



# 2001 AFL Grand Final

[Add languages](#)

[Article](#) [Talk](#)

[Read](#) [Edit](#) [View history](#) [Tools](#)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **2001 AFL Grand Final** was an [Australian rules football](#) game contested between the [Essendon Bombers](#) and the [Brisbane Lions](#), held at the [Melbourne Cricket Ground](#) in [Melbourne](#) on 29 September 2001. It was the 105th annual [grand final](#) of the [Australian Football League](#) (formerly the Victorian Football League),<sup>[1]</sup> staged to determine the [premiers](#) for the [2001 AFL season](#). The match, attended by 91,482 spectators, was won by Brisbane by a margin of 26 points, marking the club's first premiership in their history since their inception in 1997.

## Background [[edit](#)]

Essendon were defending their [2000 premiership](#), and they went into the game having finished on top of the ladder on percentage ahead of second-placed Brisbane (both had won 17 games). Brisbane had won 15 consecutive games leading up to the grand final, a streak which commenced with a major upset of Essendon at [the Gabba](#) in Round 10. It was the Brisbane Lions' first appearance in a grand final, and it broke a long grand final drought for the two clubs who merged to form it in 1997: its Melbourne-based predecessor, [Fitzroy Lions](#), had not contested a grand final since [1944](#), and its Brisbane-based predecessor, [Brisbane Bears](#), did not contest a grand final in its ten-year history. Essendon were the dominant team between [1999](#) and [2001](#), losing just 11 games (including just one in 2000) from the start of 1999 until the 2001 grand final.

### 2001 AFL Grand Final



The [Melbourne Cricket Ground](#), where the 2001 AFL Grand Final took place.



**Essendon**

**12.10 (82)**



**Brisbane Lions**

**15.18 (108)**

	1	2	3	4
<b>ESS</b>	3.2 (20)	8.6 (54)	9.8 (62)	12.10 (82)
<b>BL</b>	3.7 (25)	5.10 (40)	11.12 (78)	15.18 (108)

<b>Date</b>	29 September 2001
<b>Stadium</b>	<a href="#">Melbourne Cricket Ground</a>
<b>Attendance</b>	91,482
<b>Favourite</b>	<a href="#">Essendon</a>
<b>Umpires</b>	<a href="#">Matthew James</a> , <a href="#">Scott McLaren</a> , <a href="#">Martin Ellis</a>
<b>Ceremonies</b>	
<b>Pre-match entertainment</b>	<a href="#">Vanessa Amorosi</a> , <a href="#">Men At Work</a> , <a href="#">INXS</a>
<b>National anthem</b>	<a href="#">Julie Anthony</a>

In the 2001 finals series, Essendon defeated [Richmond](#) by 70 points in the first qualifying final and then defeated [Hawthorn](#) by 9 points in the first preliminary final to advance to the grand final. Brisbane earned their place in the grand final by defeating [Port Adelaide](#) by 32 points in the second qualifying final and then Richmond by 68 points in the second preliminary final.

In the lead-up to the match, Brisbane's [Jason Akermanis](#) won the [Brownlow Medal](#). The two coaches, Kevin Sheedy and Leigh Matthews, had met in a grand final 11 years prior, when Matthews' Magpies ended their so-called "[Colliwobbles](#)" ([a drought lasting 32 years](#)) by defeating Sheedy's Bombers in the [1990 AFL Grand Final](#).

This was the last AFL match to be televised by the [Seven Network](#) before it lost the broadcasting TV rights to the sport, having shown the game for the previous 45 years, with the exception of 1987, when the game was televised by the [ABC](#) and TV0 in Brisbane.<sup>[2]</sup> It wasn't until [2007](#) that Seven would regain the rights,<sup>[3]</sup> and it wasn't until [2008](#) that the AFL Grand Final would again be televised by the Seven Network.

## Match summary [[edit](#)]

Brisbane started the game well, scoring the first goal of the match from a free kick awarded to [Alastair Lynch](#) for holding against [Dustin Fletcher](#). Essendon fought back late in the first quarter then took control of the game in the second term. Brisbane's poor kicking for goal almost put them out of the game in the second quarter as Essendon blew their lead out to 20 points late in the term. Brisbane had kicked an inaccurate 5.10 by the half-time break.

Brisbane managed to overrun Essendon in the third term, kicking six goals to one and turning a 14-point deficit into a 16-point lead. Brisbane's pace in the midfield and the tiring legs of most of the Essendon players played a pivotal role in Brisbane taking full control of the game in the second half to win comfortably. Essendon had scored two late goals in the last quarter after once trailing by as much as 39 points.

