

## Doggies to the rescue at Dromana/Red Hill RSL

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Dromana/Red Hill RSL member and Bulldogs supporter Des Mutton, who served on the HMAS MILDURA, is delighted the AFL team has saved the club. Picture: IAN COOK. N11ML702

DES Mutton is a happy man.

The lifelong Western Bulldogs fan and World War II veteran is one of 800 Dromana/Red Hill RSL members celebrating the last-minute reprieve given to their RSL by the AFL club.

As revealed on [morningtonleader.com.au](http://morningtonleader.com.au), Bulldogs representatives announced the club's plans to buy and re-open the venue at a community meeting last week.

The club was forced to close its doors in Noel St, Dromana, on July 9 for financial reasons.

It had been operating as an RSL club since 1919. Mr Mutton - who served in the Royal Australia Navy in the Pacific - suffers from asbestosis.

He gets around on a motorised scooter and is on oxygen 24 hours a day.

He said the July closure had been devastating.

"It meant a lot to us," he said.

"My wife and I used to go there at least once a week, it was something to look forward to."

The diehard Bulldogs fan, who attended the club's only winning grand final in 1954, said the news had given him a new lease on life.

RSL sub-branch president Lindsay Edgerton said he had been packing up on Friday, August 27, when he was told of the deal brokered by RSL headquarters and the Bulldogs.

"It's terrific," he said.

"The best scenario we could have hoped for has happened."

Bulldogs chief executive Campbell Rose said the move was not about building another supporter base.

"We'll have a jumper or two on the wall (but) we're not planning on turning this into a red, white and blue drinking hole," he said.

Mr Rose said while it was a commercial venture, the focus would be on long-term community development.