



As we commence the new season on Anzac Day, we take a moment to acknowledge and honour those who have served our country.

Anzac Day is a time for all Australians to recognise the more than two million men and women who have served in conflicts, wars, and peacekeeping operations since 1914. It is also a time to remember the over 103,000 Australians who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation.



Lest We Forget

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

A big thank you to Bronwyn and Deb for reviving the Bark I am sure it will be entertaining and informative.

The club has adopted Three major projects this year.

We were lucky to receive a grant of \$244000 to renew our aging lights this project is underway.

The main hall A/C will be upgraded, and we will build Disability toilets on the southern end of the club.

We now have two women's teams welcome ladies.

As usual we are being well supported by our volunteers thank you.

We wish our players and coaches all the best for the upcoming season.

Dennis Johnson
Chairman PFCSC

UPCOMING EVENTS

**APRIL
25TH**

OPENING NIGHT - DJ

**MAY
9TH**

IPOD SHUFFLE

**MAY
17TH**

CLARE GOURMET

**MAY
30TH**

QUIZ NIGHT

**JUNE
13TH**

GAMES NIGHT

**JULY
4TH**

LADIES DAY

**AUGUST
8TH**

HYPNOTIST

**TO BE
CONFIRMED**

PORT BALL

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

As we are all aware the success and running of a great sporting club is not possible without the help of those people known as volunteers, unpaid people who love their club and want to see it survive into the next generation and beyond. Your club, the mighty Port Football Club of Port Pirie have survived over 100 years with the help of numerous volunteers over the years possibly your father, your grandfather, your mother and other family members all a part of the "Bulldog Family" the mighty green and whites. Unfortunately, as the years have evolved so too has lifestyles, seeing people involved in heavier work commitments, more family pressures and other issues, so consequently volunteers are becoming harder to find. YOUR CLUB needs you if it is to survive. Our current volunteer base particularly in the kitchen is an older group of people, the years are slowing them down, yet they give their heart and soul to working for their club, the same with our football department, a big number of older people. If there is anyone out there willing to give just a few hours a month working with great groups of people, please shout out as we need you. No experience is necessary, I'd never worked in a kitchen or waited on tables until I started helping in the PFC kitchen and now, I absolutely love it. So, if you have any and I mean any time to give to keep your club the best on the block please see AMY SMITH, our club manager as we need you and rest assured it is a fun ride, with a few laughs along the way.

Bronwyn Farley (Club Sec)

Just for laughs – Who remembers the very well known two ladies, much loved by all who used to dance on the tables and oops!!! Was there a bell?

SOCIAL SCENE

Nice to see our regular group of ladies once again celebrating in style as they held their monthly get together in an Easter theme. The decorating of the table was first class, tossing the usual green tablecloth for an Easter theme cloth adorned with arrangements of Easter Bunnies and colourful Easter eggs, not to forget Beth Keane's marshmallow bunnies. Once again, the cakes served for sweets, made by Marlene Murphy and Vicki Leske were as good as you would be served at any top hotel, well done girls. To finish off their night Beth took control as quiz master with an Easter related quiz. Yet to find out if they all passed, remembering their Sunday school days.





Spencer Gulf Football League 2026 Season Fixture



round	home team	away team	venue	game date	kick-off	seconds	U25	U15
ANZAC ROUND								
1	Central Augusta	West Augusta	Central Oval	25/04/2026	4.40pm	3.10pm	1.30pm	12pm
1	Port	South Augusta	Port Oval	25/04/2026	3.15pm	1.45pm	12.00pm	10.30am
1	PropRidson	Solomontown	Memorial Oval	25/04/2026	4.40pm	3.10pm	1.30pm	12pm
2	Central Augusta	Port	ETSA Oval	2/05/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
2	Solomontown	West Augusta	Memorial Oval	2/05/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
2	South Augusta	PropRidson	Central Oval	2/05/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
WHITE RIDSON ROUND								
3	Central Augusta	South Augusta	ETSA Oval	9/05/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
3	West Augusta	PropRidson	Central Oval	9/05/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
3	Solomontown	Port	Memorial Oval	9/05/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
8	South Augusta	Central Augusta	Central Oval	20/06/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
8	PropRidson	West Augusta	Memorial Oval	20/06/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
8	Port	Solomontown	Port Oval	20/06/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
9	Port	PropRidson	Port Oval	27/06/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
9	South Augusta	West Augusta	Central Oval	27/06/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
9	Solomontown	Central Augusta	Memorial Oval	27/06/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
10	South Augusta	Solomontown	Central Oval	4/07/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
10	Port	West Augusta	Port Oval	4/07/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
10	PropRidson	Central Augusta	Memorial Oval	4/07/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am

