

**MENTONE AND  
ST BEDE'S OLD COLLEGIANS  
AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB**

**175 HALL OF FAME ENTRIES  
2004-2007**



## **MENTONE AND ST BEDE'S OLD COLLEGIANS AFC HALL OF FAME ENTRIES, 2004-2007**

Page 2

### **Foreword – 2004 Inaugural Induction**

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 Eddelbuttel, 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.

## MENTONE AND ST BEDE'S OLD COLLEGIANS AFC HALL OF FAME ENTRIES, 2004-2007

Page 3

### Foreword – First 2006 Induction [1956 Premiership Reunion]

In 2004, the Centenary year of the club involved 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 was 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.

Following the tremendous success of the inaugural Hall of Fame induction, members of the Hall of Fame Committee met to consider further nominations. It was decided that players and key personnel involved in the Olympic Year Premiership of 1956 were deserving of induction. To this end, the contributions of players, officials and supporters involved at the club during this very successful era in the club's history were assessed, and it was agreed that all premiership players that were not already members of the Hall of Fame should be inducted, along with other significant people from this period. The induction is scheduled to occur at a special function to mark the fiftieth reunion of the 1956 premiership team in May 2006.

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 and Brett Marchant*  
Hall of Fame Committee, 2006

### Acknowledgements

The following valuable sources of information, and supporters of 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), and staff of the Parkdale Library.
3. Federal Association and Federal League fixtures and annual reports, and the *Federal Football Record*.
4. The many people who have provided information and memorabilia on the club's history.
5. Stephen Maitland, of Maitland/Horler Estate Agents, for sponsorship of the 2006 Hall of Fame booklet.

## MENTONE AND ST BEDE'S OLD COLLEGIANS AFC HALL OF FAME ENTRIES, 2004-2007

Page 4

### Foreword – Second 2006 Induction [1976 Premiership Reunion]

In 2004, the Centenary year of the club involved 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 was 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.

Following the tremendous success of the inaugural Hall of Fame induction, members of the Hall of Fame Committee met to consider further nominations. It was decided that players and key personnel involved in the Olympic Year Premiership of 1956 and the 1976 Premiership were deserving of induction. To this end, the contributions of players, officials and supporters involved at the club during these two very successful eras in the club's history were assessed, and it was agreed that all premiership players that were not already members of the Hall of Fame should be inducted, along with other significant people from this period. The 1956 inductions occurred at a special function in May, while the 1976 inductions will occur at a function in August.

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 and Brett Marchant*  
Hall of Fame Committee, 2006

### Acknowledgements

The following valuable sources of information, and supporters of the Hall of Fame, are gratefully acknowledged:

6. Russell Holmesby and Jim Main, *The Encyclopaedia of AFL Footballers: Every AFL/VFL Player Since 1897* (Melbourne: Information Australia, 1998).
7. Leo Gamble, *Mentone Through The Years* (Mentone: Leo Gamble, 2003), and staff of the Parkdale Library.
8. Federal Association and Federal League fixtures and annual reports, and the Federal *Football Record*.
9. The many people who have generously provided information and memorabilia on the club's history.
10. Stephen Maitland, of Maitland/Horler Estate Agents, for sponsorship of the 2006 Hall of Fame booklets.

## MENTONE AND ST BEDE'S OLD COLLEGIANS AFC HALL OF FAME ENTRIES, 2004-2007

Page 5

### Foreword – First 2007 Induction [1967/68 Premiership Reunion – 12 May 2007]

During the 2004 centenary season the club inducted 100 Hall of Fame members, including ten Legends of the Mentone Football Club (MFC), 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 was 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. 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.

