



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET SEPTEMBER 20, 2025 AFL 2025 1ST PRELIMINARY FINAL COLLINGWOOD V BRISBANE

COLLINGWOOD

First Final: 1897 Robin Round Finals at the MCG – **Collingwood 7.9 (51)** defeated **Melbourne 7.5 (47)**.

Most Recent Finals Appearance before 2025: 2023 grand final at the MCG - **Collingwood 12.18 (90)** defeated **Brisbane 13.8 (86)**.

Premierships (16): 1902, 1903, 1910, 1917, 1919, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1935, 1936, 1953, 1958, 1990, 2010, 2023.

Norm Smith Medallists: Tony Shaw (1990), Nathan Buckley (2002), Scott Pendlebury (2010 replay), Bobby Hill (2023).

Most Finals Appearances: Scott Pendlebury (32).

Most Goals in Finals: Gordon Coventry (111).

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

BRISBANE (BRISBANE BEARS 1987-96; BRISBANE LIONS 1997 ONWARDS)

First Final: 1995 fourth qualifying final at the MCG – **Carlton 13.12 (90)** defeated **Brisbane Bears 12.5 (77)**.

Most Recent Finals Appearance before 2025: 2024 grand final at the MCG – **Brisbane 18.12 (120)** defeated **Sydney 9.6 (60)**.

Premierships (4): 2001, 2002, 2003, 2024.

Norm Smith Medallists: Shaun Hart (2001), Simon Black (2003), Will Ashcroft (2024).

Most Finals Appearances: Nigel Lappin and Justin Leppitsch (23).

Most Goals in Finals: Alastair Lynch (65).

Brownlow Medallists: Michael Voss (1996 tied), Jason Akermanis (2001), Simon Black (2002), Lachie Neale (2020 & 2023).

COLLINGWOOD V BRISBANE LIONS IN THE AFL (1997-2025)

Played 43; Collingwood 19; Brisbane 24

Most Recent Meeting: R21, 2025 – Brisbane 14.8 (92) defeated Collingwood 10.5 (65) at the MCG; Crowd 82,326

COLLINGWOOD V BRISBANE LIONS IN FINALS

Today will be only the second time that Collingwood and Brisbane have met in a final, other than a grand final. In 2003 Collingwood 9.12 (66) defeated Brisbane 7.9 (51) in the second qualifying final at the MCG, in front of a crowd of 66,092.

THREE BRISBANE LIONS V COLLINGWOOD GRAND FINALS

2002 Grand Final on September 28 at the MCG; Crowd 91,817

Brisbane 10.15 (75) defeated Collingwood 9.12 (66)

Port Adelaide topped the ladder in 2002, one game clear of the Brisbane Lions. Then followed Adelaide, Collingwood, Essendon, Melbourne, North Melbourne and West Coast. Collingwood caused an upset in the first week of the finals, beating Port Adelaide at Football Park, while Brisbane easily accounted for Adelaide to also qualify for a preliminary final. Port then beat Essendon in the second week and Adelaide defeated Melbourne. Adelaide led Collingwood by a goal at half time in their preliminary final, but the Magpies kicked six goals to one in the third quarter and Adelaide could not bridge the gap. The other preliminary final was a one-sided affair, Brisbane crushing Port Adelaide by 56 points. Brisbane entered the grand final as clear favourites, but the cold, wet and windy conditions worked in Collingwood's favour. Both sides failed to capitalise on their chances in the first quarter, Anthony Rocca kicking the first goal of the match at the 25-minute mark. Then Brisbane turned up the heat in the second, but kept their opponents in the match by adding 4.8 to the Magpies' three straight goals. A change came over the game after half time with Collingwood fighting back to take the lead, but Brisbane hit the front again in time on and led by four points at the break. The last quarter was a thriller, neither side being able to land the knockout punch until, at the 24-minute mark, Jason Akermanis snapped a goal which gave the Lions a nine-point lead. Still Collingwood would not give in, and it was only outstanding individual efforts by Michael Voss and Justin Leppitsch which held them out. After an enthralling battle, Brisbane had hung on to win back-to-back premierships. Collingwood's Nathan Buckley was awarded the Norm Smith Medal.

2003 Grand Final on September 27 at the MCG; Crowd 79,451

Brisbane 20.14 (134) defeated Collingwood 12.12 (84)

Port Adelaide finished on top again in 2003, with Collingwood taking second place ahead of Brisbane, Sydney, Fremantle, Adelaide, West Coast and Essendon. Once again, however, Port would stumble in the finals, losing to Sydney before beating Essendon to qualify for a preliminary final against Collingwood, from whom they received a 44-point hiding. Meanwhile, Brisbane had recovered from a loss to Collingwood in the first week of the finals by beating both Adelaide and Sydney. The grand final would not be a repeat of the 2002 arm wrestle, Brisbane establishing a seven-goal lead by the main break and then taking their third flag in succession by a margin of 50 points. Simon Black of Brisbane won the Norm Smith Medal.