SA Country Championships

11-12/07/26

Final 7 Dec-25

round	home team	away team	venue	game date	kick-off	seconds	U25	U15
11	West Augusta	Central Augusta	Chimney Park Oval	18/07/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
11	PropRidson	Solomontown	Memorial Oval	18/07/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
11	Port	South Augusta	Port Oval	18/07/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
12	South Augusta	PropRidson	Central Oval	25/07/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
12	Central Augusta	Port	ETSA Oval	25/07/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
12	Solomontown	West Augusta	Memorial Oval	25/07/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
MULTICULTURAL ROUND								
13	Solomontown	Port	Memorial Oval	1/08/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
13	West Augusta	PropRidson	Chimney Park Oval	1/08/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
13	Central Augusta	South Augusta	Central Oval	1/08/2026	5.00pm	3.35pm	1.55pm	12.20pm
2nd Semi	1	2		5/09/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
Elim Final	3	4		6/09/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
Prelim	Loser 2nd Semi	Winner Elim Final		12/09/2026	2.25pm	12.55pm	11.15am	9.55am
Grand Final	Winner 2nd Semi	Winner Prelim Final		19/09/2026	2.40pm	1.00pm	11.15am	9.30am



AURIZON.



SPIDER'S JOURNEY

I started at the club in 1964 Senior Colts, after playing Junior Colts for Salesian College, coached by Max Goodwin, Paul Fitzgerald and Rob Bishop, all former Port players.

Senior Colts coached by Keith Morrell and Max Goodwin. Whilst playing Senior Colts I trained with Senior sides coached by the great Jimmy Deane. Started Senior football under Bob Hammond and the second's coaches Bill Saler then Norm Pisani who nicknamed me Spider. A and B Grade premierships during this time.

I then played under Max Goodwin and then Frank Hackett who took us to the 1970 premiership. Then followed coaches Ron Redford, John Ryan and Peter Hewitt. The club went through a very lean period after 1970 until the appointment of Bob Boston with premierships in 97,98,99,02,03 and 04, followed by premierships under Don DePalma in 07 and 08.

After retirement I coached St Mark's Junior Colts in 1982,83 and 84, then Port Senior Colts in 1991,92 and 93, then Port Seconds from 2001 till 2005 with premierships in all teams.

I have seen some very talented players come to the club over many years including Damien Walker, Geoff Smitham, John McInnes, Brett Michington, Lyndon Bow and Duncan Savage, just to mention a few.

Kevin 'Spider' Ganley
President Port Football Club

**SUNDAY
ROAST LUNCH**
**LAST SUNDAY OF
EVERY MONTH**
12pm till 2pm



NEW ROAST EVERY MONTH

RON REDFORD: THE MAN BEHIND THE CLUB

After being away from Pirie for nearly 25 years it has been a real experience to return and renew old friendships and relationships. Port chairman Dennis Johnson nailed me and said "we want you back at the Port Football Club so we can take advantage of your long experience in coaching and administrating country football. It was good to be told that you still had something to offer so I picked up the offer and got involved.

I had the advantage of years of experience in observing football clubs across Adelaide, the Barossa Valley and Eyre Peninsula.

There was one outstanding feature of successful clubs as compared with the others.

Leadership stood out for the quality clubs, enthusiastic and consistent leadership makes all the difference and ensures good performance both on and off the ground.

The fact that the Port Football Club got two women's teams up and running in the space of ten weeks is testament to the commitment the club has to young women playing the game.

The support from the board, past and present players and supporters plus coach Jordon Rafferty has ensured that our girls have improved out of sight during their first season.

