subject to change

YANKALILLA F.C. INTERVIEW WITH GREGORY WHITTLESEA.  13/11/17 Jan Bache

Below is stats of football career for Greg Whittlesea. After perusing that, following on is the indepth story of Greg’s football life

**Gregory Whittlesea** (born 23 July 1963) is a former [Australian rules footballer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_rules_football) who played with [Hawthorn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawthorn_Football_Club) in the [Australian Football League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_Football_League) (AFL) and with [Sturt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sturt_Football_Club) and [Glenelg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glenelg_Football_Club) in the [South Australian National Football League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Australian_National_Football_League) (SANFL) during the 1980s and 1990s.

Whittlesea captained Sturt from 1987 to 1990 and won the [Magarey Medal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magarey_Medal) in 1988. He won successive [best and fairest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Best_and_fairest) awards in 1987 and 1988. At the [1988 Adelaide Bicentennial Carnival](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1988_Adelaide_Bicentennial_Carnival) he represented South Australia and earned [All-Australian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All-Australian) selection. In [1991](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1991_AFL_season) he was recruited by Hawthorn, but managed only four games.

He retired from football in 2004 having played 168 games for [Yankalilla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yankalilla_Football_Club) in the [Great Southern Football League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Southern_Football_League_(South_Australia)) in South Australia

* [Magarey Medal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magarey_Medal) 1988
* Sturt captain 1987–1990
* Sturt best and fairest 1987, 1988
* [All-Australian team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All-Australian_team) 1988

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| **Years** | **Club** | **Games (Goals)** |
| 1981–1990 | [Sturt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sturt_Football_Club) | 234 (88) |
| 1991 | [Hawthorn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawthorn_Football_Club) | 4 (0) |
| 1993–1994 | [Glenelg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glenelg_Football_Club) | 17 (1) |

Greg grew up in Yankalilla born into a family very well respected and outstanding contributors to their community.Greg’s father and mother volunteered their time and support to the Yankalilla F.C. and Greg with his siblings spent their time at the Club during football and cricket seasons.. Greg’s Father was Treasurer for a couple of years and sat on committees over the years and was awarded Life Member of the YFC. Greg commenced playing footy at the age of 8 years and played most of his junior days playing half back flank or back pocket and was awarded Best Player for junior colts. Whittlesea’s were farmers and it was decided that Greg would go to Urrbrae College to study. He was billeted out with a family and would come home on weekends. It was at this time that he was noticed by the Sturt Football Club where he commenced playing first in the Under 17’s and then U19’s. Greg progressed through to ‘A’ grade before he turned 20 and was appointed Captain of the ‘A’ side 1987-1990. During his time Greg said he was coached by 3 very experienced skilful Coaches – Jack Oatey, John Halbert and Merv Keane all of whom developed and nurtured his talent and as stated above was awarded the highest accolade to a SANFL player by winning the 1988 Magarey Medal. He also won Best & Fairest for the club in 1987-1988 and he represented South Australia in the[1988 Adelaide Bicentennial Carnival](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1988_Adelaide_Bicentennial_Carnival) where he and earned [All-Australian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All-Australian) selection, playing alongside Peter Motley, Stephen Kernahan and Craig Bradley.

In 1991 Greg was recruited to Hawthorn where he played on 4 ‘A’ grade games, he played along side players such as Tucker, Brereton and the list goes on. He was successful playing in the ‘B’ grade for Hawthorn playing alongside Dipper, Peter Swabb to name a few that we all know were very talented AFL footballers. He was coached by the legendary John Kennedy. In this year in ‘B’ grade won the Best & Fairest, another honour to add to his collection.

In 1993-1994 Greg returned to Adelaide and played footy at Glenelg F.C. His coach at GFC was Mark Williams and once again played alongside well known SANFL players, Ross Gibbs, Tony Symonds.

Greg to returned to the land and the start of another chapter in Greg’s footy career, putting on his Yankalilla F.C.Guernsey wearing it with pride. Over the next 20 odd years Greg played very close to 200 games, was Captain Coach in 2002/2003 and was successful in representing the GSFL in Inter-Association matches on several occasions. Greg also has been GSL Association Selector for 4years .

Greg talked about his footy days and the wonderful memories he has during his days back at Yankalilla F.C. During his junior days he played against several boys from Myponga,. Chris Rowntree ,Geoff & David Hutchinson, Barry Clarke to name a few and now as seniors they were still playing against one another.

The matches v Myponga were memorable and the playing of the ‘Whittlesea Cup’ was always welcomed and enjoyed. When Greg finished playing he was Junior President for a couple of years and officiated as ‘B’ grade umpire for 3 years.

Another memory Greg had whilst playing at Sturt was that Kym Smith from Strathalbyn F.C. played there, and at that time Kym was driving a Road Train for his job. The players all had trouble getting a park at the oval when Kym came straight from work, the Road Train took up half the street, also they had no idea how he fitted down the side streets as they were so narrow.

Greg has two sons one is umpiring in the SANFL and with dedication and commitment like his father no doubt we will see him progress through to the AFL. Greg’s younger son plays footy for Yankalilla F.C. and the tutoring his father has given will bring him success.

The interview with Greg went for 2 hours and I was absorbed listening to him speak about his footy career and it was a wonderful privilege for me to interview a Man of great Substance and respect for the game and who has attained the highest accolades a footballer can be awarded.

Congratulations Greg Whittlesea.