Following the tremendous success of the inaugural Hall of Fame induction, members of the Hall of Fame Committee met to consider further nominations. It was decided that players and key personnel involved in the MFC Olympic Year Premiership of 1956 and the 1976 Premiership were deserving of induction. To this end, the contributions of players, officials and supporters involved at the MFC during these two very successful eras in the club's history were assessed, and it was agreed that all premiership players that were not already members of the Hall of Fame should be inducted, along with other significant people from this period. The 1956 inductions occurred at a special function in May, while the 1976 inductions occurred at a function in August. Both functions generated considerable attention in the local and metropolitan press. In a similar manner, the Committee agreed that the contributions of players, officials and supporters involved at the MFC during the senior premiership years of 1967 and 1968 should be duly recognized, and it was agreed that all premiership players, along with other significant people from this period, should be inducted at a function to be held in May 2007. 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 requested and should be addressed to [Robert.Hess@vu.edu.au](mailto:Robert.Hess@vu.edu.au).

*Mark Beasley, Rob Hess and Brett Marchant*  
Hall of Fame Committee, 2007

### Acknowledgements

The following valuable sources of information, and supporters of the Hall of Fame, are gratefully acknowledged:

11. Russell Holmesby and Jim Main, *The Encyclopaedia of AFL Footballers: Every AFL/VFL Player Since 1897* (Melbourne: Information Australia, 1998).
12. Leo Gamble, *Mentone Through The Years* (Mentone: Leo Gamble, 2003), and staff of the Parkdale Library.
13. Federal Association and Federal League fixtures and annual reports, and the Federal *Football Record*.
14. The many people who have generously provided information and memorabilia on the club's history.
15. Stephen Maitland, of Maitland/Horler Estate Agents, for sponsorship of the 2007 Hall of Fame booklet.

## MENTONE AND ST BEDE'S OLD COLLEGIANS AFC HALL OF FAME ENTRIES, 2004-2007

Page 6

### Foreword – Second 2007 Induction [1997 Premiership Reunion – 28 July 2007]

During the 2004 centenary season the club inducted 100 Hall of Fame members, including ten Legends of the Mentone Football Club (MFC), 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 was 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. 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.

Following the tremendous success of the inaugural Hall of Fame induction, members of the Hall of Fame Committee met to consider further nominations. It was decided that players and key personnel involved in the MFC Olympic Year Premiership of 1956, the 1976 Premiership, and the 1967-68 back-to-back Premierships were deserving of induction. To this end, the contributions of players, officials and supporters involved at the MFC during these three very successful eras in the club's history were assessed, and it was agreed that all premiership players that were not already members of the Hall of Fame should be inducted, along with other significant people from this period. The 1956 inductions occurred at a special function in May 2006, the 1976 inductions occurred at a function in August 2006, and the 1967-68 inductions occurred in May 2007. All these functions generated considerable attention in the local and metropolitan press. In a similar manner, the Committee agreed that the contributions of players, officials and supporters involved at St Bede's Old Collegians FC during the premiership year of 1977 should be assessed, and where appropriate, duly recognized. It was thus agreed that all premiership players, along with other significant people from this period, should be inducted at a function to be held in July 2007. 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 requested and should be addressed to [Robert.Hess@vu.edu.au](mailto:Robert.Hess@vu.edu.au).

*Mark Beasley, Rob Hess and Brett Marchant*  
Hall of Fame Committee, 2007

### Acknowledgements

The following valuable sources of information, and supporters of the Hall of Fame, are gratefully acknowledged:

16. Russell Holmesby and Jim Main, *The Encyclopaedia of AFL Footballers: Every AFL/VFL Player Since 1897* (Melbourne: Information Australia, 1998).
17. Leo Gamble, *Mentone Through the Years* (Mentone: Leo Gamble, 2003), and staff of the Parkdale Library.
18. Staff and helpers at the Elsternwick headquarters of the Victorian Amateur Football Association.
19. The many people who have generously provided information and memorabilia on the club's history.
20. Gerard Mulcahy, Director of IFCO Hire, for generous sponsorship of the Hall of Fame booklet.