The recent Perry's Cup carnival held at Port Augusta saw 14 of the 20 players representing the Mid North Combined team came from the Port Football Club, not bad for a group in their first year.

The news concerning the substantial grant for upgrading the lights on the oval is a result once again of a committed group led by Jamie Mcnamara to make things happen.

It is also great to observe and listen to the club volunteers right across the board as they proudly report to club chairman Dennis how many lunches/teas have been served to the masses that faithfully return each week for a night out at the Port Rooms.

Yes the Bulldogs are certainly a club on the move in a number of areas off the ground. No doubt the coaching and playing group will be looking to provide similar success and enthusiasm on the ground to make it a winning culture all round.

From all reports recruiting has been good, but the proof will be in the pudding when we get the chance to see them in action in the near future.

Getting back to leadership, "not much work gets done if you walk around with your hands in your pockets".

That's why you will find club chairman Dennis and club President "Spider" in the kitchen (doing dishes/cooking) supporting the kitchen staff and volunteers every week.

NOW THAT IS LEADERSHIP

More news to come in the next edition.

Cheers Redford

HISTORY OF PORT CLUB

On Saturday 19th June 1909 the first St Mark's team took to the field to play their first game. Unfortunately, they lost to the Baptist and Methodists 6.9 (45) to 4.6 (30). However, they went on to win the grand final against the Lutherans of St Pauls 4.20 (44) to 5.4 (34).

Rev. Father O'Mahoney from St Marks was a catalyst for the team and association and he later became the first patron of the club. The inaugural committee consisted of J.K. Lee as chairman, R. Grice, F. Thompson, T. Wilson, J. Flett and H. Pointon and their tireless efforts are still noted today.

St Marks were playing for the Port Pirie Churches Football Association as the local league was abandoned due to the recession and BHP pay disputes. When the competition reformed in 1910 under the new name of Port Pirie Football League St Marks joined as part of a 3-team competition.

In 1940, St Marks was abandoned, and on 10 May 1941 the Port Football Club took the field for the first time wearing red and white guernseys. Due to the war, along with a shortage of money and wool, the traditional green and white colours were not available at that time. The club continued to play in these colours for several years until they could afford to have their green and white guernseys made, with the B Grade side continuing to wear the red and white for a few more years. Ports played Solomontown, enduring a 62-point loss. Its first win came on 7 June 1941, defeating Proprietary by 20 points.

Port was known as the Bulldogs, while an unofficial nickname for the team was the Squids.

The first flag under the Port banner arrived in 1948 with George Jobson as playing coach.

The Port Pirie Football Association continued through the 1950s with Ports enjoying flags in '51 '55 '56 '58, '59 and '60.

John Connolly – regarded as one of Port's greatest players – played in each of these premierships and was captain-coach of the last three. He also led the Ports Bulldogs into the inaugural season of the Spencer Gulf Football League in 1960 in which Port defeated South Whyalla in that grand final, Port 11.9 (75) to South Whyalla 7.12 (54). Inducted AFL Hall of Famer Jimmy Deane joined as senior coach of the club, leading them to a premiership over Central Augusta in a two-point heart stopping victory in the 1965 season.

North Adelaide champion full-back Bob Hammond moved into the district to manage a Dunlop Tyre Service Centre, being secured by the Bulldogs as captain-coach.

He would lead Ports to back-to-back flags, with wins against North Whyalla in '66 and South Augusta and '67 in the deciders.

Frank Hackett, as the playing coach, and skipper Salvatore Mezzino would take the Bulldogs to the 1970 flag when they defeated West Augusta by three points in another thriller.

This was the club's last premiership for over a quarter of a century, before Bob Boston arrived in 1996.

With Boston as the no-nonsense off-field general and Jamie McNamara as captain, Port won three consecutive flags from '97 to '99 and then continued another stint where they won three more from 2002.

In 2007, with John De Palma as coach and Andrew Fleming as Captain, Port defeated West Augusta for the title and in 2008 with Fleming assisted by Ben Luteria in the leadership role, they won over Central Augusta.

