

**MENTONE AND
ST BEDES OLD COLLEGIANS
AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB**

INAUGURAL

HALL OF FAME



Foreword

The Centenary year involves the inauguration of 100 Hall of Fame members including ten Legends of the Mentone Football Club, St Bedes Old Collegians Football Club, Mentone Junior Football Club and the club that evolved from them all, the St Bedes/Mentone Tigers Amateur Football Club.

The Hall of Fame is open to all players, coaches, officials, match-day helpers and supporters. The criteria for nomination to the Hall of Fame covers the following areas:

- Significant (Hall of Fame) or outstanding (Legend) service to the club, with a minimum of 100 senior or Reserve games and/or ten years as an official; and/or
- Significant or outstanding achievement as an individual or as part of a team whilst playing, coaching or being active in administration; and/or
- Significant or outstanding achievement elsewhere in a sporting or community capacity after beginning their career at one of the constituent clubs.

In the inauguration of the Hall of Fame, there has been a conscious attempt to capture a representation of people and events in the various histories of the clubs from 1904 to 2004 and to find a balance between players, coaches, officials and helpers in the various decades.

Obviously any such attempt is subjective and open to debate. After sifting through annual reports and minutes of committee meetings, checking local papers and history books, and cross-checking assessments with key personnel of the various eras, the problem was not so much who should be included, but rather the dilemma of leaving out so many outstanding contributors to the history of the clubs in order to restrict the numbers to 100 (representing one person for each year of the centenary). The task was made more difficult by the fact that the history of the early years is somewhat murky, and by the reluctance of people to nominate themselves or others as possible Hall of Fame members.

The Hall of Fame Committee would welcome any feedback on the above processes or criteria, or on possible future nominations, as further inductions into the Hall of Fame will occur on a regular basis. Corrections or further information about the achievements of Hall of Fame members are most welcome.

Mark Beasley, Rob Hess, Drew Johnson, and Brett Marchant
Hall of Fame Committee, 2004

Acknowledgements

The following valuable sources of information for the Hall of Fame are gratefully acknowledged:

1. Russell Holmesby and Jim Main, *The Encyclopaedia of AFL Footballers: Every AFL/VFL Player Since 1897* (Melbourne: Information Australia, 1998).
2. Leo Gamble, *Mentone Through The Years* (Mentone: Leo Gamble, 2003).
3. Federal Association and Federal League fixtures and annual reports, and the *Federal Football Record*.
4. The Victorian Amateur Football Association website.
5. The many people who have provided information and memorabilia on the club's history, including Bill Bignell, Clive Foster, the Groves family, the Shaw Family, Allan Mennie, Brett Mennie, Bonnie Rogerson, Jan Foster, Jan Sellars, Peter Davis, St Bedes College, Bill Rhoden, Peter Bromley, Gerry Shannon, Fred Gattuso, Paul Adam, Jim Lowndes, Peter MacCormack, Don Meckiff, John Eddelbutt, Bruce Gatford, and Barry Graham (who uncovered the photograph of the 1936 Footballers' Ball at Mentone City Hall).
6. Special thanks to Mark Bennett of Enegi Print for arranging production of the Hall of Fame booklet.

Ken Ansell

Ken joined Mentone from VFA club, Sandringham, and was a rover who kept his head over the ball and played with great determination. He was runner up in the senior Best and Fairest award in 1975 and was among the best players in the 1976 premiership win against arch-rivals, Cheltenham, whose team included Ken's brother. Ken went on to win two successive Mentone senior Best and Fairest awards in 1978 and 1979 and was also runner up in the Federal League Best and Fairest award in 1979.

Michael Atherton

Michael has been involved with the club for more than fifteen years. A player in a number of St Bedes OCFC Reserves premiership teams, Michael made his lasting mark as a young administrator, when, while still active as a player, he became Secretary between 1985 and 1986, and President between 1990 and 1992, all during a period when the club moved playing base on two occasions. As an elected representative of the St Bedes OCFC, he also worked on the joining of all constituent clubs that now form St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC. He was a foundation committeeman in 1993 and over the past eighteen months has spent much time checking VAFA records from 1972 onwards to accurately record player games records.

Matthew Beasley

Matthew's playing career with St Bedes OCFC and St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC was cut short by injury, but he has performed continual outstanding service to his club over the past fifteen years. As the Project Manager of the Social Rooms Refurbishment in 2001 and again managing the construction of the Corboy Pavilion in 2002/2003, Matthew has been the driving force behind the scenes. A serving committeeman for over ten years, he has been chosen by his peers as the Best Clubman on three separate occasions in 1992, 1996 and 2002.

Tim Beasley - LEGEND



Tim played 269 senior games for St Bedes Old Collegians FC and St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC in a career spanning eighteen years. He is acknowledged by his peers as the most decorated and inspirational player to have played for both St Bedes OCFC and St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC. It is therefore hard to imagine that the same 18 year old could not get a game with local team Carrum, who went through a season with out winning! His dedication to improvement through training has proven to be an inspiration to other teammates and opponents. A ruckman with a heart as big as a Tiger, Tim's football resume includes a number of notable achievements.

At St Bedes OC, Tim was runner up in the senior Best and Fairest award (1988 and 1990), winner of the senior Best and Fairest award (1989, 1991, 1992) (in 1989 he also won the VAFA Best and Fairest award, only to lose it due to suspension), winner of the VAFA Best and Fairest award (1990 and 1991), club captain (1990 to 1992), and a VAFA state representative player (1992). With the St Bedes/Mentone Tigers, Tim was a member of the 1993 senior premiership team and also won the Best and Fairest award (1993, 1998, 1999 and 2000). He also represented the VAFA at state level again in 1993. In addition to his playing career, Tim has also served as a club committeeman whilst playing and is currently assistant coach with the St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC in season 2004. Tim is the only player to have played senior football with St Bedes OCFC and St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC from VAFA 'E' Section right through to 'B' Section. Tim was also awarded Life Membership in 2000.

Ross Besley

A talented Mentone junior player in the 1970s, Ross played Reserves football with St Kilda and senior football with Sandringham in the VFA before returning to the Tigers. Ross was a true team man, bringing other players into the game with his constructive handball as an on-baller or half forward. Ross was a member of the 1976 senior premiership win and was elected Best Team Player for that year. He followed up that season with a senior Best and Fairest win in 1977.

James 'Jim' Baird

A talented athlete and cricketer, Jim was recruited in 1952 as captain coach of Mentone directly from Carlton, where he had an outstanding 129 game, 85 goal career, including VFL premierships in 1945 (the so-called 'Bloodbath' game) and 1947. As senior coach from 1952 to 1955, Jim set about improving the standards of the club and much of the club's subsequent success in 1956 and grand final appearances in 1958 and 1959 can be attributed to the development work that Jim undertook. Jim assumed the role of Reserves coach from 1956 to 1959, leading the Reserves to two grand Final appearances. Jim continued to be active with the junior players of the club, supporting the Thirds over many years. As well as his direct contribution to the club, Jim will be fondly remembered for the gentleman that he was, and the hospitality of the Baird household. Jim's family connection continued with the club, with his two sons playing football for Mentone, Tarpan (Gary), a 1967 premiership player, and 150 game player, Steve. [Dec.]

Ron 'Bomber' Banfield

Ron began as a Mentone junior in 1949 and played in the 1950 and 1951 junior premiership sides. 'Bomber' played five games with St Kilda in 1952 and upon his return to the club quickly established an imposing record as a centreman and forward, recognized for his long kicking and goal scoring ability. He won the senior Best and Fairest award and played in the centre in the 1956 premiership win. In 1960, he was the leading Federal League goalkicker. 'Bomber' was a great footballer who enjoyed an

outstanding career of more than 150 games with the club. He was awarded Life Membership in 1960. [Dec.]

Albert ‘Mick’ Beckwith

‘Mick’ graduated from the juniors in 1944, and won the Federal District competition junior Best and Fairest award in that year, as well as winning the senior competition award in 1953. He was a member of the backline in the 1956 senior premierships side but gave just as much to the club off the ground as he did on. He coached the Thirds from 1955 to 1959 for two premierships, including the 1958 undefeated champions. Mick also coached the Fourths from 1962 to 1963 and put in the development work for the seniors by coaching them from 1964 to 1966. Mick returned to assist in coaching in 1968 when Gary Rasmussen broke his leg. Mick was made a Life Member of the club in 1960 and in 150 games and his distinguished off-field service can be considered one of the greats of the Mentone Football Club. [Dec.]