2023 Grand Final on September 30 at the MCG; Crowd 100,024

Collingwood 12.18 (90) defeated Brisbane 13.8 (86)

Collingwood finished on top of the ladder with Brisbane second. Both sides progressed straight through to preliminary finals, where Collingwood defeated GWS by one point at the MCG. Brisbane defeated Carlton by 16 points at the Gabba. In the grand final, the Magpies claimed their 16th AFL/VFL premiership, holding out a gallant Brisbane Lions by just four points. After the Lions hit the lead following a goal to Charlie Cameron with just over five minutes remaining, both Jordan De Goey and Steele Sidebottom goaled to give Collingwood a 10-point lead. Joe Daniher snapped truly with less than two minutes remaining, reducing the margin to four points, but the Magpies hung on to celebrate their first premiership since 2010. Former Magpie star Peter Moore presented the Premiership Cup to his son and Collingwood Captain, Darcy. Bobby Hill was awarded the Norm Smith Medal.

THE 1903 VFL GRAND FINAL – COLLINGWOOD V FITZROY

In 1902, Collingwood defeated Essendon by 33 points at the MCG to win their first VFL premiership. This was the first grand final played at the MCG. The following year, Collingwood met Fitzroy in the grand final at the MCG. A crowd of 32,363 watched the game. Collingwood led at every change but their biggest margin was five points at half time. Eventually, the game came down to the final kick of the day. Fitzroy's captain Gerald Brosnan had a shot for goal after the final bell but missed by a small margin, leaving Collingwood the winners by just two points.

Collingwood 4.7 (31) defeated Fitzroy 3.11 (29)

PLAYED FOR BOTH

Jack Crisp participated in the Auskick program at Myrtleford, Victoria, and played his junior football with Myrtleford in the Wangaratta & District Junior Football League prior to playing with the Murray Bushrangers in the Under 18 TAC Cup, where he won their 2011 club best and fairest award. He was recruited by the Brisbane Lions in the 2012 Rookie Draft and played 18 games for the Lions from 2012 to 2014, kicking 10 goals. Traded to Collingwood before the 2014 AFL Draft, Crisp has now played over 250 games for the Magpies. He was a member of their 2023 premiership team and won the Copeland Trophy in 2021 and 2022. Crisp has played the most consecutive AFL games.

Craig Starcevich was recruited by Collingwood from East Perth. He made his AFL/VFL debut in the first round of the 1987 season against Sydney. He played 124 games (162 goals) for the Magpies from 1987 to 1993, being a member of their 1990 premiership team. He moved to Brisbane in 1994 and played 20 games (16 goals) for the Bears in 1994 and 1995. Following his retirement as a player, Starcevich became a prominent fitness trainer in the AFL. He was appointed coach of the Brisbane Lions women's team in 2016 and helped guide them to premierships in 2021 and 2023.

COLLINGWOOD GOALKICKERS SUPREME

Collingwood's Peter McKenna kicked 10 goals or more in a match on 13 occasions between 1966 and 1972. He reached double figures 10 times at Victoria Park, the then home of the Magpies. Many years earlier, Magpie full forward Gordon Coventry broke the 10-goal barrier 11 times, 10 of which were at the same venue. McKenna was 19 when he scored 12 goals in the opening round of 1966 for

Collingwood against Hawthorn at Victoria Park. He played 180 games and kicked 838 goals for the Magpies from 1965 to 1975. He played for Carlton in 1977 and kicked a further 36 goals in 11 games. McKenna's highest tally was 16 goals against South Melbourne in Round 19, 1969.

Recruited from Diamond Valley, Gordon "Nuts" Coventry became one of the greatest players the game has known. An outstanding mark, his strength was such that once he secured front position, he was almost impossible to beat. He was the first VFL player to kick 100 goals in a season, and in 1930 he bagged a then record 17 goals against Fitzroy in Round 12 at Victoria Park. In 306 games between 1920 and 1937, Coventry kicked 1299 goals and was a member of five Collingwood premiership teams.

THE BIRTH OF THE BRISBANE LIONS

The Brisbane Lions came into being in 1997 as a result of the merger between Fitzroy (founded in 1883) and the Brisbane Bears. Privately owned clubs had been established in Brisbane and Perth in 1986, and the Brisbane Bears and West Coast Eagles were admitted to the VFL competition for the 1987 season. While actor Paul Cronin was the front man at the Bears, the money was provided by businessman Christopher Skase. To the amazement of most, because of the club's lacklustre original list, the Bears, coached by Peter Knights, won their first two games (against North Melbourne and Geelong). This was a false dawn, however, as they eventually finished second last with six wins and 16 losses. After a number of years in the wilderness, the Bears made the finals in 1995, and again in 1996, under the coaching of John Northey, but the club's financial position remained weak, and when Fitzroy could no longer continue as a separate entity, a merger took place at the end of 1996. Overall, the Bears played 222 games for 72 wins, 148 losses and 2 draws. Among the former Fitzroy players who moved to Queensland in 1997 to play with the Brisbane Lions were Scott Bamford, John Barker, Brad Boyd, Nick Carter, Shane Clayton, Chris Johnson and Jarrod Molloy. The Brisbane Lions made the finals in their first year, but slumped to last in 1998, which resulted in the sacking of John Northey and the appointment of Leigh Matthews as coach. Matthews coached the Lions to their first AFL premiership in 2001 and they backed this up with further premierships in 2002 and 2003.

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>

Fact sheets are prepared by MCC Library volunteers David Allen, Eric Panther, Quentin Miller, Dennis Carroll, Ian Wilkinson, Gaye Fitzpatrick and Edward Cohen, with MCC Deputy Librarian Trevor Ruddell, and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL.
The MCC Library thanks the above people and many others for their work on numerous MCC Library Fact Sheets during the 2025 AFL season.