Across its illustrious 118 years, Port has produced many stars. Along with John Connolly, Ports now have inducted five legends into its Hall of Fame, including Kevin Brady, Joe Lambert, nine-time premiership player Peter Murphy and Lawrence Sheridan.

Past Norwood footballer Lewis Johnston, who was drafted to Sydney and then played at the Adelaide Crows, also was a Ports junior product, as is former Port Power player Sam Mayes.

A third generation Murphy, Jamison Murphy debuted for the Bulldogs as a 15-year-old in 2017.

As we head into a new season, there's a strong sense of belief around the club. Let 2026 be the year of the Dogs — built on hard work, teamwork, and the passion that brings our community together. From juniors to seniors, we're ready to make our mark and where our club stands proud in green and white.

Deb Polkinghorne

JOKES

Q. What's the difference between a firefighter and the Richmond Football Club?

A. A firefighter climbs a ladder.

A footy fan brings his dog to the bar. The barman says hey you can't bring a dog in here!

He says wait this is no ordinary dog, he's been to every game this decade and he can sing all the team anthems that are sung when the team wins. The barman says Wow if he can sing anthems you'll get free drinks all day.

So the fan says Swans to his dog and sure enough Cheer cheer for the red and the white...

Then he says Eagles to his dog and sure enough We're the big birds, kings of the big game...

The bartender starts pouring the fan a beer in anticipation of him complying with the challenge. And says Just one more please, Melbourne?

The dog is silent and the fan leaves the bar with him, sulking at having lost the challenge. "He's not heard that one before"

Grand final day at the MCG, packed house 2min before kick-off.

John notices that there is a guy sitting next to an empty chair.

John leans over and asks "Why is there no one sitting there? What crazy person would miss out on GF day?"

The guy replies "That's my wife's seat, we have been going to GF day every year for the last 20 years. She passed away and I haven't had the heart to cancel her membership."

John replies "That's terrible I'm sorry to hear that, surely you could find a friend that would happily take her seat?"

The guy says "Nah, no one is free, they're all at her funeral."

OAT'S SHIRT

Way back in 1964, the formative years of the SGL, the grand final was played between Ports and South Augusta, one we didn't win but nevertheless friendships were formed between the clubs.

My late father Ern (Oats) Farley was Port's head trainer at the time and the wife of the head trainer at South Augusta kindly presented my father with a green shirt with a very imposing Bulldog handcrafted on the back of the shirt. The significance of her reason to do this was, that like the Port Football Club, the South Augusta Club's mascot was also a bulldog.

So, on that grand final day two shirts came together a red shirt representing South Augusta and a green shirt representing Ports.

As the years have evolved the one belonging to my father was lovingly cherished but as a tribute to my Dad I thought maybe give it to our club.

Upon showing the shirt, Beth Keane wanted it to wear on game days. Who better than someone like Beth to bring the shirt back to life and I know she will do it proud.

I said to her for a small donation to the club, the shirt was hers.

Deal struck and now we look forward to seeing Beth in the mighty green and white with a very imposing Bulldog pushing her along.

Bronwyn Farley



THE OLD STALWARTS

Gone but certainly not forgotten are those past club members and players who played a big part in the success of the Port Football Club. Each edition of this newsletter I will bring back some memories of these past members. Some of you will remember them, some of you may have heard of them and our younger group will probably think who were they. In amongst these greats are surnames still around the club, Murphy, Connor, Connelly, Hackett, Rafanelli and Pasculli to list a few.

This edition we bring back an old favourite character as I go way back to the 1950s. As a child I remember him always at the club, riding his pushbike with his kitbag on the handlebars heading off to his beloved club, rain, hail or shine and always a friendly hello to all. In later years I remember him living in a unit next to my Mum in Third Street, the bike was no more so on several occasions I used to give him a lift to the Risdon Hotel, always the same cheerful man I first knew in the 1950s. Let's have a look at Lawrence Sheridan.

LAURENCE SHERIDAN - better known as Loggie. After a promising junior career was interrupted by World War 2, he was secretary of the seconds for many years, and in 1952 was elected to the A-grade committee- secretary 1954-64 and delegate to the Port Pirie Football League for many years. He was also elected the first secretary of Port's Past Players and Officials Association in 1969 and remarkably held this position until 1996. Regarded by many as the "heart and soul" because of his immense knowledge, wisdom, passion for his beloved Port and his outstanding service to the mighty green and whites. Loggie passed away in June 2008, he was 89 years old.



