.

Ineligible Players

Angus Sheldrick

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Herbie Matthews (1940)
Ron Clegg (1949)
Fred Goldsmith (1955)
Bob Skilton (1959, 1963, 1968)
Peter Bedford (1970)
Graham Teasdale (1977)
Barry Round (1981)
Greg Williams (1986)
Gerard Healy (1988)
Paul Kelly (1995)
Adam Goodes (2003, 2006)



West Coast Eagles

Harley Reid should clearly be the leading vote-getter for the Eagles, although he's ineligible due to suspension. Instead, Tim Kelly, Jake Waterman or Bailey Williams could pick up a few votes to lead the way.

Best Chance

Tim Kelly

Harley Reid will be West Coast's best poller, but as he's ineligible it probably makes Kelly the best chance at the Eagles. He's polled strongly before, grabbing 24 votes in his second-ever season while at Geelong in 2019, and played well in the side's victories across the year. Still, expect Reid to be the Eagle that has his name called the most frequently throughout the night.



2025 Leading Vote Winner

Harley Reid,
Liam Ryan
(3 votes)

Brownlow Predictor

- 20 Harley Reid*
- 3 Reuben Ginbey,
Tim Kelly
Bailey Williams
Elliot Yeo
- 2 Tom McCarthy,
Jake Waterman

Predicted Team Total

37



Quick Single

Bailey Williams

Round 11 v Collingwood

It was a breakout year for Williams, who could now add to his solitary career Brownlow vote. His best chance will come against Collingwood, when he finished with 20 disposals, 28 hitouts, a goal and 12 clearances in a narrow loss at the MCG.

Ineligible Players

Liam Baker, Harley Reid,
Deven Robertson

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Chris Judd (2004)
Ben Cousins (2005)
Matt Priddis (2014)



Western Bulldogs

Expect Marcus Bontempelli and Ed Richards to feature heavily here, with the Bulldogs skipper expected to be the main challenger to Nick Daicos for the award.

Best Chance

Marcus Bontempelli

Bontempelli deserves a Brownlow and 2026 might represent his best chance yet at getting one. He'll be the biggest challenger to Collingwood's Nick Daicos following yet another scintillating campaign, where he continued his status as one of the game's most influential and brilliant midfielders. The big question is, having had five seasons where he's polled more than 20 votes, will he grab enough this year to topple Daicos?



2025 Leading Vote Winner

Marcus Bontempelli
(25 votes)

Brownlow Predictor

- 32 Marcus Bontempelli
- 20 Ed Richards
- 4 Joel Freijah

Predicted Team Total

63



Quick Single

Bailey Williams

Round 19 v Gold Coast Suns

He's only polled three votes in nearly 200 games, but Williams could find himself among the best again this year. His chance will come late in the campaign in a win over Gold Coast where he had 29 disposals, eight marks and nine intercepts.

Ineligible Players

N/A

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Allan Hopkins (1930)
Norman Ware (1941)
Peter Box (1956)
John Schultz (1960)
Gary Dempsey (1975)
Kelvin Templeton (1980)
Brad Hardie (1985)
Tony Liberatore (1990)
Scott Wynd (1992)
Adam Cooney (2008)



Brownlow Medallists

1924	Edward 'Carji' Greeves	Geelong
1925	Colin Watson	St Kilda
1926	Ivor Warne-Smith	Melbourne
1927	Syd Coventry	Collingwood
1928	Ivor Warne-Smith	Melbourne
1929	Albert Collier	Collingwood
1930	Stan Judkins	Richmond
	Allan Hopkins	Footscray
	Harry Collier	Collingwood
1931	Haydn Bunton	Fitzroy
1932	Haydn Bunton	Fitzroy
1933	W. 'Chicken' Smallhorn	Fitzroy
1934	Dick Reynolds	Essendon
1935	Haydn Bunton	Fitzroy
1936	'Dinny' Ryan	Fitzroy
1937	Dick Reynolds	Essendon
1938	Dick Reynolds	Essendon
1939	Marcus Whelan	Collingwood
1940	Herbie Matthews	Sth Melbourne
	Des Fothergill	Collingwood
1941	Norman Ware	Footscray
1946	Don Cordner	Melbourne
1947	Bert Deacon	Carlton
1948	Bill Morris	Richmond
1949	Ron Clegg	Sth Melbourne
	Col Austen	Hawthorn
1950	Allan Ruthven	Fitzroy
1951	Bernie Smith	Geelong
1952	Roy Wright	Richmond
	Bill Hutchison	Essendon
1953	Bill Hutchison	Essendon
1954	Roy Wright	Richmond
1955	Fred Goldsmith	Sth Melbourne
1956	Peter Box	Footscray
1957	Brian Gleeson	St Kilda
1958	Neil Roberts	St Kilda
1959	Bob Skilton	South Melbourne
	Verdun Howell	St Kilda