[Shaun Hart](#) of the Lions was awarded the [Norm Smith Medal](#) for being judged the best player. [Matthew Lloyd](#) was among the best for Essendon, kicking five goals.

Essendon captain [James Hird](#) was visibly shattered and disappointed in his post-match speech. A quick congratulations to Brisbane for winning was followed by a public apology to Bombers fans for letting them down.

<b>Accolades</b>	
<b>Norm Smith Medallist</b>	<a href="#">Shaun Hart</a> ( <a href="#">Brisbane Lions</a> )
<b>Jock McHale Medallist</b>	<a href="#">Leigh Matthews</a>
<b>Broadcast in Australia</b>	
<b>Network</b>	<a href="#">Seven Network</a>
<b>Commentators</b>	<a href="#">Bruce McAvaney</a> (host and commentator) <a href="#">Sandy Roberts</a> (commentator) <a href="#">Jason Dunstall</a> (expert commentator) <a href="#">Gerard Healy</a> (expert commentator) <a href="#">Robert DiPierdomenico</a> (boundary rider) <a href="#">Matthew Campbell</a> (boundary rider)
← <b>2000</b>	<b>AFL Grand Final</b> <b>2002</b> →

In a remarkable statistic, most of the Lions' premiership side were on the playing list when the club won the wooden spoon in 1998.<sup>[4]</sup>

This was the first of four consecutive grand final appearances by Brisbane, and the first of three consecutive flags. For Essendon, this is their most recent grand final appearance as of the completed 2024 season.

Norm Smith Medal [\[ edit \]](#)

The Norm Smith Medal was awarded to Brisbane midfielder Shaun Hart. The voting panel for the award included Sunday Herald Sun reporter Damian Barrett, Seven Network's Robert DiPierdomenico, ABC Grandstand commentator Stan Alves, and Tony Morwood from 4AAA.<sup>[5]</sup>

Leaderboard<sup>[5]</sup>

<i>Player</i>	<i>Team</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Shaun Hart	Brisbane	9
Nigel Lappin	Brisbane	5
Jonathan Brown	Brisbane	3
Chris Johnson	Brisbane	3
Justin Leppitsch	Brisbane	2
Michael Voss	Brisbane	2

Teams [\[ edit \]](#)



Essendon



Brisbane Lions

Essendon

<b>B:</b>	42 Danny Jacobs	31 Dustin Fletcher	6 Sean Wellman
<b>HB:</b>	1 Mark Johnson	7 Dean Solomon	11 Damien Hardwick
<b>C:</b>	9 Adam Ramanauskas	26 Chris Heffernan	33 Blake Caracella
<b>HF:</b>	5 James Hird (c)	25 Scott Lucas	43 Dean Rioli

Brisbane Lions

<b>B:</b>	2 Chris Johnson	23 Justin Leppitsch	33 Darryl White
<b>HB:</b>	44 Nigel Lappin	22 Chris Scott	10 Marcus Ashcroft
<b>C:</b>	12 Jason Akermanis	3 Michael Voss (c)	30 Robert Copeland
<b>HF:</b>	32 Shaun Hart	16 Jonathan Brown	6 Luke Power

<b>F:</b>	29 Gary Moorcroft	18 Matthew Lloyd	27 Steven Alessio
<b>Foll:</b>	22 John Barnes	14 Jason Johnson	24 Joe Misiti
<b>Int:</b>	10 Mark McVeigh	32 Justin Blumfield	2 Mark Mercuri
	16 Paul Barnard		
<b>Coach:</b>	Kevin Sheedy		

<b>F:</b>	36 Daniel Bradshaw	11 Alastair Lynch	13 Martin Pike
<b>Foll:</b>	27 Clark Keating	20 Simon Black	5 Brad Scott
<b>Int:</b>	43 Beau McDonald	4 Craig McRae	8 Tim Notting
	15 Mal Michael		
<b>Coach:</b>	Leigh Matthews		

## Scorecard [ edit ]

Grand final			
Saturday, 29 September 2:30pm	Essendon	def. by	Brisbane Lions
			MCG (crowd: 91,482)
	3.2 (20)	<b>Q1</b>	3.7 (25)
	8.6 (54)	<b>Q2</b>	5.10 (40)
	9.8 (62)	<b>Q3</b>	11.12 (78)
	12.10 (82)	<b>Final</b>	<b>15.18 (108)</b>
Lloyd 5, Lucas 4, Caracella, Johnson, Moorcroft	<b>Goals</b>	Power 3, Akermanis 2, Brown 2, Lappin 2, Lynch 2, Ashcroft, Notting, Pike, Voss	<div> <b>Umpires:</b> James, McLaren, Ellis </div> <div> <b>Norm Smith Medal:</b> Shaun Hart (Brisbane Lions) </div> <div> <b>Television broadcast:</b> Seven Network </div> <div> <b>National anthem:</b> Julie Anthony </div>
Lloyd, Lucas, J. Johnson	<b>Best</b>	Hart, Johnson, Voss, Lappin, Power	
Nil	<b>Injuries</b>	Nil	
Nil	<b>Reports</b>	Nil	