Neil Besanko

Recruited from Mordialloc juniors where his family also had strong connections, Neil, due to his enormous talent, had only a brief career with Mentone. He won the Fourth’s Best and Fairest award in 1966 in the side that went down to Springvale by 3 points in the grand final. He played his first senior game with St Kilda in 1968 and ended his career with the Saints in 1977 with 149 games including the 1971 Grand Final against Hawthorn. From 1978 to 1981 he added a further 31 games with Essendon. A dashing wingman or backman, Neil had excellent pace (nicknamed ‘the racehorse’ due to his professional sprinting career and his family connection with racehorses) and a good spoiling spring. Less than 5% of VFL players go onto play more than 150 games, and Neil is one of the few to achieve that feat.

Norm Bignell - LEGEND



Norm was a star from his first season with Mentone in 1962 as captain and Best and Fairest winner in the Fourths. In 1965 he was Best and Fairest with the Thirds and in 1966 had the rare distinction of playing football with his father in the first game of the season with the Reserves. Norm’s dedication to fitness and training was renowned and in a 300 game career Norm made the wing his own, with his excellent ball-handling, long kicking and stylish play. Norm won the club Best and Fairest award in 1970 and his value to the side can be seen by the host of other awards he has won, including Most Improved in 1967, Most Consistent in 1968, Most Determined in 1969, Best Team Man in 1974, and the Coaches Award in 1976. Norm captained the club in 1971, was a Federal

League representative, and was a vital member of three senior premierships in 1967, 1968 and 1976, and was deservedly made a Life Member in 1979. Not content with his playing record, Norm was senior coach in 1979 and 1983 and Thirds coach in 1985 and 1986. Norm in the 1986 Annual Report wrote: 'I would like to add the great pleasure I have received over the years from the Mentone Football Club, and I hope I was able to put something back into the club as many have done before me'. Norm did just that and much more.

William 'Bill' Bignell

Bill commenced his career with Mentone in 1942 and was a loyal servant of the club for more than two decades. One of only three players to play more than 300 games for the club, Bill has an enviable record of service. Although playing a number of games at senior level, Bill is best remembered as the backbone of the Reserves team. Winner of the club and Federal competition Reserves Best and Fairest awards in 1954, followed by two more Reserve Best and Fairest awards in the grand final years of 1958 and 1960, Bill went on to both coach (1962 and 1963) and captain (1966) the Reserves in a highly successful era.

Barry Breen - LEGEND



As a former junior at Mentone Football Club, Barry Breen has had an outstanding career in football at the highest level in the code. Vice captain of the Thirds when they played off for the premiership in 1964, and runner up in the Best and Fairest award that year, Barry's talent was soon recognized and after 28 games and three seasons for Mentone he was recruited by St Kilda in 1965. The following year he kicked the most famous point in VFL history, giving the Saints their one and only premiership. Barry went on to enjoy a 300 game career with St Kilda, kicking 308 goals, representing Victoria on three occasions, and being named captain of the club in 1979. Not only did Barry become one of St Kilda's favourite sons, after retirement he went on to forge a career in football administration, becoming General Manager of the Sydney Swans. No other Mentone player has

gone on to play as many VFL games as Barry, or matched his profile in the game. For his many football achievements, Barry is a deserved member of 'Legend' status in the club's inaugural Hall of Fame.

Stan Brew

Stan had a very active involvement with Mentone for more than 25 years. Stan served as Secretary between 1951 and 1952 and President from 1972 to 1974. He also served in

various other capacities as Vice President, timekeeper and long-term delegate to the Federal League. Stan was a loyal and vocal supporter of the club and worked hard towards improving it. Stan was awarded club Life Membership in 1957 and later was also awarded Federal League Life Membership in recognition of his contribution to local football. [Dec.]

Peter Bromley

An honest and hard-working ruckman, Peter enjoyed an outstanding career with the club. A member of the Thirds premiership team in 1966, Peter played in the senior premiership teams of 1967 and 1968, and also had stints with Richmond Thirds and Reserves, and with Caulfield in the VFA. A winner of the Most Consistent Player trophy and the Best Team Man award, Peter won the senior Best and Fairest award in 1973, and had the honour of being appointed captain of the senior team in 1974 and 1975, playing his 200th game in the premiership year of 1976. Peter also served the club at a committee level, and was awarded Life Membership in 1972.

Wayne Bromley

An athletic ruckman, Wayne's contribution to the club over more than sixteen years was immense. Graduating from the juniors, where he won Best and Fairest awards in 1959 and 1960 as well as captaining the team, Wayne also won Best and Fairest awards in the senior team in 1965 and 1969. Named as Most Determined Player for the 1968 season, Wayne also played in the premiership team that year, and went on to represent the Federal League in 1969. He also coached the Thirds from 1968 to 1973, with a premiership in 1969 and two other grand final appearances to show for his efforts. He was also appointed coach of a Federal Under 17 representative team. Wayne continued his mentoring role as coach of the Reserves in 1974 and 1975, and, among other committee roles, was a vice president of the club from 1973 to 1976. The Most Determined Player award is named in his honour. He was awarded Life Membership in 1970. [Dec.]

Bob Brooker

Bob played with Mentone during the late 1940s and was recognised as an outstanding player. During his last season with the club, Bob was taken directly from Mentone to play in North Melbourne's senior finals side of that year. A strong ruckman, Bob played with North Melbourne from 1949 to 1956 for 107 games and 41 goals. He had the distinction of playing in a VFL grand final in 1951, winning the Shinboner's Best and Fairest award in 1955 and being appointed North Melbourne club captain in 1956. [Dec.]

Alan 'Joe' ('Fingers') Carr

Joe 'Fingers' Carr played 83 games with Mentone in three separate decades from 1953-59, during the 1960s and also in the early 1970s. A tough, uncompromising ruckman, Joe also played 66 games and kicked 13 goals with North Melbourne from 1959 to 1966.

Later, whilst playing for Frankston in the VFA, he was reported and suspended despite pleading provocation in that his opponent poked him in the eye. Joe later lost the sight of that eye and the substitute glass eye was often seen at the club! 'Fingers' will long be remembered as one of the true characters of Australian Rules football that Mentone has produced. [Dec.]

Peter Cerato

A highly regarded junior with Mentone, Peter went on to play 161 games for the club, as well as senior football for Mayne in Queensland and representative football for New South Wales. Described in the *Federal Football Record* as 'a brilliant rover with magnificent disposal', Peter had a deadly left-foot kick. He won the senior Best and Fairest award in 1971 and also played in the 1976 premiership team, when he was runner up to Alan Sierakowski in the club championship.

Bruce Cockburn

Captain of the Thirds 1961 premiership team, Bruce went on to play full back against the top full forwards of the Federal League. A beautiful kick and a well balanced player, Bruce was rarely beaten in his 171 games for the club. Bruce was a key member of two premierships in 1967 and 1968. A winner of the Most Serviceable Player award in 1965 and Most Consistent Player in 1970, Bruce's loyal service was reflected in his election to Life Membership in 1970.

John Cockburn

An outstanding junior player, John played in two consecutive Thirds premierships and also won the Thirds Best and Fairest award in 1962. John was named the senior's Best First Year Player in 1963 and then spent two seasons at Carlton. He then returned to Mentone, winning the Most Serviceable Player award in 1966, before becoming a dual premiership winner in 1967 and 1968. A skilful left footer and centre man, John was runner up once, and third twice, in the club's senior Best and Fairest award. He also played representative games for the Federal League and was regarded as an outstanding player of his era.