PAST PLAYERS

In each edition we will interview one of our past greats. Ernie Rafanelli, well known around the club for his playing days in the Port A grade sides of the late 60s and early 70s. Ernie said he first started playing for Port Football Club as a Senior Colt in the mid-60s, after enjoying his earlier years playing for Pirie West School on a Friday afternoon. When asked what his greatest football memories were, he replied with pride, the memories of playing A grade footy for Ports and it is noted he played in several premiership sides. Ernie said his toughest opponent was Cameron Colligan from Risdon and that Salvatore (Shortie) Mezzino was his best Port player.

I asked Ernie if he was a fair player, he replied that he was fair but played it hard and wouldn't take a step backward. I no doubt there are some stories out there about how Ernie played the game, and I guess a few from other clubs that kept out of his way.

When asked his thoughts on the modern game of football, he said it was much faster but not as skilful as the old game. Finally, he follows the Adelaide Crows in the AFL.



SENIOR FOOTBALL UPDATE - 2026

With the 2026 season fast approaching, there's a real buzz around the club.

Pre-season training has been attended well across the board, with strong numbers and a great attitude from the entire playing group. One of the most pleasing signs so far has been the competition for spots in both senior grades. That's exactly where a strong football club wants to be, and it's something we've been building towards over the last few years.

Last season was a massive one for the club. Our Under 18s made it three premierships in a row, our Seconds broke through for a flag, and our League side went all the way through to the Grand Final. On top of that team success, there was also some outstanding individual recognition.

Adam Coe was awarded the League Best and Fairest Madigan Medal, Jaxon Richards took out the Under 18s Best and Fairest Bishop Medal, Brayden Anderson won the Seconds Leading Goal Kicker Award with 48 goals, and Brock Johanning claimed the Under 18s Leading Goal Kicker Charles Robertson Award with a remarkable 89 goals for the season. To cap it all off, Port Football Club was awarded the Ken Jeffery Award for Best Club, which was a fantastic recognition of the standards, effort and culture across the whole club. It was a proud moment for everyone involved.

As a club, we're hellbent on maintaining the standard in the Under 18s and Seconds, while going one better in the League this year.

A big reason for the excitement around 2026 is not only the quality of players we've brought in, but also the exceptional talent coming through from our Under 18s into senior football. That group will strengthen our senior program dramatically.

Players like Baylin Crouch, Brock Johanning, Kobi Ganley, Maveric Connelly, Darcy Gulin, Adam Andersen, Trey Luteria, Michael Camporeale and Beau Bridley all have enormous talent and are the type of young players who can take us to another level over the coming years. It's a very exciting time for the club.

We're also thrilled to welcome some quality additions to the Dogs for 2026.

It's great to welcome back Fraser Smith after a couple of years away. Our 2023 Most Brilliant Medallist, Fraser adds important depth to our forward and ruck structure with his strength, athleticism and competitiveness, and he looks in terrific shape heading into the season.

We're also excited to welcome Connor Dodd, a powerful 193cm midfielder who joins us after multiple successful seasons with Golden Grove, where he was part of Division 3 and Division 2 premierships as well as a Division 1 Grand Final side. Alongside him is Joshua Habel, another Golden Grove recruit, whose speed, versatility and line-breaking run will be a great addition to our group.

We also welcome Tyler McKenzie, a hard-nosed, no-fuss footballer and proven finals performer, along with Locky McKenzie, a tall utility who gives us another versatile option at either end of the ground.

There's plenty to be proud of, but nobody is getting ahead of themselves. The group is training well, the depth is building, and the competition for spots is as strong as it has been for a long time.

Bring on 2026.

UNDER 18'S



SECONDS



LIGHTING UPGRADE

A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR PORT OVAL



We're excited to share some terrific news with our members and supporters — our club has secured a major grant for a full lighting upgrade at Port Oval.