Team Stats	(B.L.)	(Ess)
Kicks	176	165
Marks	73	60
Handballs	78	90
Tackles	34	54
Hitouts	39	26
Frees	22	19

## Legacy [ edit ]

A number of participants from this Grand Final have gone on to coach at senior level in the AFL:

- [Chris Scott](#), [Geelong](#) (2011–present; [2011](#) and [2022 premiership coach](#))<sup>1</sup>
- [Damien Hardwick](#), [Richmond](#) (2010–2023; [2017](#), [2019](#) and [2020 premiership coach](#)), [Gold Coast](#) (2024–present)<sup>1</sup>
- [Craig McRae](#), [Collingwood](#), (2022–present; [2023 premiership coach](#))
- [Michael Voss](#), [Brisbane Lions](#) (2009–2013), [Carlton](#) (2022–present)
- [Brad Scott](#), [North Melbourne](#) (2010–2019), [Essendon](#) (2023–present)
- [James Hird](#), [Essendon](#) (2011–2013, 2015)
- [Justin Leppitsch](#), [Brisbane Lions](#) (2014–2016)<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Scott and Hardwick coached against each other in the 2020 Grand Final, which, due to a [COVID-19 outbreak in Victoria](#) that prevented the match from being played at its contracted ground, the [Melbourne Cricket Ground](#), was played at [the Gabba](#).<sup>[6]</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Following his stint as Brisbane Lions head coach, Leppitsch was an assistant coach under Hardwick when Richmond won the 2017, 2019 and 2020 premierships, and under McRae when Collingwood won the 2023 premiership.<sup>[7][8][9]</sup>

## See also  [edit]

- [2001 AFL season](#)

## References  [edit]

- ↑ In 1897 and 1924 there were no grand finals and instead the premier was decided by a finals play-off. In 1948 and 1977 there were grand final replays after initial draws.
- ↑ "[Channel Ten's contribution to the AFL underestimated](#)"  . The Roar. 30 September 2011. Retrieved 18 February 2020.
- ↑ "[Seven and Ten win AFL rights](#)"  . ABC News ([Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#)). 5 January 2006. Retrieved 18 February 2020.
- ↑ [Rays of hope in Lions' historical record](#)  , *The Courier-Mail*, 10 April 2011
- ↑ <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> Nicholson, Rod (30 September 2001). "SHAUN HART The Norm Smith Medallist". *Sunday Herald-Sun*. Melbourne, Victoria: Nationwide News Pty Ltd. p. 55.
- ↑ Wilson, Caroline (23 October 2020). "[A tale of two coaches: A greater legacy awaits either Scott or Hardwick](#)"  . The Age. Retrieved 1 September 2021.
- ↑ Edmund, Sam (4 October 2017). "[The coach: How Dimma guided Tigers](#)"  . Herald Sun.
- ↑ "[Leppitsch lives Tiger dream after Lions nightmare](#)"  . The Morning Bulletin. 28 September 2017.
- ↑ Hope, Shayne (2 October 2023). "[Leppitsch surprised by Pies' rapid climb to AFL summit](#)"  . Perth Now. Retrieved 2 October 2023.

<div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><div>V•T•E</div></div></div><div></div></div></div></div>	<b>Brisbane Lions 2001 AFL premiers</b>	<div><span>[show]</span></div>
<div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><div>V•T•E</div></div></div><div></div></div></div></div>	<b>Essendon Football Club</b>	<div><span>[hide]</span></div>
	Nickname: Bombers	