Dale Collins - LEGEND



Dale played 157 senior games for St Bedes OCFC, having joined the club from Parkdale, where he played in a senior premiership team. Dale has been described by players of his era as the hardest at-the-ball player ever seen, having the natural skill and ability to change a game in a moment. Appointed club captain in 1977, he led the team to its first VAFA senior premiership, kicking four goals in their 2 point victory over Bulleen-Templestowe. Dale was club captain from 1977 to 1979, senior coach in 1983, and was

the club's leading goal kicker in 1987. Dale's enormous contribution off the field was also second to none. Chronologically, his roles include being St Bedes OCFC Treasurer (1984 to 1986), President (1987 to 1989) and junior coach (1991). He has also been active in the St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC, being a foundation committeeman (1993), a committeeman (1993 to 2004), President (1999 to 2004), Vice President of the juniors (1993, and 1995 to 1997), and a junior coach (1994 to 1997, and 2004). His contribution to both St Bedes OCFC and St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC and hence the VFAFA was recognized by the VFAFA with the awarding of the VFAFA 'Certificate of Merit'. Dale has been one of the visionaries responsible for the creation and execution of plans to drive St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC to the top level of the VFAFA and the driving force behind the establishment of the club's highly successful Junior Football Program, the upgrade of the Social Room Facilities, and the building of the new Corboy Pavilion at Mentone Reserve. He has attended hundreds of meetings with the City of Kingston and as such developed a tremendous rapport with councillors and employees alike. He has also been an innovator, creating the club website and electronic club newsletters. Dale was awarded Life Membership in 1992 and is certainly deserving of his 'Legend' status.

Peter Corboy - LEGEND



For more than fifty years there has been one constant for the Tigers at the Brindisi Street oval - the continuing presence of Peter Corboy. Peter had an amazing and record thirteen consecutive years from 1963 to 1975 as Treasurer of the Mentone Football Club. His work as Treasurer provided the club with financial stability during this time and under-pinned the building of the new pavilion in 1964. But more than Peter's work in his official capacity has been his willingness and ability to assist in any area within the club that he has been asked to help, whether this has been as a committeeman, delegate or assisting with

the canteen or juniors. This has seen Peter at the club almost nightly and is the reason why he has twice won Best Club Person awards with Mentone Football Club (1961 and 1963) and once with the St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC (1993) for his work. Peter was made a Life Member in 1967 and has received public and VFAFA recognition for his services to football. In 2004, he fittingly had the new pavilion named after him.

Norman Coventry

Little is known of the club's early decades in the Federal League, but the name of Norman Coventry looms large. Norman was active as a player since at least 1915, when he captained the senior team and was also Secretary, the first of many stints of off-field service, including his appointment as Treasurer in 1924 and various committee duties during the 1920s. Awarded Life Membership by approbation in 1929, Norman then went on to serve the club in other capacities, including his election as president in 1932 and

four years as secretary between 1937 and 1940, capping a remarkable record of more than 25 seasons of significant involvement in club activities. Norm was also one of many Mentone administrators who were awarded Life Membership of the Federal League. [Dec.]

John ‘Tiny’ Crozier

From 1955 to 1966, John enjoyed a 150 game career with Mentone and was an outstanding clubman. He also coached the Fourths for seven consecutive years from 1964 to 1971, was senior assistant coach in 1972, and on the club committee from 1971 to 1973. ‘Tiny’ will be remembered for the early development work he put into a number of the players who made long-serving senior contributions to the Mentone club and who played in the 1967, 1968 and 1976 senior premierships. Tiny was awarded Life Membership in 1965.

Robert Crowe

A member of the 1952 Mentone Thirds premierships team and awarded Most Promising Player in that year, Bob went on to have an excellent VFL career with Carlton. He played 129 games and kicked 62 goals for the Blues from 1954 to 1964. A lightly framed player who was an excellent mark, he could play in attack or defence. Bob goaled with his first kick in VFL football and went on to represent a Victorian B side. In 1962 he played alongside another Mentone boy, Vasil Varlamos, in Carlton’s losing grand final team.

Morrie Dagleish

Morrie was secretary of Mentone Football Club from 1953 to 1957, awarded Life Membership in 1957, Vice President from 1964 to 1966, selector and senior team manager from 1958 to 1964 and still on the general committee in 1968. But as impressive as these statistics are, they do not do justice to the role that Morrie played in Mentone’s history. He gave the club a vision for future success and worked hard towards achieving it through recruiting, enforcing club discipline, ensuring sponsorship was received from Mentone businesses, and having the support of the local council and the Mentone Police! The 1956 premierships win was one of Morrie’s highlights but Morrie will also be remembered for sitting by the boundary line and calling each game kick-by-kick for Mr Corboy (Peter’s father) who was visually impaired. Morrie was one of the club’s greatest administrators and will be remembered for his contribution to the success of the club in the 1950s and beyond. [Dec.]

Peter Davis

Good administration lies at the heart of any great sporting institution, and Peter is widely acknowledged as one of the best and hardest working secretaries to ever serve the Mentone Football Club. In more than twenty years association with the club, Peter sacrificed much to ensure that the club was well managed, even during some of its darkest periods. Secretary almost continuously from 1980 to 1992, Peter was also team

manager of several junior and senior sides, and acted as 'Mr Fix-It' whenever tasks such as maintenance, line-marking, transport or canteen duty were required. Winner of the Best Club Person award in 1982, Peter was honoured with Life Membership in 1985. Perhaps Peter's lasting legacy will be the vision he displayed when tough decisions about the future direction of the club were required, firstly in 1981, when the club decided to leave the Federal League, and secondly in 1992, when merger discussions first began.

William 'Bill' Earle (senior)

In more than 150 games with Mentone, Bill played football as if his life depended upon it. A tough and talented half back flanker, there have been few more determined footballers to take the field for Mentone as reflected by his winning of the Most Determined Player awards in 1974, 1975 and 1988. He was also a member of the 1976 senior premiership side, and was senior coach in 1985 and 1989. Bill was awarded Life Membership in 1992 in recognition of his loyal service to the club.

Betty Edwards

During the 1980s and 1990s Betty was a key administrator in both the Mentone junior and senior clubs. She was instrumental in consolidating the Mentone junior club, as well as being assistant secretary, canteen manager and team manager of several teams. Betty was a winner of the Best Club Person award for both clubs and her devotion to the Tiger cause was recognised by her receiving Life Membership awards from both the junior and senior Mentone Football Clubs. She is the only person in both clubs to achieve this feat.

David Evans

Dave was a silky-skilled footballer who played with Mentone in 1965, 1966 and 1968, including the 1968 premiership win. Dave also played with Mordialloc in the VFA before joining St Bedes OCFC in 1970, where he won the first of three consecutive club Best and Fairest awards. Dave played over 100 senior games for St Bedes OCFC between 1970 and 1978, including the 1970 and 1977 premiership teams.

Dean Feben

Dean commenced his career with Mentone in the 1980s as a rugged fullback who hated full forwards. He went onto become a talented on-baller who won a senior Best and Fairest award in 1989, Most Determined Player in 1990, and Best Team Man in 1991. Dean will also be remembered for his contribution as captain of the 1993 senior premiership team of the newly merged club, St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC.

Maurie Fiddler

Maurie was a hard-at-it, skilled and long-kicking on-baller. Maurie won Mentone's senior Best and Fairest award in 1961. In 1962 he went on to play with Collingwood Reserves before returning to Mentone in 1963. In this season, he played an outstanding

leadership role in a young team, winning his second Best and Fairest award for the club in the side just beaten in the grand final.

Michael ‘Mick’ Follett

Mick began his career at Mentone in 1969, playing in the Fourths, and two years later was appointed captain of the Thirds, who played off in the grand final. He made his senior debut in 1972, winning the Best First Year Player trophy. In 1974 he consolidated his position as a tough half back flanker, winning the Best and Fairest award. Mick then played a season and a half in Perth, winning a premiership with Wembley. Returning to Mentone mid-way through the 1976 season, Mick forced his way into the senior team and again tasted premiership success. Mick later took out awards for Most Consistent (1978 and 1979) and the Coaches Trophy (1979). He was appointed vice captain of the seniors in 1981 and was also awarded Life Membership for his dedicated and loyal service in that year. He retired after playing in the Reserves premiership team of 1983, and then took on the role of President from 1984 to 1986, and has acted as chairman of selectors for both Mentone and St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC.

Greg Foot-Connolly

Greg played 257 games for St Bedes OCFC and St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC in a career spanning fourteen years. He also won VAFA state representation in 1985. His contribution off-field as President in 1983-84, Reserves coach in 1993, junior coach in 2001 and 2002 and Auskick co-coordinator in 1999 and 2000 underlines his commitment and sacrifice, not only as a player but also as an administrator.

