



Team NAB AFL Auskick's latest recruit, Lachlan Jones, after his interview with Joel Selwood on Friday night at Marvel Stadium during the Essendon v Sydney Swans game. Photo: Dylan Burns/AFL Photos

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Lachlan measures up as eleventh Team NAB AFL Auskick recruit

Team NAB AFL Auskick has its eleventh recruit of the year, with nine-year-old Lachlan Jones from the Tarrawingee Auskick Centre in north-east Victoria joining the team.

Throughout 2024 Team NAB AFL Auskick coaches Nick Daicos and Katie Brennan encouraged all registered Auskickers to enter via submitting a video online for a chance to join the team. They were on the lookout for NAB Auskickers who show teamwork, dedication, and passion!

Each Auskick recruit had the opportunity to invite an Auskick teammate of their choice to join them for a remarkable experience, attending an AFL Grand Final.

Eleven lucky winners have been announced during the Seven Network's AFL match broadcast, with Lachlan being the second-to-last lucky Auskicker to join the team accompanied by his chosen nominee – his friend, Lenny White.

Lachlan and Lenny will join their fellow Team NAB AFL Auskick recruits at the MCG in

Melbourne for a once-in-a-lifetime Grand Final experience, where they take centre stage and present the winning grand final team with their premiership medallions.

Lachlan loves everything AFL, down to the colour of the football boots that his favourite AFL and AFLW players are wearing on the TV. He's a very curious fan, always asking his parents how tall players are, such as Mason Cox and Patrick Cripps, to assess what position he might be good at when he grows up – depending on how tall he grows!

His family has the heights of certain AFL players marked on their pantry door so that Lachlan can measure up against them on his birthday, and he currently loves playing midfield and pushing forward to kick goals.

He was given two soft footballs as a toddler, and now uses them to practice kicking down the hallway without touching the walls, dribbling and snapping goals through the doorways, or taking speccys over his mum and sister.

Lachlan's friend Lenny – who is known for his very long, curly mullet – was destined to love football as his uncle is none other than Eddie Betts, the superstar goalkicking forward who played for Carlton and Adelaide.

His love for football is also strongly linked to his community football club, thanks to the beautiful role models that he has at the Whorouly Football Netball Club. He goes to his dad's training and club dinner every Thursday night and attends all games on Saturdays where he runs the water.

Lenny lives on a 120-acre kiwi fruit farm in Whorouly (near Wangaratta) with his parents, two brothers and a sister, and enjoys sorting the fruit during harvesting time. They live along the Owen's River, and Lenny has been known to catch some seriously big Cod fish!

As part of being selected as a Team NAB AFL Auskick recruit, Lachlan has the chance to be crowned the 2024 NAB AFL Auskicker of the Year which will be announced during Toyota AFL Grand Final Week.

The lucky NAB AFL Auskicker of the Year will receive a remarkable \$5,000 prize thanks to NAB and have the privilege of being mentored by an AFL and AFLW player throughout 2025.

About NAB AFL Auskick

- NAB AFL Auskick is an introductory program for kids to connect with Australian rules football while having lots of fun and being active – it's time to 'Come Find Your Awesome!'
- In weekly sessions, kids will focus on building football skills and playing in a safe and super fun setting. Expect small groups, heaps of games and parent/guardian involvement.
- NAB AFL Auskick invites all children aged 5-12 no matter their knowledge, skill or ability, to participate in the non-contact program.

- NAB AFL Auskick offers an inclusive environment for everyone to get involved, with optional ‘All Girls’ Auskick programs and All-Abilities Auskick centres available.
- More than 126,000 boys and girls participated in NAB AFL Auskick programs at more than 4,000 centres across the country in 2023 – setting a new record!
- Auskick participants have the chance to feature in mini games during halftime at elite AFL and AFLW matches throughout the season. A once-in-a-lifetime experience for many kids!
- Upon signing up, all Auskickers get an awesome pack filled with cool footy goodies not available anywhere else.
- Visit play.afl/Auskick for more details.



Lachlan having a kick on Marvel Stadium at half-time during the Essendon v Sydney Swans game on Friday night. Photo: Dylan Burns/AFL Photos