



Hall of fame gets the Lions roaring

They're the pride of the old Lions.

Coburg launched its hall of fame by inducting 31 players and officials, with seven being elevated to legend status: Ian Liversidge, Dave Starbuck, Eric Lines, Brad Nimmo, Vin Taranto, Graham Douglas and INSIDE FOOTBALL's own Phil Cleary.

Burgers general manager Graeme Blow said more than 300 people attended the function in Brunswick on May 10 and the feeling in the room "couldn't be bottled".

The inductees were:

Trevor Price: aggressive key defender who played in the 1970, '74 and '79 premierships. Selected in the team of the century and was made a life member in 1978.

Robert "Patchy" Wilkinson: joined the club in 1947 and went on to 137 games. Also a long-serving trainer and a groundsman at the City Oval. **Robert Evans:** star full back who won the 1985 best and fairest and figured in the 1989 premiership. Elected president in 1998 and instrumental in striking the alignment with Richmond.

Ray "Slug" Jordon: claimed best and fairests in 1959-60-61, the only Burger to win three in a row, and was captain for two years. Played 98 games and kicked 169 goals. Later became a great under-age coach.

Rae Liversidge: went to Coburg in 1992 to help out her brother Ian and worked in the administration with dedication at a time when the club was struggling.

Phil Cleary: played 205 games and kicked 318 goals as a small forward with a deceptive turn of foot. Played in the 1979 premiership, coached the Burgers to the 1988-89 flags and became president in 1995. A Lion from head to toe.

Norm Tobitt: long-serving volunteer who was made a life member in 1951.

Linton Jones: became treasurer in 1971 and earned the nickname "Scrooge" for his unwillingness to part with club money. Helped with bingo and was an inaugural member of the coterie group.

Laurie Burt: champion player who finished with 157 games and three best and



Legendary figure: Phil Cleary in the Coburg rooms.

fairests. Captained the club, was runner-up in the 1978 JJ Liston Trophy and was part of the 1979 premiership. Named in the team of the century.

Lance Collins: gun forward who piled up 432 goals from 98 games, including centuries in 1936 and 1939. Appointed captain-coach in 1940 and, with Bob Pratt at full forward, he moved out to centre half forward and still kicked bags. Won the best and fairest in 1941 then joined Carlton.

Ken Ingram: nicknamed "The Bear" because of his strong build, and was a key member of the 1988-89 premierships. Won two best and fairests and was captain in 1992-93.

Jim Sullivan: team-of-the-century player who won the 1967 JJ Liston Trophy and the 1969 Field Medal. Played in the 1970 premiership.

Jim Jenkins: ruckman from Tasmania who joined Coburg in 1925 and was a major player in the 1926-27-28 premiership treble. Won two best and fairests and served as captain-coach.

Ian Liversidge: began at the club as a player in 1966 but gave it greater service off the ground, acting as president, vice-president and treasurer. Also ran the kiosk, bingo and operated the scoreboard.

Henry Kerley: kicked five goals in Coburg's first match in the VFA in 1925 and was part of the 1926-27-28 premiership teams, captaining the first two and captain-coaching the third. Landed a pair of best and fairests and was picked in the team of the century.

Graham Douglas: counts as one of the greatest officials in Coburg's history, having served as president, vice-president and delegate to the VFA. Joined the senior committee in 1967.

George Parry: another great clubman, contributing as a timekeeper, bingo helper, kiosk attendant and Record seller. Awarded life membership in 1982 and the Coburg boardroom is named after him.

Gary Sheldon: one of the greatest Lions of all, he shared the 1988 JJ Liston Trophy, won two best and fairests (and had a string of top-three finishes) and was a star of Cleary's 1988-89 premiership sides. Also a regular state representative.

Fred Cook: put in many years to the club's off-field efforts, acting as chairman of the bingo and kiosk committees and helping raise an enormous amount of money.

Frank Connor: took on the presidency when the local council booted Coburg off the City Oval in 1965, allocating the ground to North Melbourne. Walked the streets campaigning against the decision and was instrumental in the Burgers regaining the oval. Continued as president until 1972.

Ernest "Snowy" Martin: joined the Burgers from Carlton in 1925 and was a wingman in the 1926-27 premiership teams. Also won the Recorder Cup (equivalent to the Liston) in 1927.