Warren Fort

Commencing as a junior in 1972, Warren provided loyalty and service to Mentone over a period of twenty years. Warren played more than 165 games where his best form saw him in the senior side as a clever goal-kicker. Warren also provided excellent off-field service to the club through being on the committee, being a Federal League delegate, and serving as Vice President from 1984 to 1986 and President in 1987 and 1992. Additionally, Warren was strongly involved in coaching teams in the Mentone Junior Football Club, Mentone Thirds in 1984, the Reserves in 1985, as well as other local junior teams. Warren also battled with the local council to protect the long-term interests of the club, and was President during crucial merger discussions. He was awarded Life Membership in 1992.

Steve Fullerton

A promising junior player in 1969, Steve worked his way through the Reserves to become a regular senior player in his more than 250 game career with Mentone. The awards of Best First Year Player in the seniors in 1973 and Most Consistent Player ten years later in 1983 reflects Steve’s durability and talent. Steve played as a centre half back and back-up ruckman, but is best remembered for his work at full back on top-notch

full forwards and his long penetrating kicks from the last line of defence. Steve was a member of the 1976 premiership side and was fittingly awarded Life Membership in 1980.

Jack Furmedge

Jack's known service included being Secretary of the Mentone Football Club between 1928 and 1930, 1935 and (jointly) again in 1957. Jack went onto become Secretary of the Federal League between 1938 and 1948 and President from 1949 to 1954. His outstanding service of over 50 years to local football was recognized by having the Federal League's competition Best and Fairest award for the Thirds named after him. Jack had a continuing association with the club through his daughter Shirley Fort, and his three grandsons, Barry, Graham and Warren Fort, who all played more than 100 games each for the Tigers. [Dec.]

William 'Bill' Gallagher

Bill was a local player who was appointed captain coach of Mentone seniors in 1956. A strong marking centre half back and a good kick of the ball, Bill coached the senior side to the 1956 Olympic year premiership win. The team had drawn their preliminary final and won the replay but were down at three quarter time of the grand final when Bill swung Ian Meckiff to full forward and the rest, as they say, was history, with Ian kicking four final quarter goals. Bill coached the team to third in 1957, and is one of only five senior Mentone premiership coaches. [Dec.]

Bruce Gatford - LEGEND



Bruce 'Gus' Gatford commenced as a Mentone junior in the Len James-coached triple premiership sides of 1950, 1951 and 1952. In 1953 he played in a further premiership with Melbourne's Thirds. Upon his return to Mentone, he graduated to the seniors and was a key member of the 1956 premiership side being one of the best players in that game. In over 150 games he was the team's ever-dependable back pocket who rarely gave resting rovers a sniff of the ball and who saved many opposition goals. His leadership qualities were evident as he was vice captain of the Mentone side for several years and in 1958 captained the Federal District League. Whilst still playing, Bruce assumed the role of Social

Secretary and was largely responsible for the excellent off-field team morale that the club enjoyed. This in turn lead to further key administration roles as Treasurer (1962) and Secretary (1963 and 1964). From 1967 to 1971 Bruce was the President and the leader of the club in its most successful era. What set Bruce apart from other Presidents was that during this time he also assumed match day roles as chairman of selectors of the seniors,

team manager of the Reserves, and trainer and team manager for the Fourths. Bruce's service to the club has been of the highest order and is recognized by his being a three-time winner of the Best Club Person award in 1957, 1958, and 1960. His Life Membership was awarded in 1960.

Fred Gattuso

One of the founders of St Bedes OCFC in 1966, Fred was the inaugural captain coach of the club from 1966 to 1968. Fred led the club to its first senior premiership in 1968 and was the Best and Fairest award winner in the same season. Fred has long been regarded as the person who had the drive and drawing power to enable St Bedes OCFC to commence and succeed in its years of difficult infancy.

Tom Graham

Tom was one of three Graham brothers, the others being Max and Hector (who died in service in the Second World War) to play football with Mentone. He was a ten year player during the 1920s and 1930s and was a member of the 1935 premiership side where his on-field pace was legendary, having won the Maryborough Gift in 1933 (and later the Bairnsdale Gift in 1936). After his playing days finished, Tom continued his association with the club, serving as a trainer from 1946 to 1965, firstly with the juniors and Reserves, and then graduating to be head trainer of the seniors. Tom served the Mentone Football Club with distinction for more than forty years and was awarded Life Membership in 1965. [Dec.]

William 'Bill' Groves

Bill was a long time committee member and helper of the club from the 1960s through to 1976. A Vice President for a number of years, Bill played a major part in ensuring the financial security of the club through his work with the finance and social committee and with his running of the famous 'black and gold' fundraiser. Bill won the Best Club Person award in 1965 and was honoured with Life Membership of the club in 1970 in recognition of his services. The Mentone senior Best and Fairest trophy was awarded in his name after his death. [Dec.]

David Groves

David had a brilliant junior career, taking part in a Thirds premiership in 1961, winning club and Federal League Best and Fairest awards in 1962 (despite only playing in twelve games), and playing in the League representative Under 18 team. In 1963 he was named the senior team's Most Promising Player, and was recruited by St Kilda in the following season. He soon returned to the club and played as a dynamic centre half forward or ruck rover. A member of the 1967 premiership team, he was unluckily suspended in the preliminary final of 1968. David coached the senior team from 1976 to 1978, taking the side to a premiership in 1976 against arch-rivals Cheltenham. In a remarkable match that included eleven reports in the first half, David, who had only played four games that

season due to a knee injury, was a late substitute in the side when Peter Bromley was injured immediately prior to the game. In the last quarter, David came on to the ground to steer the Tigers to a memorable 6 point victory. He was awarded Life Membership in 1977, and there are few more passionate players that have worn the yellow and black for Mentone.

John ‘Jack’ Hand

Regarded as the very backbone of St Bedes OCFC during the 1970s and 1980s, Jack served in no less than twelve different roles as a committeeman in an involvement spanning 25 years. More often than not the very person who got the team on the ground, Jack served as President, team manager, caretaker, bar manager, and VAFA delegate to name a few of his roles. Being voted Joint Best Clubman with his wife Norma in 1978 best reflects the type of person Jack was. Jack also served as a St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC foundation year committeeman in 1993, as well as being team manager of the senior premiership team in that year. [Dec.]

Sean Hanrahan

An outstanding junior and senior footballer, Sean was a member of the club’s first ever Fourths premiership in 1983, a season in which he won the club and competition Best and Fairest and goalkicking awards. After playing Reserves and Under 19s for St Kilda, Sean returned to Mentone winning three senior Best and Fairest awards in 1987, 1988 and 1989, and was runner up in 1991. He was also appointed club captain in 1989. Sean was a courageous centre half forward or ruckman, an excellent mark and kick, and was one of the stars of the club in the 1980s.

Barry ‘ Hooker’ Harrison

Barry played more than 100 games with the Mentone Football Club. A follower/ruckman, he was a member of the 1952 Thirds premiership team and won the Most Improved Player award. Barry represented the Federal League in 1955 and won the club’s senior Best and Fairest award in 1957. He then enjoyed a successful career at Collingwood from 1958 to 1961, playing 58 games and kicking 24 goals. Barry worked hard on his fitness and on improving his game to achieve the ultimate in football as a member of the famous 1958 Collingwood premiership victory over unbackable favourites and winners of the past three VFL premierships, Melbourne. Barry played a notable part in the victory with his physical approach and run-with role on Demon star, Ron Barassi (junior). In 1964 he had a brief second VFL stint with North Melbourne and also played with Sandringham. One of the club’s favourite sons, Barry returned as senior coach of Mentone in 1974 and 1975, where his fiery oratories will long be remembered.

Len James

Len began coaching the Mentone juniors in the late 1940s. From 1947 to 1949, the Tiger Cubs finished third each year. Len then coached the Thirds to three consecutive

premierships including two in which they were undefeated champions. In 1953 he took the Reserves to the grand final and then to a premiership in 1954 and to fourth in 1955. Seven of Len's charges (Hoare, Schofield, Mennie, Banfield, Crowe, Harrison and Waldron) went onto play a total of 288 games and kick 239 goals in VFL football, whilst many other local players were prominent members of the club's success in the 1950s. Len's outstanding coaching record and development of young men was recognized with Life Membership of the club. [Dec.]

Mark 'Mad' Jones

Despite a somewhat wild youth (hence the nickname), 'Mad' developed into a tough, hard-working, courageous centreman in a career spanning eighteen years and more than 200 games. Progressing from the juniors, Mad became a pivotal member of the senior team, winning Best and Fairest awards in three consecutive seasons from 1990 to 1992, and also winning the competition Best and Fairest award in 1992. Underlying his consistency and longevity, he had previously been runner up in the Best and Fairest award in 1981, 1983 and 1985, and had captained the club in 1983. Duly honoured with Life Membership in 1992, Mad played in the St Bedes/Mentone Tigers premiership of 1993, and also took on a number of coaching duties with junior teams at the club.

