

FORMER BLUES PLAYERS

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Marie Davies

THE AUSTRALIAN CONNECTION

In the last 'virtual' programme we managed to trace a former player from the 60s - Wynne Matthews who emigrated to Australia 51 years ago. There have been several others who have settled there and maintain contact with the FPA.

What about Australian players who played for the Blues and eventually returned to settle in the country of their birth? There are many who only spent a season or two at Bedford Blues but at least three quite recent players spent much longer in England, and definitely made their mark at Goldington Road. They have all given me an update on life as it is now.

All three report the great news that despite the pandemic, life is relatively normal in Australia.

Former player John Brooks also moved to Australia during Lockdown. Hopefully we can have an update soon.



MARCO CECERE

**Loose Head Prop. 2007-10.
64 appearances, 2 tries.**

Marco met his wife Dominique in Bedford and they left together for Australia in 2012.

They came back to England to get married in 2014 before returning to Australia to settle in Canberra. They now have two daughters - Hettie 5 and Mabel 3.

Marco is currently working for 'Stryker', a medical device company. He has recently been appointed as forwards' coach at his local club-Wests, and is also currently working for his Level 3 Rugby Coaching Certificate.

'My time at the Blues will always have a special place in my heart. I made lifelong friends and had countless great times both on and off the field.



There is something unique about running out onto the Goldington Road pitch and I will always feel proud to have played there.'

Marco and his family returned to Bedford for Christmas in 2019 and, of course, he didn't miss the opportunity to come to Goldington Road for the Boxing Day game and meet up with old friends.

Dom's sister's wedding is planned for March 2022 and all being well they hope to be there. That will surely mean another visit to Goldington Road for Marco.

The next Former Blue to return home to Australia...

MYLES DORRIAN

**Fly half/centre/full back. 133 appearances,
19 tries, 92 cons, 71 pens.**

Myles' first club in England was Coventry and when he was offered a contract with Bedford, Marco who had played rugby in Canberra with him, urged him to join.

After two successful seasons at Bedford Myles spent two seasons at Exeter Chiefs, followed by two seasons at London Irish. However, he was able to return to Goldington Road at the end of the 2012-13 season to make 11 appearances - a season that ended with the Final play offs v Newcastle.

His rugby career in England finished with a final two seasons at Bedford. It was great to welcome back the Dorrian family - his wife Abby, whom Myles had met in Coventry, son Indi and of course their Rhodesian Ridgeback, Rusty. At the End of Season Dinner in 2017 Mylo was awarded his Bedford cap along with Jake Sharp. His UK rugby career was complete and the family left for Australia where Myles spent two seasons playing for the Warringah Rats.



We were delighted to welcome the Dorrian family back to Goldington Road on Boxing Day 2019 - Abby, Indi and their newest addition, Australian born son Rafe.

...and where are they now and what are they doing?

The Dorrians live in Sydney. Myles continues his role as Assistant Head Coach in Australia's Shute Shield for the first Grade team at Eastern Suburbs Rugby Club. Abby works for Sydney Production Company, Mint Films in New Business. This is alongside her Voice Acting Career. Their two active boys keep them busy with most of their spare time spent at the beach. Indi has just started enjoying rugby with the Manly Marlin Roos with Rafe very eager to join him on the pitch. Sadly, Rusty is no longer with them. Their very recent news is that they are expecting the arrival of their third child in August. Abby hopes for a solo visit to the UK to introduce the new baby to the English side of the family as soon as international travel is safe and accessible again.

...and the last to leave in 2019...

JAMES PRITCHARD

**Full back/wing. 267 appearances
96 tries, 540 cons, 444 pens.**

The only Bedford player to score more than 403 points in a season. Total points scored 2,892 - a club record!

He also belongs to the elite club of seven players who have captained the Blues for four seasons.

As the most capped international (while a Blues player) in Bedford's 135 year history and Canada's record points scorer he is one of Bedford's all-time greats.

Family, friends and teammates enjoyed a great farewell party to James, Jenni and the children in the summer of 2019. They left for Australia on the 15th July, stopping off in Bali for a family holiday and to celebrate James's 40th birthday. The plan was to find jobs and live near the Gold Coast. In the meantime they went to Sydney to stay with James' parents until their plans materialised.



By the start of the new school year January, 2020 the move to Brisbane was complete. They were settled in their new house and Jenni had a teaching post in Brisbane.

Our latest update via social media was a few weeks ago. They live in Redlands, near Brisbane. The school where Jenni teaches is nearby. She teaches sport and as Lucas and Hayden attend the same school - she teaches them! Hunter is now three and goes to creche. Apparently James has hopes for him to be a rugby boy especially as rugby isn't Lucas's favourite sport. Pritch is working with mine rescue which means he flies in and flies out, so is home for a week and then away for a week. He is also busy doing training courses as his ambition is to work in the Fire Service and be closer to home.

Best wishes to all our Australian former players and their families!