<div> History · Premierships · Records · Players · Captains · Coaches · Honours · Crichton Medal · AFLW best and fairest · Leading goalkickers </div> <div> <b>AFL coach:</b> Brad Scott · <b>AFL captain:</b> Zach Merrett </div> <div> <b>AFLW coach:</b> Natalie Wood · <b>AFLW co-captains:</b> Steph Cain &amp; Bonnie Toogood </div>	
VFL/AFL home grounds	<div> East Melbourne Cricket Ground (1897–1921) · Windy Hill (1922–1991) · Melbourne Cricket Ground (1992–) · Docklands Stadium (2000–) </div>
VFA premierships (4)	<div> 1891 · 1892 · 1893 · 1894 </div>
VFL/AFL premierships (16)	<div> 1897 · 1901 · 1911 · 1912 · 1923 · 1924 · 1942 · 1946 · 1949 · 1950 · 1962 · 1965 · 1984 · 1985 · 1993 · 2000 </div>
Runner-up (14)	<div> 1898 · 1902 · 1908 · 1941 · 1943 · 1947 · 1948 · 1951 · 1957 · 1959 · 1968 · 1983 · 1990 · <b>2001</b> </div>
VFA/VFL/AFL seasons (146) (club articles in bold)	<div> 1878 · 1879 · 1880 · 1881 · 1882 · 1883 · 1884 · 1885 · 1886 · 1887 · 1888 · 1889 · 1890 · 1891 · 1892 · 1893 · 1894 · 1895 · 1896 · 1897 · 1898 · 1899 · 1900 · 1901 · 1902 · 1903 · 1904 · 1905 · 1906 · 1907 · 1908 · 1909 · 1910 · 1911 · 1912 · 1913 · 1914 · 1915 · 1916 · 1917 · 1918 · 1919 · 1920 · 1921 · 1922 · 1923 · 1924 · 1925 · 1926 · 1927 · 1928 · 1929 · 1930 · 1931 · 1932 · 1933 · 1934 · 1935 · 1936 · 1937 · 1938 · 1939 · 1940 · 1941 · 1942 · 1943 · 1944 · 1945 · 1946 · 1947 · 1948 · 1949 · 1950 · 1951 · 1952 · 1953 · 1954 · 1955 · 1956 · 1957 · 1958 · 1959 · 1960 · 1961 · 1962 · 1963 · 1964 · 1965 · 1966 · 1967 · 1968 · 1969 · 1970 · 1971 · 1972 · 1973 · 1974 · 1975 · 1976 · 1977 · 1978 · 1979 · 1980 · 1981 · 1982 · 1983 · 1984 · 1985 · 1986 · 1987 · 1988 · 1989 · 1990 · 1991 · 1992 · 1993 · 1994 · 1995 · 1996 · 1997 · 1998 · 1999 · 2000 · 2001 · 2002 · 2003 · 2004 · 2005 · 2006 · 2007 · 2008 · <b>2009</b> · 2010 · <b>2011</b> · <b>2012</b> · <b>2013</b> · <b>2014</b> · 2015 · 2016 · <b>2017</b> · <b>2018</b> · 2019 · 2020 · 2021 · 2022 · <b>2023</b> · 2024 · <b>2025</b> </div>
AFLW home grounds	<div> North Port Oval (2022 (S7)) · Windy Hill (2023–) </div>
AFLW seasons (3)	<div> 2022 (S7) · 2023 · 2024 </div>
Related articles	<div> Anzac Day match · Archer–Hird Medal · Carlton rivalry · Dreamtime at the 'G · The Hangar · Line in the Sand Match · Round 16, 2001 comeback against North Melbourne · Supplements saga · West Melbourne Football Club </div>
<div> Essendon did not participate in the 1916 and 1917 VFL seasons due to World War I (indicated in grey) </div>	

<div> V · T · E </div> <div> <div>Brisbane Lions</div> <div>[hide]</div> </div>	
<div> Drafting and trading history · Players · AFL current squad · AFL Women's current squad · Captains · Coaches · Individual awards and records · Merrett–Murray Medal · AFL Women's best and fairest · Leading goalkickers </div> <div> <b>AFL coach:</b> Chris Fagan · <b>AFL co-captains:</b> Harris Andrews/Lachie Neale </div> <div> <b>AFL Women's coach:</b> Craig Starcevich · <b>AFL Women's captain:</b> Breanna Koenen </div>	
Home grounds	<div> <b>AFL (1)</b> <div>The Gabba (1997–)</div> </div>
	<div> <b>AFLW (6)</b> <div> South Pine Sports Complex (2017–2018) · Moreton Bay Central Sports Complex (2019) · Hickey Park (2020–2021) · Maroochydore Multi Sports Complex (2022 (S6)) · Carrara Stadium (2022 (S7)) · Springfield Central Stadium (2023–) </div> </div>
Premierships	<div> <b>AFL (4)</b> <div> <b>2001</b> · 2002 · 2003 · 2024 </div> </div>



Categories: [2001 in Australian rules football](#) | [VFL/AFL Grand Finals](#) | [Brisbane Lions](#) | [Essendon Football Club](#) | [2001 Australian Football League season](#) | [September 2001 sports events in Australia](#)

Text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 License](#); additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.

[Mobile view](#)

--	--