Frank Kean

A recipient of the VAFA 'Certificate of Merit' for an outstanding contribution to his club, Frank was instrumental in the successful administration and management of the club over a long period. He was Secretary of St Bedes OCFC from 1987 to 1992, a VAFA delegate for ten years, timekeeper for twelve years and Joint Secretary of St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC in 1993. Frank was an outstanding character and a gentleman who worked tirelessly to ensure the well being of his football club. [Dec.]

Greg Kelly

One of only three club members awarded the 'Certificate of Merit' by the VAFA, Greg's club involvement spans more than 30 years. He played at Under 18 level for Mentone Football Club and then 204 games for St Bedes OCFC. Greg was club captain in 1975, a senior premiership player in 1977, as well as being a three-time Reserves premiership player during his career. Runner up in the Best and Fairest player award in 1973 and 1974, Greg continued his service when his playing days ceased and took on such committee positions as Treasurer, Secretary and the club-appointed Reserve grade umpire from 1990 until the present.

Jim Lander

Jim was one of those off-field people who simply went out and got the job done in the best possible way. After the Second World War finished, Jim was one of the prime movers of re-establishing the juniors in the club. He served as a dedicated Secretary from 1957 to 1962 and played many other roles in the club, including Vice President, social

secretary, chairman of selectors, chair of the ladies committee and supporter of the club well into the 1980s. A true gentleman and a man of integrity, Jim had a forty year association with the club, but more than that Jim had a love of the Tigers that few could match. Jim was awarded Life Membership in 1964 for his devotion to the betterment of the club. [Dec.]

Peter Lannan

A courageous, highly skilled rover who played 235 senior games for St Bedes OCF and St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC, Peter was also a member of the inaugural 1993 premiership team. Club captain from 1994 to 1996, he also won the Best and Fairest award in 1994. A dual winner of the 'E. J. Turner' Most Courageous Player in 1995 and 1997, Peter's dedication to training and skills created for himself a match-winning player from a raw youngster fresh out of school.

Colin Lewis

Colin was a clever, classy, 'swooping' half forward who knew where the goals were located. A lightly framed, 5 foot 10 inch player, Colin also played with distinction as a 'running' centre half forward against taller, stronger opponents. Colin was awarded Most Promising Player in 1958 and 1959 and was a key member of the 1967 and 1968 senior premiership sides. A measure of Colin's talent and longevity as a player is shown by the fact that he was chosen to represent the Federal league in 1959 and 1970, more than 11 seasons apart. Colin played with Collingwood Reserves and was an outstanding contributor during his 252 games with the Mentone Football Club. He was awarded Life Membership in 1965. [Dec.]

Vinnie L'Huiller

Vinnie holds a unique place in the club's history, being the only player to have played with each of the three clubs, namely the Mentone Football Club, the St Bedes Old Collegians and the St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC. A strong, determined backman, Vinnie is also one of only three players to play more than 300 games in the club's history and was awarded Life Membership of Mentone in 1992.

Stan Kelley

In his more than a twenty year association with the Mentone Football Club, Stan served with distinction on the committee in various roles but is fondly remembered for his three separate stints as club president in 1956-1958, 1962-1965 and 1975-1976. Stan provided great leadership and ensured a strong and healthy direction for the club and was a vital part of ensuring new clubrooms were built in 1964. Stan was a great communicator who was equally at home with the lads or with the mayor of the city. Stan also was elected as a local councilor and ensured the club's interests were at the forefront of the local Council. Stan had the unique achievement of a senior premiership in both his first (1956) and last (1976) years as president and was recognized with Life Membership in 1966 for

his great service to the Tigers. [Dec.]

Peter McCormack

In a decorated career spanning 231 senior games with St Bedes OCFC, Peter played in three senior premierships in 1968, 1970 and 1977. With a club involvement now into its fourth decade, Peter has held committee positions of Treasurer in 1975 and President in 1979. He was also a foundation year committeeman of St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC in 1993. Peter's commitment of support in many ways during redevelopment of the facilities at Mentone has been nothing short of outstanding.

Matthew McCraw

The only current day player to be inducted in the Hall of Fame in this Centenary Year, 'Moose', as he is more affectionately known, has played more than 240 senior games with the St Bedes OCFC and St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC. A member of the inaugural 1993 premiership team, he is one of the club's most highly decorated players, having been runner up in the senior Best and Fairest award on a remarkable seven separate occasions. A left-footer, Matthew's ability to take courageous marks and give his all for the jumper is underlined by his winning the 'E J Turner' Most Courageous Player twice in 1998 and 2002.

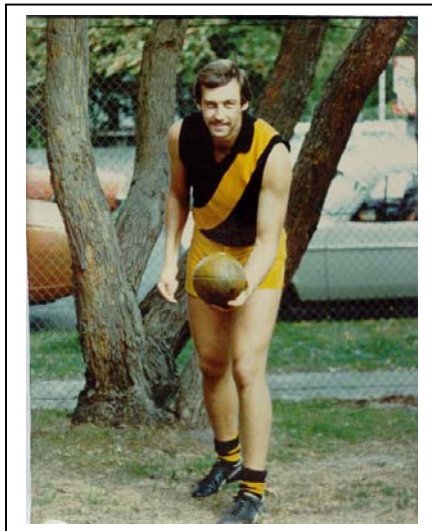
Tony Macgeorge

In a career spanning 141 games with St Bedes OCFC and St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC, Tony became one of the club's most highly decorated players. A senior premiership player in 1993, Tony also won the Best and Fairest award from 1996 to 1998, the VAFA competition Best and Fairest award in 1997, was a VAFA state representative in 1993 and 1998, club captain between 1997 and 2000, the 'E J Turner' Most Courageous Player in 1992 and 2000, and kicked in excess of 500 goals for the club.

Kevin McGuire

Appointed captain coach of St Bedes OCFC in 1970, Kevin led his club to win the 1970 premiership, remaining undefeated champions in doing so. A hard, tough competitor on the field, he brought a 'John Kennedy' type philosophy to the club and demanded more of his players to succeed. He coached the club between 1970 and 1972, including the first season in which the club competed in the VAFA.

Brett Marchant – LEGEND



Brett commenced his career in the club's Fourths in 1973, winning the Best and Fairest award the following season and being appointed captain in 1975. Brett played the last game of 1975 in the seniors when he was fifteen and was a sixteen year old member of the senior premiership team in 1976. He spent the following two seasons with Melbourne, playing senior football with the Demons at 17. Brett returned to Mentone in 1980 and was captain in 1981, 1982 and 1984. During this period, playing in the ruck, as a ruckrover or backman, he was an inspirational leader and dominated the club's Best and Fairest voting, winning a record seven consecutive Best and Fairest awards between 1980 and 1986,

including two competition Best and Fairest awards in the South-East Suburban Football League in 1983 and 1985. A regular Federal and SESFL representative, Brett also was heavily involved in the club off the field. From 1983 to 1986 he was the club's junior development officer and was responsible for restarting the Fourths, which led to the winning of club's first and only Fourths premiership in 1983. After playing with Springvale in the VFA in 1987, during which time he also coached the Mentone Fourths, he returned as captain coach in 1988, taking the club to third position on the ladder. In 1989 he served as President while continuing his playing career (as a member of the 1989 Reserves premiership team), reaching a total of 192 games. Brett's family connections with Mentone run deep, with his father Gill being a Life Member and Brett's wife, Debbie, being a former Treasurer and twice winner of the Best Club Person award. Brett was awarded Best Club Person in 1983 and Life Membership in 1992 in recognition of his loyalty and service to the club.

Norm McDonnell

Norm had a long association with Mentone from the 1950s through to the 1970s. During this time, Norm served on the committee, was vice president of the club from 1967 to 1974, senior team manager and selector from 1965 to 1974, and runner for the seniors in 1967. Norm had excellent personal contacts that supported the club through recruiting and financial assistance and, of course, nearly every player had their hair cut at his Florence Street barbershop. Norm was awarded Best Club Person in 1967 and was made a Life Member in 1968 in recognition of his contribution to Mentone.