**George Alexander**

George studied pharmacy with David Evans and David Price (both players with St Bede's), and owned a pharmacy in Brunswick. He was not an Old Collegian and yet travelled to and from Beda Park to support his club. As President of the St Bedes OCFC from 1974 to 1978, George made everyone feel equal regardless of their ability on the field. He was genuine, he loved life, and he loved people. George was also extremely generous in his financial support and worked tirelessly for the success of the club. He provided the entire club's medical tape and on the day of his death had organized the club's purchase of a halogen light which was something that the club had been unable to afford. Past players recall the forays to the local Chinese restaurant where George often picked up the bill. Also much remembered is his greeting after a famous win: 'I love ya'. After his death, it became traditional for the players to run an extra lap after training, hence the notion of 'Georgie's lap'. The Best Clubman trophy was struck in George Alexander's honour to commemorate the outstanding personal values that George engendered into the club in the early 70s. George had been President for five years when he died suddenly in 1978, still aged only in his late 30s. George resides in the hearts and minds of many of the players and supporters of those times, such was his impact on those that were lucky enough to have met him. [Dec.]

**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.

**Des Anthony**

A tough half back flanker and occasional wingman, Des made his debut for the club in 1974, after playing in the Diamond Valley League. Runner up in the Reserves Best and Fairest award in his first season, he gained a reputation for training hard and turned himself into a regular senior player in 1975. In the following year, he was not only a member of the senior premiership team, coming off the bench to pick up Ian Cooper, playing coach of Cheltenham, but he was also coach of the Thirds in that season. After unearthing a number of promising juniors in his first year as coach of a junior team, Des had the satisfaction of coaching the Thirds to a grand final berth in 1977.

**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.

**Gary 'Tarpan' Baird**

A Tiger junior, Gary commenced in the Fourths in 1962 and was vice captain of the Thirds in 1965. He was a lightly built half forward flanker who could do 'freakish' things and then disappear from a game for a period of time. Quick and brave for his lightly framed body, Gary was the 'clown' prince of the club with a jovial, unfazed approach to life and those around him. He was very difficult to match up on because of his ability to do the unusual and unexpected. At nineteen years of age, Gary was a member of the 1967 premiership team, but was unluckily suspended and missed the 1968 grand final. He later made a cameo comeback to the senior team in the 1976 season.

**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.]

**John Baldock**

John was vice captain of the Fourths in 1962, and was named as the Best First Year Player in the Reserves in 1965 before becoming a regular member of the senior team, playing more than 100 games for the club. His fitness was outstanding, and John thrived on an extreme physical fitness regime, always coming to a new season extremely fit because of his life saving activities over the summer. John played in both the 1967 and 1968 Premiership teams, and was a dashing half back flanker who was usually positioned on the same flank as Norm Bignell. Always a dedicated team player, John kicked very long on the run, often delivering the ball in the area of Ted Vale at full forward.

**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.]



**Peter Barber**

A determined and high-flying centre half forward, Peter had true Tiger spirit in his fearless approach to the game. A former Mentone junior player with two flags under his belt, Peter was one of several team-mates who had played with the Melbourne Thirds. A member of Mentone's senior premierships team in 1956, he also represented the Federal League against South Australia earlier in the season.

**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 premierships 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.

**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.

**Ray Besanko**

Ray displayed his footballing attributes very early in his junior career with Mentone, being named Best Team Man for the Fourths in 1968, Best First Year Player in the Thirds in 1970, and winner of the Most Sustained Effort award in the Thirds in 1971. In 1976, his grand final day finished early when in the third quarter he was hit behind play by his opponent and taken to hospital. Ray gave the club excellent service as a talented, tough, long-kicking backman and was runner up in the senior Best and Fairest award in 1979.