The project will deliver four new light towers, each fitted with six Raptor 4.5 LED lights, providing lighting levels to the standard high enough to host SANFL on the oval.

This is a massive step forward for our club.

For years, our old lights have made winter training difficult and limited what we could do at our home ground. It also limited when & where our juniors could play. This upgrade will completely change that. It will mean brighter, safer, and more consistent lighting for training and games, better conditions for players, coaches, umpires and spectators, and much more flexibility when it comes to scheduling.

Just as importantly, it gives Port Oval lighting to a much higher standard than we've ever had before and ensures our ground is fit for the future.

This project received grant funding from the South Australian Government through the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing.

We sincerely thank the South Australian Government and the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing for backing this important project and investing in community sport in Port Pirie.

This is a huge win for the whole club — from juniors right through to seniors — and a real investment in our future. The future at Port Oval is looking very bright.

Jamie McNamara

WHAT A FEELING...





Great to welcome back one of our favourite recruits, Fraser Smith, after a couple of years away.

Our 2023 Most Brilliant Medallist, Fraser adds important depth to our forward and ruck structure with his strength, athleticism and competitiveness.

Fraser put together a strong season last year with PHOS Camden in Division 3 and he looks as fit as ever heading into 2026.

We're excited to have him back in the green and white for what shapes as another big season for the Dogs.

We're excited to welcome Connor Dodd to the club for 2026.

At 193cm and strongly built, Connor is a powerful midfielder who joins us after multiple successful seasons with Golden Grove Football Club.

He was an instrumental part of Golden Grove's success in winning Division 3 and Division 2 premierships, as well as reaching the Division 1 Grand Final last season.

We're really looking forward to seeing Connor in action and just as importantly having him pass on his experience and knowledge to our younger group.





Our next dog is Joshua Habel!
We're excited to welcome Joshua to the club for 2026.

Josh joins us from Golden Grove Football Club, where he was a part of a side that enjoyed tremendous success, winning Divisions 3 and Division 2 premierships and going on to play in last seasons Division 1 Grand Final.

A quick and versatile utility, Josh loves to break lines, take the game on and bring his teammates into the play. His speed, run and ability to create overlap will be a great addition to our group.

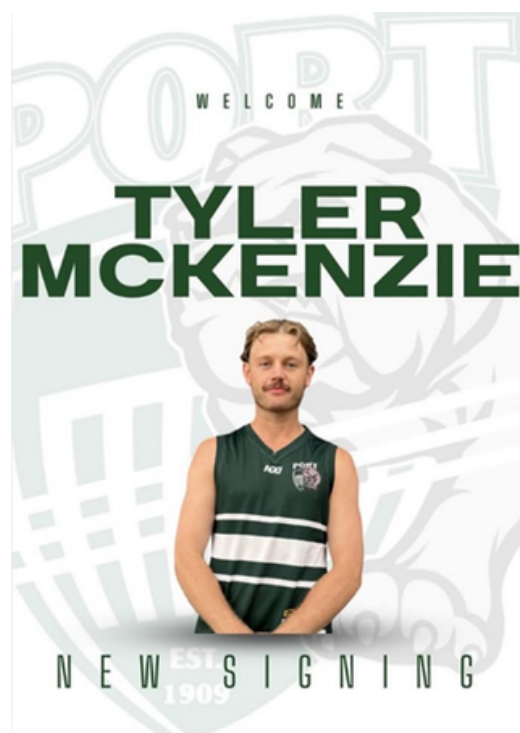
We're looking forward to seeing what he can bring to the Dogs in 2026.

We're excited to welcome Tyler McKenzie to the club for 2026.

Tyler is a hard-nosed, no-fuss footballer who joins us from Division 1 club Broadview.

Originally from Broken Hill, Tyler returned there for the second half of last season and made a major impact, earning best on ground honours in South Broken Hill's successful grand final win.

A proven finals player, Tyler is the type who competes hard, keeps it simple and puts the team first and we are looking forward to what he'll bring to the Dogs this season.



A big thank you to Peter Johnson and Dennis Johnson
for their contribution towards the cost of this first
edition.

We are looking for club sponsors going forward for future
editions.