Don Meckiff

Don had an outstanding 199 game career with the Mentone Football Club. Commencing in 1948, he was a member of the 1950 Thirds premiership side, and then went on to establish himself in the senior side as the resident half back flanker renowned for his fierce approach at the ball and his opponent. He was a key player and member of the

1956 premiership side and was also talented enough to captain Richmond Reserves when trying out for the VFL. In 1960 and 1961 Don captain coached the Mentone Reserves, including winning a premiership in 1960. A true team player, Don loved the yellow and black and was awarded Life Membership in 1960.

Ian Meckiff

Ian was a member of the 1950 and 1951 Mentone junior premiership sides and was voted the senior Best First Year Player in 1952. Ian was an excellent ruckman and changing forward who is remembered for his key contribution in the 1956 grand final as Mentone's best player. After rucking well during the day and with the side down at three quarter time, Ian was shifted to full forward where he kicked the Tiger's final quarter score of 4 goals, giving him a total of 6 (out of 11) for the match, with the Tigers getting home against arch rivals Mordialloc by 11 points. Ian's promising football career was shelved after this game as he went on to play Test cricket for Australia.

Allan Mennie

Allan commenced as a Mentone junior and won the Thirds Best and Fairest award in 1952 after playing in three consecutive premierships for that team. Allan played eight games with St Kilda in 1955 and 1956 and enjoyed success with Moorabbin in the VFA before re-joining Mentone. In his long career, Allan was regarded as one of the Federal League's outstanding wingmen. Clever and skilful, he won the senior Best and Fairest in 1960 and was awarded Life Membership in 1964. Allan coached the Thirds from 1960 to 1965, including premierships in 1960 and 1961. Allan had an outstanding football career and was the coaching mentor of a number of young men who went onto to achieve senior premiership success in 1967 and 1968 and/or who furthered their career in the VFL.

Brett Mennie

Brett was a trainer for Mentone for almost twenty seasons, from the 1970s to the 1990s, and his dedication to the club and its players became legendary. He was often a trainer for two consecutive games, as trainers were in chronic short supply. Brett ensured that injured players were taken to hospital, arrangements were made for their cars to be driven home, and fundraising for them was undertaken. At the end of a long Saturday, Brett would always be the last person out of the change rooms after ensuring that they had been completely cleaned. Brett also played a key role in the preservation of the history of the club by donating the many team and individual photographs he had taken, and by keeping player records up to date. Brett represents the unsung, behind-the-scenes worker who has played an integral part in the club's operation. He was awarded the Best Club Person trophy in 1981 and was recognized with Life Membership in 1985.

John Meyer

As a committeeman for the Mentone Junior Football Club, St Bedes OCFC and St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC, John Meyer has had a major influence on the successful

position the club is situated in today. The inaugural President of St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC between 1993 and 1995, John also coached St Bedes OCFC at Under 19 level for three years and has performed outstanding service in committee positions, as well as match day roles such as team manager, over a period of involvement spanning more than 25 years.

Crofton Mudge

An ex-St Kilda player, Crofton was recruited from Mordialloc where he had already won two Federal competition Best and Fairest awards in 1947 and 1948. Crofton was captain coach of the Mentone senior team in 1950 and 1951 and continued as a player in 1952. An inspiring centreman who knocked up getting possessions, Crofton won two club Best and Fairest awards and a further two Federal League Best and Fairest awards in 1951 and 1952. He is widely acknowledged as an outstanding player of his era. [Dec.]

Leo O'Brien

Leo enjoyed a career of more than ten years with Mentone, stretching from the 1920s to at least 1939. A skilful player, he had a rugged approach to the game courtesy of his successful boxing career and was fullback in the 1928 premiership team. Leo was an all round sportsman who went onto play cricket for Victoria successfully and was an opening batsman in the infamous Australia versus England 'Bodyline' Test series during 1932/33, facing English opening bowler, Harold Larwood. Leo later went onto be the first national coach of the Indian cricket team. [Dec.]

Craig Parks

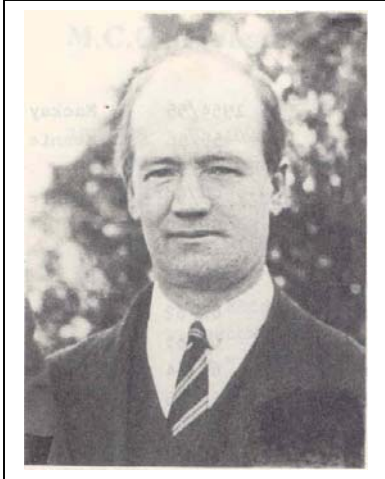
Craig was a stylish and courageous left-footer who played 196 games in his career with St Bedes OCFC. Club captain from 1984 to 1986, Craig won the Best Finals Player award in both the seniors and Reserves in 1980, was leading goal kicker in 1983 and 1985, recipient of the prestigious 'E. J. Turner' Most Courageous Player in 1987, and voted Best Clubman in 1981. Craig played what many St Bedes OCFC past members recall as one of the most courageous finals performances ever in kicking four goals in his only senior game for the season in the club's preliminary final win over Aquinas OC in 1989.

Doug Patterson

After a brief career with South Melbourne, Doug had an association with the Mentone Football Club of more than 50 years. A player in the 1920s and 1930s, Doug, a diminutive but tenacious rover, won the senior Best and Fairest award in 1932 and was a member of the 1935 senior premiership side. He continued as a committee member, Federal League delegate, timekeeper and club patron until well into the 1980s, and the Best Team Player is now named in his honour. A Mentone and Federal League Life Member, Doug loved the Tigers and showed his loyalty in both good and bad times as evidenced by his once putting his house for the club as collateral for a loan. Doug is

fondly remembered by all who knew him, as he personified the team spirit of the club he loved so much. [Dec.]

H. P. Peterson - LEGEND



There can be few more challenging experiences in sport than to be involved as a founding father of not only a football club, but also the league in which it was to play such a prominent part. One of three persons to set up the Federal Football Association (later League) in 1909, Mr Peterson was seldom absent from football or cricket games at Mentone for several decades, and played a key role as a leading administrator in the development of both clubs. A local businessmen and owner of a confectionery store and café in Mentone Parade, Peterson was secretary of the football club in its early years, and often hosted annual meetings at his premises. He played a vital role in setting up the Mentone Recreation Reserve fund, and was instrumental in plans to build the grandstand and pavilion. Peterson was also at the 1928 premiership dinner held at the Mentone Hotel, and had the honour of toasting the local councillors who were in attendance. Active on the committee in various capacities until after World War II, Peterson's tremendous contribution to local football and the Federal League was recognized by Life Membership, and by the fact that the League named the trophy for the Reserves Best and Fairest award in his honour. [Dec.] Photograph not available.

Alan Poore

Alan commenced as a Mentone junior player in 1959 and was runner up in the Thirds Best and Fairest award. In 1960 he played in the seniors and was awarded the Most Serviceable Player trophy. Alan was dedicated to improving his fitness and his football and went on to play three seasons with Collingwood in 1961, 1962 and 1964 for eleven senior games. In 1965 he won the J. J. Liston trophy, the Best and Fairest award in the VFA competition, whilst playing for Waverley, and he was a member of their 1965 premiership side with another Mentone old boy, Vasil Varlamos.

Ray Pope

Ray commenced with the Mentone juniors in 1956 and was a member of the Thirds premiership teams in 1957 and 1958, where he won awards for Best Utility and runner up in the Best and Fairest award. A utility player who found his niche in the seniors in the back pocket, Ray was renowned for his attack on the ball and his fearless approach to the opposition. A true team player, as recognised by his awards (namely Most Consistent Player in 1960, Best Team Man 1961 and 1962, and Most Serviceable Player in 1963), Ray played 160 games for the club from 1956 to 1967 and also served with distinction as

Secretary of the club from 1966 to 1969. Ray was awarded Life Membership of the club in 1965.