**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.

**Jack Beswick**

At just over six feet in height, Jack was a steadying influence in the ruck who took the brunt of the opposition's big men. After initially playing with Brighton, Jack was in his third season with the Tigers when he became a member of the senior premiership team in 1956. **[Dec.]**

**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.

### **Jim Blanche**

Jim provided many years of fine service to the club. The 1960 and 1961 annual reports advise that 'Since 1937 Jim has been a player, treasurer, committee member and worker in the club for many years and it is because of such loyal people that the club continues to progress'. Jim continued to serve the club into the late 1960s as time-keeper and press correspondent, and he was awarded life membership in 1961. **[Dec.]**

### **Ray Boyce**

Twenty-two year old Ray Boyce was a fantastic acquisition for the Beda's in 1977. Debuting as a 17 year-old for Parkdale in the Federal League seniors he was soon recruited by Melbourne in the VFL where he played a total of 49 games with the Under 19s and reserves. He then returned to the Federal League where he played in Parkdale's 1975 Grand Final side before joining the Beda's. Good overhead, Ray's attacking play was topped off by his brilliant field kicking, which often fed the likes of Fogarty, Lockwood and Collins up field. The finals series saw 'Boycee' in top form with brilliant displays in both finals. Ray went onto play 79 games for the club and was part of the successful 1978 side that took the club another step up the VAFA ladder.

### **John Bradbury**

John was one of the original 'hard men' of the club and struck fear into the hearts of most forward flanker opponents for a decade. He had a particular personal feud with the captain of arch-rival and Grand Final opponent Bulleen/Templestowe, an ongoing battle that provided much enjoyment to many spectators (and headaches to umpires) over several years. A valued member of the 1977 senior premierships team, John is best described as a tough and courageous player. John played exactly 100 games for the

Beda's and was senior captain in 1971. He also coached the Reserves in the 1980/81 seasons. John gave great service to St Bede's and still remains a strong supporter of the club.

**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.

**Kieran Breen**

After picking up a trophy for being the Most Determined Player in the Fourths in 1971, Kieran returned to the club in 1976 to be an integral part of the senior premiership campaign, being the team's leading goal kicker in the final series and regarded as the unofficial best player on the ground on grand final day. Something of a larrikin off the field, he was a clever half forward flanker, who played eighteen games and kicked 32 goals for the season, polling well enough to finish sixth in the Best and Fairest award. Kieran had an interesting summer of bragging rights, as he played cricket at Cheltenham Cricket Club alongside a number of Cheltenham Football Club players. After a few years away from the club, he returned to Mentone to play his fiftieth game in the 1980 season.

**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.]

**Dick Burke**

Few people are more fondly remembered at Mentone than Dickie Burke. For more than fifteen years Dickie was the driving force behind firstly, the 'Black and Gold' club and then, during the 1970s, the 'Tigers Tails'. These were the supporter groups that kept the club finances ticking over and helped balance the books for the 1976 recruitment campaign. Dickie was also responsible for ensuring the refreshments were available for thirsty patrons and managing the club bar - small feat for Sunday games against local rivals Cheltenham and Parkdale that attracted huge crowds. An organiser of past player functions and vice president in 1975 and 1976, Dick was awarded Life Membership in 1976 and the Mentone bar ('Dickie Burke's Bar') still sports a plaque in his honour. [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.]

**Danny Cecchi**

Another debutant to the 1977 senior side was young Danny Cecchi, or 'Cecchi' to his team mates. Cecchi was an in-and-under rover who was clearly the engine room of the team. A review of the VAFA weekly records for 1977 shows Danny consistently appearing in the Beda's best players and coincidentally in the best on Grand Final day. Cecchi had the ability to win the hard ball just outside of goal kicking range and drop a ten metre unstoppable pass onto the chests of the leading forwards. He played 61 games through to 1980 and was a key member of the 1978 senior side. In 1981 Danny, who had been commuting from Brunswick to play for the Beda's, transferred to West Brunswick, another VAFA side. In the ensuing seasons Cecchi was a thorn in our side as he continued his dynamic play whenever the club played against his team.

**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.

**Neil Chapple**

Having previously played with Aspendale and the Melbourne Reserves, Neil made his debut for Mentone in the 1956 season. He was an elusive half forward flanker who was described in the *Federal League Record* as 'an astute positional player'. One of the younger brigade, Neil was a member of the 1956 senior premiership team.