Eric Lines: Nicknamed "Tiger" and made a lasting

contribution to the reserves teams in the 1920s and 30s, as a player, captain and coach.

Dave Starbuck: Started with Coburg in 1945 and one of the last VFA players to use the place kick. Played 219 games, coached the Under 19s for five seasons, was president in 1973-74 and his earthmoving business was the major sponsor for many years.

Clarrie Mears: champion rover who took the 1925-26 best and fairests and was part of the 1926 and '28 premierships. Finished with 166 games, 278 goals and team-of-the-century honours.

Clarrie Butcher: played 23 senior games (and many more in the reserves) and joined the committee in 1979. Won plaudits for his work as junior development officer and running the Thirds.

Bryan Wells: former mayor of Coburg who served as the club secretary and delegate to the VFA board for many years. Made a life member in 1970.

Brian Allison: Tough little man recruited from Essendon and essential to Coburg's success in 1988 and '89. Notched 174 games and represented the VFA in carnival matches. Made the team of the century.

Brad Nimmo: grand full back who met and matched the VFA's best spearheads. A star of the 1979-88-89 flags and voted captain of the team of the century. Received life membership in 1990.

Anthony Alessio: pulled in many a mark with hands that could pass for clamps. Best and fairest in 1992 and captain from 1997-2000 as he totted up 163 games. Admired for his loyalty, sticking with the Lions through rugged times.

Alan Walsh: outstanding administrator whose contribution continues today in his role as vice-president and property steward. Joined the club in 1984, helping with the Thirds, and was added to the senior committee in 1987.

Vin Taranto: Powerfully built player dubbed "The Tank" who became a cult figure at the City Oval during a senior career that spanned 1984-1999. Played in the 1988-89 premierships and finished with 208 games.



Gent: Some of the hallmarks of Sam Mitchell.

■ **IF THERE WAS AN AFL** mid-season draft this year, you suspect Port Melbourne's Chris Cain would be the first player picked. The all-class right-footer won the Frank Johnson Medal as the Vics' best player against the WAFL and has been Port's most consistent in 2013. Borrough boy Sam Dwyer's rise at Collingwood this year has many VFL watchers thinking Cain can also go to the next level. Hook says there's no doubt. "Similar to Dwyer, Cain has been a regular top performer at VFL level against AFL-listed players, and that's a pretty fair way to judge them," he said. "He's got good skills, he reads the play well and he's a quality young man. He deserves a chance. If a club picked him he wouldn't let them down." Hook also believes AFL clubs should be interested in Northern Blues midfielder Kane Lambert.

■ **HEAVY BLOW FOR NORTH** Ballarat and its star small forward Billy Driscoll, with the right-footer having a foot operation last week. Roosters football manager Marg Richards said Driscoll had fractured the fifth metatarsal in his foot and had it pinned during surgery. "He's confident he will be only six to seven weeks away," she said. "But it is a very tricky injury. It happened in the game before the bye and was the result of a stress fracture. It's very disappointing for him. He's been playing very good footy." At the North-

ern Blues, a knee strain will keep ace midfielder Adam Marcon out until Round 9.

■ **IN A CASEY MIDFIELD** studded with Melbourne-listed players, Mitch Gent receives less recognition than most of his teammates. But the third-year Scorpion has quickly earned the faith of coach Rohan Welsh and established himself as a senior regular. "I sort of liken him to a Sam Mitchell," Welsh said. "He's a very inside midfielder with great hands and an ability to win the ball around the stoppages and make good decisions. Quality kid, too. Just wants to improve and he's always looking to do extra stuff." Gent is pleased with his progress this season but said: "I'm going OK but I've got to keep it up to hold my spot. There aren't any easy games." He joined Casey from the Dandenong Stingrays in 2011 but problems with his hips delayed his progress. They'd surfaced in his bottom-age TAC Cup year and eventually required surgery. Finally feeling hip about his hips, he's gained confidence and consistency.

■ **A WHACK FOR PORT WITH** Collingwood recruit Luke Rounds leaving the club for work reasons. Coach Gary Ayres said the defender had taken up an apprenticeship in the building industry sooner than the club expected. Port had high hopes for Rounds but he was dropped to the reserves after Round 4.