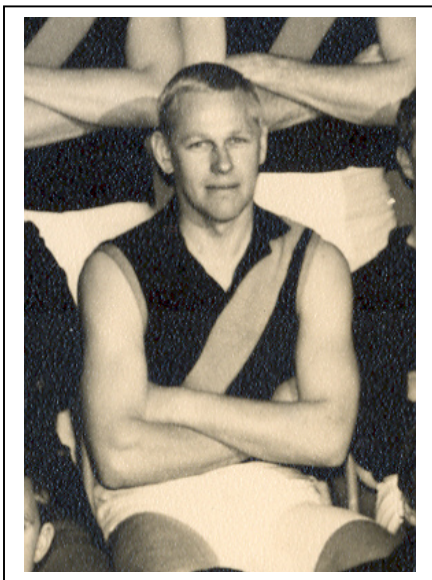
Rick Profitt - LEGEND



A strong, skillful and imposing ruckman, and described in the Federal League *Football News* as ‘big-hearted and courageous’, Rick was at the hub of the club’s success throughout his twelve year, 157 game career. After playing alongside Bruce Gatford in a premiership with Melbourne’s Thirds in 1953, Rick also progressed to their Reserves before making his debut for Mentone as a twenty-year old in 1955, where he quickly made his mark, winning the senior Best and Fairest award in his first season. He then went on to win three more Best and Fairest awards in 1958, 1959 and 1962, and his on-field service to the club was to become legendary. An integral member of

the 1956 premiership team, Rick represented the Federal League in 1959, was awarded the Most Serviceable Player award in 1961, and capped off his career by being appointed captain in 1963 and 1964. His contribution to the club was reflected in his elevation to Life Membership in 1964.

Gary Rasmussen - LEGEND



Gary, a former Hawthorn player, joined Mentone in 1967 as captain coach and was a tough and uncompromising player. In 1967 the club lost one game for the season and finished with a percentage of more than 200%, winning the premiership against Glenhuntly in a match that was played on home turf at the Mentone ground. In 1968 the side lost two games for the season (one home and away, one final) and pulled off a remarkable against-the-odds premiership against Oakleigh Districts at Moorabbin with a side decimated by injuries and suspensions. During 1967 and 1968 the senior side won 27 games straight, a Federal and club record. In 1969, Gary was coach of the Federal League and continued coaching the club until 1971, with finals appearances in 1969 and 1971. A fine leader of people, Gary strongly

emphasized the importance of a team approach both on and off the ground, and his coaching style was ahead of its time in terms of player management, training and game style. Gary is Mentone’s most successful senior coach with back-to-back premierships in 1967 and 1968 and an outstanding winning percentage of more than 70% in his five years at the club.

Michael Roberts

Michael was an outstanding player who in his 189 senior games with St Bedes OCFC won a staggering six senior Best and Fairest awards between 1977 and 1986. Michael also played in the first St Bedes OCFC VAFA premiership team in 1977, and played Victorian representative football for the VAFA in 1985. Appointed club captain in 1981 and captain coach in 1985 and 1986, Michael was strong marking and clever tap ruckman who led from the front. His playing record speaks for itself when describing the quality of player he was for St Bedes OCFC.

John Scanlon

One of only two players to play in three senior premiership teams (1967, 1968 and 1976), John gave almost two decades of dedicated on-field service to the Mentone Football Club. A tough defender who never gave an opponent an inch in more than 200 games of football, John won a score of club awards, including senior Best and Fairest in a premiership year (1968), Most Consistent (1967 and 1975), Most Determined (1972 and 1976), and the Coaches Trophy (1978). John also represented the Federal League in three consecutive years from 1969 and was voted best afield in the inter-league game of 1970. John was awarded Life Membership in 1975.

Peter Schofield

An outstanding Mentone junior footballer, Peter played at full forward in the unbeaten Thirds premiership side of 1950, and was also a joint winner of the Best and Fairest award that year. During that season, he kicked 150 goals and in his brief career at Mentone averaged nine goals a game. A leading full forward and an accurate kick, Peter went onto to play VFL football for Richmond from 1951 to 1953 for sixteen games and 25 goals, Melbourne in 1953 for six games and fourteen goals, and North Melbourne from 1957 to 1960 for 50 games and 110 goals. Peter averaged nearly two goals a game in his VFL career and in between his League stints he was the star full forward for Moorabbin in the VFA where he once kicked 22 goals in a match.

Gerry Shannon

Gerry played junior football at Mentone, winning a Fourths Best and Fairest award in 1964 and playing in a Thirds premiership in 1966. Gerry joined St Bedes OCFC in 1968 and played in the club's first senior premiership in the same year. Appointed club captain in 1969, he also began the first of 20 years continuous committee service at the same time. His career cut short by a persistent shoulder injury, Gerry continued his involvement in the positions of Reserves coach in 1973 and 1974, and President in 1982, 1985 and 1986. A wonderful person to lead the club through some difficult times, Gerry was elected a Life Member in 1992.

Peggy Shaw

Peggy was a leading member of the ladies committee from the late 1920s through to the late 1940s. A devoted worker for the Mentone Football Club, she assisted with fund raising, being an excellent seller of raffle tickets, catered for club dinners, organized social functions, operated the canteen, washed jumpers and opened her home to the Mentone players over a long period of time. Her efforts for Mentone were recognised by her being appointed the first female Life Member of the club in 1949 and having the Thirds Best and Fairest trophy named in the family's honour. [Dec.]

Sam Shaw

Sam played football for Mentone from 1926 to 1936. He won the Best All Rounder medal in 1926, was a ruck rover in the 1928 premiership side and member of the 1935 premiership team. After finishing his playing career, Sam served as a club trainer for more than fifteen years before becoming strongly associated with the club's Thirds as their team manager, selector and timekeeper up until 1968. Sam loved the Tigers and was generous with his time and support for the club over more than 40 years. In 1949 he was awarded Life Membership and after his death the Third's Best and Fairest trophy was awarded in his family's honour. [Dec.]

Alan Sierakowski

In 1976 Alan had possibly the greatest season of any Mentone footballer. In a star-studded Mentone side and in a red hot competition he played as a strong marking and possession-winning centreman who easily won the senior Best and Fairest award and the Federal League competition Best and Fairest award in a senior premiership year. No one else in the history of the club has achieved this feat. In his Federal League win, Alan polled 31 votes in just 14 games. Those who witnessed it will long remember Alan's stellar 1976 season.

Brian Sierakowski

Brian was a member of Mentone's 1962 Thirds premiership and played in the 1963 senior grand final team. A strongly built, key position player who could take a good mark, Brian went onto play with St Kilda from 1964 to 1968 for 89 games, including being a member of the club's only premiership team in 1966. Brian then went onto play more than 100 games with Subiaco in the West Australian Football League. He was their senior Best and Fairest winner in 1972, premiership player in 1973, Vice President in 1983 and 1984 and was awarded Life Membership in 1985. Brian also twice represented Western Australia in the Australian championships and has had a long and continuing involvement with Western Australian football, including being Director of the West Coast Eagles from 1993 to 1999, a member of the WAFL football tribunal, and, since 1988, the Arbitrator of the WAFL. In 2000 he was a recipient of an Australian Sports Medal for his contribution to Australian Rules football.

Phillip Sierakowski

Playing his junior career with Mentone Football Club before joining Sandringham Thirds, Phillip's career was ruined by a knee injury at a young age. Phil was a key figure in the consolidation of the Mentone Junior Football Club in the 1980s, serving on the committee and becoming Vice President in 1991. Elected the representative of Mentone Junior Football Club and the Mentone Football Club to seek out future directions in 1992, he successfully chaired a number of meetings with St Bedes OCFC representatives that brought about the creation of St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC in 1993. Vice President in the 1993 inaugural year, Phillip continued his efforts with the redevelopment of the facilities and created many of the new club features admired in the VAFA today.

George 'Sol' Soppett

In a more than a thirty year association with the Mentone Football club, 'Sol' had three stints as President between 1937 and 1939, 1945 and 1946, and 1953 and 1954. Sol, a local businessman, was devoted to the Mentone cause and served on the committee and off-field in a number of other official capacities. He is regarded as one of the father figures of the club during this time and was duly awarded Life Membership. In 1964, Sol had the new Pavilion dedicated and named after him in recognition of his outstanding service to the club. [Dec.]

James 'Jim' Tarbotton

Jim was the senior captain coach of the Mentone Football Club for at least five years from 1928 to 1932. Recruited from Fitzroy where he played 37 games for one goal between 1923 and 1926, Jim had an immediate on-field impact at Mentone, with the team winning its first ever premiership in 1928 against early Federal League powerhouse Moorabbin, who had won the two previous premierships and had beaten the club on three occasions during the 1928 season. Jim coached the side to two more grand finals in 1929 and 1932 and is remembered for his unique contribution to the club's history as the club's first premiership coach. [Dec.]

