



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET

AUGUST 10, 2025

AFL 2025 ROUND 22

MELBOURNE V WESTERN BULLDOGS

FINALS BETWEEN THE CLUBS

Melbourne and the Footscray/Western Bulldogs have played in five finals. These were:

- **1946 First Semi-final.** Melbourne 17.18 (120) defeated Footscray 15.12 (102) before a crowd of 61,277 at the MCG. Melbourne were best served by Jack Mueller with four goals and Norman Ware for Footscray also kicked four goals. Melbourne went on to the grand final where they were defeated by Essendon.
- **1954 Grand Final.** In its 30th season with the VFL, Footscray finally got its first premiership flag after a comprehensive demolition job on Melbourne, with Ted Whitten and Charlie Sutton starring. The final score read Footscray 15.12 (102) defeated Melbourne 7.9 (51). A crowd of 80,897 witnessed the match with Charlie Sutton, captain-coach of Footscray and Geoff Collins captain of Melbourne and Norm Smith coach. The Bulldogs' full-forward, Jack Collins, kicked seven goals.
- **1961 Preliminary Final.** The match saw Footscray 13.7 (85) defeat Melbourne 8.10 (58) before a crowd of 86,118. For Footscray Jack Slattery kicked four goals and Merv. Hobbs three. For Melbourne both Ron Barassi and Laurie Mithen each kicked two goals. The following week Hawthorn defeated Footscray in the grand final.
- **1994 First Semi-final.** The match saw Melbourne 21.18 (144) defeat Footscray 9.11 (65) before a crowd of 65,577 at the MCG. Melbourne was well served by Garry Lyon who kicked 10 goals while Footscray's Brad Johnson and Chris Grant recorded two goals each.
- **2021 Grand Final.** Played at Perth Stadium due to on-going COVID 19 lockdowns preventing the use of the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The 126th grand final saw Melbourne 21.14 (140) defeat Western Bulldogs 10.6 (66) in front of a crowd of 61,118. Simon Goodwin coached the Demons with Max Gawn captain. Luke Beveridge coached the Western Bulldogs with Marcus Bontempelli skipper. The Norm Smith Medal was awarded to Demon Christian Petracca. For Melbourne the leading goalkickers were Bayley Fritsch (6) and Ben Brown (3). For Western Bulldogs two players in Marcus Bontempelli and Adam Treloar each kicked three goals.

GREAT GOAL KICKING FEATS

- Norm Smith (Melbourne) in Round 17, 1941, kicked 12 goals 10 behinds from 22 shots at goal against Footscray at the MCG.
- Simon Beasley (Footscray) in Round 15, 1985, kicked 12 goals against Melbourne at the Western Oval.

OVER TO YOU

1. Who am I? In 1931 I made my league debut after being recruited from the Ballarat area. I was a member of three successive premierships. I was also a respected cricketer. I became a noted football journalist.
2. Which player kicked a record 18 goals in a VFL/AFL match?
3. Who was the Bulldog full-forward who kicked seven goals in their 1954 grand final victory over Melbourne?
4. Which Bulldog won the 2016 Norm Smith Medal?
5. When did Footscray become the Western Bulldogs?
6. Who am I? I captained my club to three successive premierships. I won four best and fairest awards. I was recruited from University Blacks and played initially at full-forward and then in the centre.
7. Name the occasions Melbourne have won three flags in a row.
8. Which Bulldog was known as "Mr. Football"?
9. Who am I? I am a Melbourne Brownlow Medalist who played with Footscray, North Melbourne, Melbourne and St Kilda.
10. Who am I? I won the 1980 Brownlow Medal. I played with Footscray (1974-1982) and Melbourne (1983-1985).