**Brian Chesters**

Brian 'Checkers' Chesters played more than 200 games with the club from 1951 to 1966. He was a member of the 1952 junior premiership team, the Reserves premiership team in 1954, and in 1956 he was playing in the seniors before injuring himself. He was like good wine and improved with age, winning the Reserves Best and Fairest award in 1964, with his best senior year coming in 1965. Brian was a strong off-field worker for the club as a member of the committee, a willing helper behind and in front of the bar and in organising social activities. In the 1970s he assisted with the formation of the financially successful 'Tiger Tails'. Brian was awarded life membership in 1960 and was still providing service to the club as a committee member in the early 1980s. [Dec.]

**Clem Chesters**

Clem began playing with the club in 1946 in the junior side that was runners-up to Black Rock. An evasive forward, his career was hampered with knee injuries, however he still played more than 200 games for Mentone over almost fifteen years. Clem gave of his best whether playing in the Reserves or seniors. He missed the club's 1956 grand final win as he had given a commitment to be best man at a wedding and with the draw in the senior finals putting the Grand Final back a week he stuck to that commitment. Clem

continued to support the club off the field for many years into the 1970s as a member of the committee and assisting with social functions. Clem's service to the club was duly recognized with Life Membership in 1960. [Dec.]

**Alf Clarke**

A former Golden Square player who won the Morrish Medal with Carlton, Alf played his one and only season with the Mentone club in 1956. He was tall and strong for a rover, but had good skills on both sides of the body. Alf fondly remembers how team-mate Jack Thompson picked him up in the city and took him to each game during the season. He later went on to play with Tongala, Strathmerton, Warrnambool, and captain-coached Yarram for three seasons.

**Glen Clough**

Joining St Bede's from local Federal League club, Parkdale, Glen played a critical role in the 1977 premiership team as an attacking backman. In his two seasons with the Bede's (1977 and 1980) Glen played a total of 33 senior games, always wearing the long sleeve jumper and displaying the silky skills and great courage he naturally possessed. Regularly punching above his weight in the back pocket, often against bigger and stronger opponents, speed and accuracy of delivery were just some of his major football strengths.

**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 VAFA was recognized by the VAFA with the awarding of the VAFA '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 VAFA 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 underpinned 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 VAFA recognition for his services to football. In 2004, he fittingly had the new pavilion named after him.

#### **Greg Crozier**

Commencing in the Fourths in 1964, Greg was named as the Most Consistent Player in the Thirds in 1966. A very solid, reliable and rugged backman, Greg was a good team player who listened well and executed the instructions of the coach to perfection. Whilst he may have lacked a yard in pace, Greg made up for it with total determination and commitment and was an important member of the backline throughout 1967 and 1968, playing in the 1968 premierships team. A persistent shoulder injury shortened his career.

#### **Jim Coutts**

Jim had more than two decades of involvement with the Mentone Football Club, stretching from two terms as President in 1951 and 1952, to being responsible for blowing the siren in the Tigers famous premierships victory in 1976. In between, Jim was a committeeman and vice president for more than ten years, and was regularly acknowledged in annual reports for marking the grounds, among other duties. He also



served as the senior team's timekeeper for at least fifteen years. His service to the club was duly recognised with Life Membership. [Dec.]

**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.]

**Lindsay Cox**

Part of a long tradition of efficient and loyal administrators at Mentone, Lindsay provided the club with more than a decade of off-field service, including five years as Secretary from 1970 to 1974, and a long apprenticeship as Assistant Secretary in the 1960s. Awarded the rare distinction of being named Best Clubman on two occasions (1970 and 1972), glowing tributes in annual reports attest to the many hours of work he devoted to the club. Lindsay received the ultimate accolade of Life Membership in 1974. [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.

**Mark Cullen**

A highly regarded junior player, Mark won the best and fairest award in the Fourths in 1971. His coach, John Crozier, claimed that 'his success was due not only to his undoubted ability, but to attention to training and his desire to improve his game'. Mark completed a fine season by playing in the Thirds grand final that year, and then had a stint with St Kilda Under 19s before returning to the club in 1976 when he played his

fiftieth game during the season. A back pocket player rarely caught out of position, Mark was an attribute to a solid defence in a senior premiership-winning team. Like Kieran Breen, he was another Mentone player who had a close connection to the defeated Cheltenham players as he played cricket with many of them at Cheltenham Cricket Club.