Adam Thompson

With a heart as big as the Mentone grandstand, Adam gave everything in over 100 games with the Mentone Football Club and St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC. Playing during a period where on-field success was limited, Adam lifted the club off the carpet on the field on many occasions, highlighted by winning the VAFA Competition Best and Fairest award in 1995 as well as the club Best and Fairest player in the same season.

Jack Thompson

Vice captain of the 1956 premiership team and winner of the Best Club Person award in that season, Jack was a stalwart of the club. This is evidenced by the fact that in a career

of more than 150 games, he won a number of team-orientated awards such as Most Consistent (1952), Most Serviceable (1957), and Best Team Man (1959). He also represented the Federal League in 1959 and was awarded Life Membership of the club in 1965.

Anthony ‘Tony’ Truscott

In his 150 games with Mentone, Tony is regarded as one of the best players to pull on a Mentone jumper. A fluent and skilful centreman, or a clever forward who used the ball particularly well, Tony played in the 1967 and 1968 premierships. His class is evident by the fact that he won the club’s senior Best and Fairest award in 1967 and was runner up Best and Fairest and vice captain in the 1968 premiership team. A regular end-of-season award winner, and a Federal representative, Tony also assisted off-field in the social committee and as the Thirds coach. Tony was a footballer of the highest calibre who dominated games during Mentone’s golden era.

Gerald ‘Gerry’ Truscott

From the 1950s to 1975 Gerry played more than 250 games with the Mentone Football Club. He worked his way through the juniors and Reserves to become a tenacious rover and goal kicker for the senior side. He was the Most Improved Player in the seniors in 1961, Best Team Man in 1965 and was leading club goal kicker with 42 goals in 1966. Gerry was a key player in the 1967 and 1968 senior premierships and will be remembered for his loyalty and willingness to put his body on the line for the Tigers.

Bill Turner

One of three sons of Mentone great E. J. Turner to coach St Bedes OCFC and St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC, Bill was senior coach from 1976 to 1979 with an amazing strike rate of 78 wins from 105 games played, including the 1977 senior premiership. His coaching period saw St Bedes OCFC rise through three VFA grades in his time. Renowned as the person who brought a professional approach to the club, he also created the new club jumper, rigorous training programs and brought a winning mentality to the club.

Edward ‘Ted’ Turner (senior)

Ted played with Mentone in the late 1930s and had his career interrupted with enlistment for the Second World War. Ted then went to North Melbourne, playing sixteen games from 1944 to 1946. Suspended by the VFL for crossing without a clearance, Ted had an outstanding career with Brighton in the VFA, playing in their 1948 premiership side and, as captain coach of the club in 1954, being the winner of the J. J. Liston medal, the VFA competition Best and Fairest award. Ted was vice captain of the VFA representative team in the Australian Football Carnival and in 2000 was named centre half back in Brighton’s team of the century. Ted’s family has subsequently had a strong influence in the club’s history with his three sons providing further service to the club with Bill being a St Bedes

premiership coach, John a St Bedes premiership player and senior coach and Ted junior a St Bedes/Mentone Tigers senior coach. The Most Courageous Player award for the current club is named after Ted. [Dec.]

John Turner

Another of ex-Mentone player E. J. Turner's sons to have played for the club, John played 105 games in total, highlighted by kicking six goals in the St Bedes OCFC Premiership win in 1970 and being voted as Best Finals Player of that season. As St Bedes OCFC assistant coach and fitness advisor to his brother William in 1977, John was also vice captain in the club's first VAFA premiership victory in this year. John became playing coach in 1984 and has also served the club in positions of committeeman between 1977 and 1981, Treasurer in 1982, an assistant junior club premiership coach for St Bedes/Mentone Tigers in 2000, and junior coach of the Under 14s and Under 16s between 2001 and 2003.

Mark Tyquin

Mark played at the Under 19 level for St Bedes OCFC before embarking on a stellar amateur career with University Blues. Mark returned to coach St Bedes OCFC in 1992 and was the 1993 senior premiership coach of St Bedes/Mentone Tigers AFC in its inaugural year. Mark has been a magnificent contributor as a coach at senior and junior levels of the Tigers and as the club architect has been responsible for the design of the Corboy Pavilion and many other works associated with the refurbishment of the Mentone Pavilion.

Edward 'Ted' Vale

Recruited from Parkdale, Ted Vale kicked more than 550 goals in 114 games for Mentone at the fantastic average of almost five goals a game. His average was achieved during an era of tough, no nonsense full backs, with little protection provided by the umpires. Whilst not tall for a full forward, Ted read the play well, had a beautiful well-timed lead, a strong pair of hands and was an excellent kick for goal as evidenced by his once kicking 30 goals straight in three consecutive weeks! His flashy white ankle bandages also ensured he was well remembered by umpires and the opposition, but Ted was not backward in coming forward when required. Ted kicked 15 goals in a game against Black Rock and 100 goals in the 1967 premiership year with his 100th coming in the grand final. Ted was a senior Best and Fairest winner in 1972 and is remembered as one of the great full forwards who team mates and supporters loved to watch in action.

Vasil Varlamos

Vasil played in the Mentone 1958 undefeated Thirds premiership team and won the Best First Year Player trophy. He went onto play in the 1959 senior grand final side that narrowly lost to McKinnon. From 1960 to 1964 he played 44 games for Carlton and was

a member of their 1962 grand final team. A close-checking, well-built backman, Vasil went onto play with Waverly in their VFA premiership of 1965.

Tony Vaughan

In a career spanning 334 games with Mentone Football Club and St Bedes OCFC, Tony played in three senior premierships teams with St Bedes in 1968, 1970 and 1977. An extremely talented player, he was club captain in 1974 and made a Life Member in 1992. Tony also served his club with distinction as a VAFA Tribunal panel member from 1989 to 2002.

John Wallace

A Best and Fairest winner with the Thirds in 1956, John developed into a brilliant centreman and later back pocket specialist. Recognized as an outstanding footballer, John had a remarkably long and consistent career, playing 250 games over more than twenty years. Making his debut in 1954, John was later appointed vice captain of the senior team in 1963 and 1964, and he was voted Best Team Man in 1964 and Most Consistent Player in 1969. He was also a member of back-to-back premierships in 1967 and 1968. John coached the Thirds to a premiership in 1966, and was awarded Life Membership in 1965.

Peter Weekes

Following his junior football, Peter played two unique senior seasons with Mentone. A ruckman and key forward, Peter was on St Kilda's senior list in 1967, playing Reserve grade football, but he returned to play with Mentone and be a vital part of the 1967 premiership win, with a starring three goal performance. In 1968 he was on the Melbourne senior list and played senior football with the Demons before again coming back and bolstering the club's big man contingent in the 1968 premiership win. From 1968 to 1971 Peter played 23 games with Melbourne for nine goals. [Dec.]

Fred West

Fred West was one of three brothers (Frank and Robert being the other two) who were members of the 1928 premiership team. Mentone had lost the second semi-final to Moorabbin, but by virtue of finishing on top at the end of the season the team were allowed to challenge Moorabbin for the title. The grand final played at Mordialloc on a windy day saw low scores dominating. With the Tigers 2 points down and seconds left to play, Fred calmly slotted the winning goal with a drop kick from around thirty yards out. The wild celebrations after the game were somewhat curtailed during the week as Moorabbin protested that a kick had taken place after the final siren. The Federal District League dismissed their protest, and Mentone had won its first ever premiership, with a scoreline of 6-15-51 to 5-17-47. Fred won the club Best and Fairest award in 1927, and during Mentone's premiership season, as well as in 1929, spent time at Hawthorn, playing a total of twelve games and kicking three goals. As such, he is the first Mentone player to have played VFL football. Fred later undertook army service and was injured in

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the Second World War. The West connection with the club continued with his nephews Brian and Clem Chesters (both Life Members) providing great service to the club in the 1950s and 1960s, whilst his great nephew, Ross Chesters, played over 100 games in the 1980s. [Dec.]

Acronyms and Abbreviations:

AFC	Amateur Football Club
Dec.	Deceased
OCFC	Old Collegians Football Club
SESFL	South-East Suburban Football League
VAFA	Victorian Amateur Football Association
VFA	Victorian Football Association
VFL	Victorian Football League
WAFL	West Australian Football League