THIS ROUND IN HISTORY - ROUND 22 AT THE MCG

The highest Round 22 score at the MCG is 25.20 (170) by Hawthorn against Richmond 13.8 (86) in 1992. The overall Round 22 highest score is 32.16 (208) by Essendon against Footscray 9.8 (62) at the Western Oval in 1982. The highest score in a quarter is 10.4 (64) by North Melbourne in the second quarter against Fitzroy in 1991 (Fitzroy won by a point) and by Richmond against Fitzroy in the last quarter in 1988 (Richmond won by 103 points). The overall Round 22 record is 13.4 (82) by Essendon against Footscray in the third quarter at the Western Oval in 1982. The biggest bag of goals is 12 by Jason Dunstall for Hawthorn against Richmond in 1992 (see above for match scores). This is also the overall Round 22 goalkicking record. The largest Round 22 attendance is 87,984 when Essendon played Carlton at the MCG in 1995.

STATISTICS FOR MELBOURNE V WESTERN BULLDOGS

Melbourne v Footscray/Western Bulldogs by venue

	Won By Melbourne	Won By Bulldogs	Drawn
Carrara	0	1	0
Docklands Stad.	9	12	0
MCG	49	29	0
Perth Stadium	1	0	0
Princes Park	0	5	0
Punt Road Oval	2	2	0
Waverley Park	4	1	0
Western Oval	28	31	1
	93	81	1

Highest Score

Melbourne	23.21 (159)	Rd 9	1984	Wav
Footscray	26.13 (169)	Rd 15	1985	WO

Lowest Score

Melbourne	3.9 (27)	Rd 8	1932	WO
Footscray	3.6 (24)	Rd 11	1963	WO

Greatest Winning Margin

Melbourne	80 points	Rd 12	1943	PR
Footscray	120 points	Rd 15	1985	WO

Last Match – Round 21, 2024, Docklands Stadium

	Bulldogs	Melbourne
Quarter time	4.7	1.1
Half time	6.13	5.1
Three-quarter time	11.17	7.3
Full time	15.20 (110)	9.5 (59)

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

12	Norm Smith	Melb	Rd 17	1941	MCG
12	Simon Beasley	Foots	Rd 15	1985	WO
11	Fred Fanning	Melb	Rd 12	1943	PR
10	Fred Fanning	Melb	Rd 18	1947	WO
10	Ron Grove	Foots	Rd 5	1946	PR

PLAYED WITH BOTH CLUBS.

There have been 39 players who have appeared with both Melbourne and Footscray/Western Bulldogs, here is one of those players:

Luke Beveridge, the grandson of Collingwood's premiership rover, Jack Beveridge, played 42 games for the Demons from 1989 to 1992 and booted 41 goals. He was a rover and small forward who stood at 5'8" (173cms) tall and weighed 179lb (81kgs). Beveridge was Melbourne's best first year player in 1989. He joined Footscray in 1993. Beveridge played 31 games and kicked 29 goals for the Bulldogs until 1995. His third and final club was St Kilda from 1996 to 1999 for 45 games (37 goals). He began his coaching career with St Bedes/Mentone Tigers in the VAFA. He coached St Bedes/Mentone Tigers to the C, B and A grade premierships in consecutive seasons. He was an assistant coach at Collingwood from 2009 to 2010 working with Mick Malthouse for the Magpies 2010 premiership. From 2012 to 2014 he was an assistant coach at Hawthorn under Alastair Clarkson. He specialised working with club's defence. Luke Beveridge has coached the Western Bulldogs from 2015. He holds the record for the most games coached at Footscray/Western Bulldogs. In 2016 he guided the Bulldogs to the AFL premiership, their first flag since 1954. In 2021 he took the Bulldogs to a second grand final, but they were defeated by Melbourne who ended their premiership drought.

OVER TO YOU ANSWERS

Q1 Percy Beames, Melbourne 1931-1944 – 213 games (323 goals). Demon captain/coach from 1942 to 1944. **Q2** Fred Fanning, kicked 18.1 goals against St Kilda in Round 19, 1947 at the Junction Oval. **Q3** Jack Collins. **Q4** Jason Johannisen. **Q5** 1997. **Q6** Allan La Fontaine who played with Melbourne between 1934 and 1945 in 171 games. **Q7** 1939 to 1941 and 1955 to 1957. **Q8** Ted Whitten Snr. **Q9** Brian Wilson. **Q10** Kelvin Templeton.

FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

The MCC Library's matchday fact sheets can be accessed through the MCC website at: <http://tinyurl.com/mccclcatalogue>

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