



# Media Release

## Media Contact

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## The Greatest Team of All— treasures from the Bob Gartland Collection

20 September to 10 November 2019  
A Geelong Gallery exhibition

Free entry  
Open daily 10am to 5pm



Unknown photographer  
*Children in the back yard* 1880s  
silver gelatin photograph  
Bob Gartland collection

In July 2019 the Geelong Football Club will celebrate the 160th anniversary of its formation. In September, **Geelong Gallery** will join the wider community celebration of this great milestone with an exhibition of rare, treasured objects and images from the collection of Club Vice-President **Bob Gartland** in a major exhibition *The Greatest Team of All—treasures from the Bob Gartland collection*.

Bob Gartland is a passionate historian, and for the past fifty years has collected thousands of items, many of national importance, that tell the stories of the Club, and of the lives and careers of its players and supporters. These never-before-seen treasures, including among other rarities the original letter to Mrs Charles Brownlow proposing an award in her late husband's name, will present a rich timeline of the club in an exhibition that will be a truly immersive experience of the mighty Cats from 1859 to now.

The exhibition not only follows key figures in the Clubs history from Charles Brownlow to Joel Selwood, it also celebrates the Club's evolution including its uniform design, the "Cats" nickname and the successes and stories of the playing group, over 160 years. The collection also explores the impact of social change and upheaval including war, the transformation of the city, stadium developments and Geelong Football Club's contribution to community life and wellbeing. Importantly, from a curatorial context, the collection also provides an exceptional opportunity to trace the development of sports photography and sports journalism from the 19th century to the present.

Geelong Gallery Director & CEO, **Jason Smith**, is the curator of the exhibition, and is working in very close collaboration with Bob Gartland. Smith says '*The Greatest Team of All—treasures from the Bob Gartland collection* will bring to life the history and contemporary relevance of a club that engenders extraordinary civic pride. We expect this much anticipated exhibition will attract considerable attention from the Geelong region and further afield. It has been a pleasure to work with Bob on this exhibition and I look forward to seeing the community discover the hidden treasures amassed in this exceptional private collection.'

**Bob Gartland** says 'It has been my vision for many years to take my collection beyond the Football Club and into the community. I was delighted when Geelong Gallery committed to the exhibition and hope that it brings many people joy in retracing this mighty Club's visual and social history.'

*The Greatest Team of All—treasures from the Bob Gartland collection* is exhibiting at Geelong Gallery from 20 September to 10 November 2019.



Geelong Gallery  
55 Little Malop Street  
Geelong VIC 3220 Australia

T +61 3 5229 3645  
info@geelonggallery.org.au  
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Drop-in tours Sunday  
between 2–4pm



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## Key works included in the exhibition

1864	Membership ticket	Probably oldest Football membership ticket in the world
1875	"The Footballer"	The earliest football guide in the history of football
1884	Premiership Medals (2)	Solid Gold (Tom Cahill & John Bolton)
1886	Umpires whistle	Probably the first whistle used in Australian Rules football.
1800's	Scrap books	Peter Burns, Jim D'Helin
1900	Football cards & Album	Oldest complete set of Geelong Football Cards
1912	"News of the Week"	Corio Oval photograph & reprinted enlargement
1912	Canvas lace up jumper	George Heinz
1923	Cat badge / pin	Creation of the Cat as Geelong's mascot / nickname
1924	Brownlow letter	Letter to Mrs Brownlow creating the Brownlow Medal
1952	Reg Hickey letter	Letter to Geoff Williams father after winning Best & Fairest

-ENDS-

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## The Greatest Team of All— treasures from the Bob Gartland Collection

### Presenting partners



GEELONG CATS  
FOUNDATION

### Exhibition partners

The Aranday  
Foundation

Geelong  
Gallery  
Foundation



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