1960	John Schultz	Footscray
1961	John James	Carlton
1962	Alistair Lord	Geelong
1963	Bob Skilton	South Melbourne
1964	Gordon Collis	Carlton
1965	Ian Stewart	St Kilda
	Noel Teasdale	Nth Melbourne
1966	Ian Stewart	St Kilda
1967	Ross Smith	St Kilda
1968	Bob Skilton	Sth Melbourne
1969	Kevin Murray	Fitzroy
1970	Peter Bedford	Sth Melbourne
1971	Ian Stewart	Richmond
1972	Len Thompson	Collingwood
1973	Keith Greig	Nth Melbourne
1974	Keith Greig	Nth Melbourne
1975	Gary Dempsey	Footscray
1976	Graham Moss	Essendon
1977	Graham Teasdale	Sth Melbourne
1978	Malcolm Blight	Nth Melbourne
1979	Peter Moore	Collingwood
1980	Kelvin Templeton	Footscray
1981	Bernie Quinlan	Fitzroy
	Barry Round	Sth Melbourne
1982	Brian Wilson	Melbourne
1983	Ross Glendinning	Nth Melbourne
1984	Peter Moore	Melbourne
1985	Brad Hardie	Footscray
1986	Robert DiPierdomenico	Hawthorn
	Greg Williams	Sydney Swans
1987	Tony Lockett	St Kilda
	John Platten	Hawthorn
1988	Gerard Healy	Sydney Swans
1989	Paul Couch	Geelong
1990	Tony Liberatore	Footscray
1991	Jim Styne	Melbourne
1992	Scott Wynd	Footscray
1993	Gavin Wanganeen	Essendon
1994	Greg Williams	Carlton

1995	Paul Kelly	Sydney Swans
1996	James Hird	Essendon
	Michael Voss	Brisbane Bears
1997	Robert Harvey	St Kilda
1998	Robert Harvey	St Kilda
1999	Shane Crawford	Hawthorn
2000	Shane Woewodin	Melbourne
2001	Jason Akermanis	Brisbane Lions
2002	Simon Black	Brisbane Lions
2003	Nathan Buckley	Collingwood
	Adam Goodes	Sydney Swans
	Mark Ricciuto	Adelaide
2004	Chris Judd	WC Eagles
2005	Ben Cousins	West Coast Eagles
2006	Adam Goodes	Sydney Swans
2007	Jimmy Bartel	Geelong
2008	Adam Cooney	Western Bulldogs
2009	Gary Ablett	Geelong
2010	Chris Judd	Carlton
2011	Dane Swan	Collingwood
2012	Trent Cotchin	Richmond
	Sam Mitchell	Hawthorn
2013	Gary Ablett	GC Suns
2014	Matt Priddis	WC Eagles
2015	Nat Fyfe	Fremantle Dockers
2016	Patrick Dangerfield	Geelong
2017	Dustin Martin	Richmond
2018	Tom Mitchell	Hawthorn
2019	Nat Fyfe	Fremantle Dockers
2020	Lachie Neale	Brisbane Lions
2021	Ollie Wines	Port Adelaide
2022	Patrick Cripps	Carlton
2023	Lachie Neale	Brisbane Lions
2024	Patrick Cripps	Carlton
2025	Matt Rowell	GC Suns



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