### **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 premiership 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.

### **Gary Downie**

A clever, small man who could play either half forward, wing or rover, Gary was lightly built but very quick. Always dangerous near goals, Gary and was able to feed off the attempts by opposition full backs to spoil Ted Vale. Equally skilful on both sides of his body, Gary was not always given the recognition he deserved, but he was a valuable contributor in both the 1967 and 1968 premiership teams.

### **Ken Dunn**

Coming to the club for the 1977 season Ken was the 'prized' recruit from Edithvale/Aspendale. A former Melbourne reserves player, Ken was a high-marking, long-kicking forward who could change a game very quickly. Unfortunately, injury restricted Ken to only four games for the season, but fortunately one of those was the 1977 senior grand final where he kicked two valuable goals to help seal the victory.

**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 premierships 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.

**John Edelbuttel**

John first played with the club as a junior in 1946. Despite suffering a serious knee injury at nineteen years of age, he went on to play more than 200 games for the club. His best years in the senior team were under the coaching of Jim Baird, during an era when Crofton Mudge was also prominent. John continued to provide great off field support to the club over a number of years being awarded Best Social Worker in 1952 with later roles on the committee, and as the resident barman and cleaner in the sixties and seventies. He was one of the key movers in establishing the 'Tiger Tails', which provided crucial financial support to the club in the seventies. John was made a Life Member of the club in 1960.

**Norm Ellingsen**

Norm was one of the 1956 senior premierships trainers. He had a long period of service with the club as a trainer beginning in the early 1950s and continuing into the 1960s. He assisted the club as trainer for the juniors, Reserves and seniors. Players of the time remember him as a terrific bloke and clubman always willing to have a chat, lend an ear and provide a much needed rub down on sore muscles. **[Dec.]**

**John 'Jock' Elmore**

Recruited to the club by friend Mark Lockwood as a sixteen year old in 1976, Jock went on to play a total of 242 senior games over the next sixteen consecutive years, somewhat incredibly playing 121 games in each of the senior and reserves teams during this period. Jock played on the wing in the reserves premierships teams of 1977, 1978 and 1980, and was famed for his nifty, immaculately presented, no-nonsense, motivated approach to every game when he ran onto the ground for the Beda's. A great contributor off the ground, Jock served on Committee and was the heart and soul of the club's social committee for many years. He was awarded the George Alexander Best Clubman Trophy in 1987 and is a Life Member of the club.

**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.

**Peter Fogarty**

Joining the club in 1973, Peter 'Bear' Fogarty was a ruthless, highly skilled and dashing winger who started in the Under 19s before playing in excess of 100 senior games. A member of the St Bede's OC 1977 premiership team, the 1978 grand final team and the 1982 reserves premiership team, he took great pleasure in 'destroying' his opponents both physically and verbally. Peter played fantastic football throughout the 1977 premiership season, finishing runner-up in the senior Best and Fairest award and being among the best in the all important 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.

**Clive Foster**

Clive was member of the Len James-coached junior premierships teams between 1950 and 1952. He went on to play in excess of 200 games for the club with his best senior years including membership of the 1955 Federal League representative side, and the 1958 and 1959 finals teams. He was also a member of the 1954, and 1960 Reserves premierships sides, and captained the team in 1962. Clive was also secretary in 1965 and 1966 and was instrumental in the club focussing on locals and juniors in establishing its successful senior premierships sides of the sixties. Clive was made a Life Member in 1961, and later he and his father were also instrumental in the building of a new scoreboard for the club.

**Rod Foy**

A Tiger junior, Rod was captain of the Thirds and winner of their Best and Fairest award in 1963. A classy footballer, Rod was a very tough, unforgiving half forward flanker who was very dangerous on the flank opposite to Colin Lewis. Rod had total commitment at all times and loved to win the ball, bursting the packs wide open with his strength and fanatical desire and fierce approach. Rod could also be used in bursts as a rover or centreman, and went on to play almost 150 games with the club, with the highlight being his participation in the 1967 premierships victory, missing the 1968 flag through injury.

**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 Fourth's. 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 though 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 premierships team in that year. **[Dec.]**

**Sean Hanrahan**

An outstanding junior and senior footballer, Sean was a member of the club's first ever Fourths premierships team 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.

**Mrs I. Harley**

Few people in the history of the Mentone Football Club have given as much off-field service as Mrs Harley. For more than 50 years from the club's first premierships team in 1928 Mrs Harley was a supporter and helper for Mentone. She was one of the pillars of the strong ladies committees of that time. Many remember her running the canteen in the old tin shed, providing meals on pie nights, being on the street stalls or selling special efforts around the ground to support fundraising. Of her latter service, it was once remarked in an annual report 'Mrs Harley could sell sand to the Arabs'! She was truly a remarkable servant of the club and was awarded Life Membership in 1958. **[Dec.]**

**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 premierships 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 premierships 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.

**Doug Henderson**

Doug played eighteen games in his one season with St Bedes OC; fortunately his brief career with the club culminated in him being a key member of the 1977 senior premierships team. Kicking seven goals with the reserves in his first game, he was quickly promoted to the seniors and became a valuable member of the team. A lightly framed half forward/ruck rover, Doug had a spectacular leap and each week thrilled supporters and team mates with his high flying marks.

**Gavin Hoare**



Gavin was a member of the 1950/51 junior premierships sides, when he won Best and Fairest awards in successive seasons. He also had the honour of captaining the team in 1951. A centre player with terrific balance, Gavin could kick with either foot, was a quick thinker, and was the ultimate team player, often bringing his team-mates into the game. He went on to play with the 'big' Tigers - the Richmond Football Club - for eight games in 1952 and 1953. His league career was cut short when as a school teacher he was shifted to the country where he later played with distinction at Rutherglen when in 1956 he was an integral part of a premiership. Gavin later played at Hamilton and Kaniva. **[Dec.]**

### **Jeff Hopgood**

A giant ruckman, Jeff was the pick of the bunch in Mentone's recruiting spree prior to the 1976 season. After 42 games and eighteen goals at North Melbourne between 1968 and 1973, Jeff played for Coburg in the VFA in 1974, winning their Best and Fairest award. Appointed captain of Mentone in their premiership-winning year, he not only led the ruck division, but kicked a handy 21 goals during his nineteen games for the season, and had the reputation of being an 'enforcer', no more evident in the fiery grand final when Cheltenham wingman, Peter Charles, was removed from the ground on a stretcher. Jeff won the club's Most Consistent trophy in 1976, polling 29 votes in the Best and Fairest award. He was also selected as first ruck in the Federal League All-Stars team in 1976.

### **Roger Hore**

A talented junior footballer who won a Most Determined award in 1967, was runner up in the Fourths Best and Fairest award in 1968, and who represented the Federal League juniors in 1970, Roger went on to play more than 100 games for the club but had an even bigger impact for Mentone off the field. From 1972 to 1998, Roger held almost every position in the club, including Committeeman, Social Secretary, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President and President. He was a forthright Chairman of Selectors for the first eighteen, including the 1976 premiership team, and played a key role that year in recruiting a number of high-quality players. Roger also had roles as Team Manager of the Reserves, Under 18s and Under 16s, Federal League tribunal advocate, the footy trip organiser, and sponsorship fundraiser. He played a key role in ensuring the club was reinstated in the Federal League in 1980 when it was suspended after the infamous Parkdale game. Roger was awarded the Best Clubman in 1974 and was the youngest ever Life Member of Mentone at the age of only 22 in 1975.

### **R. E. 'Bob' Hoysted**

Bob holds a unique connection with the current club. On the St Bede's side, he was the first protestant captain of the St Bede's college first eighteen football side! On the Mentone side, he was a Best and Fairest winner with the club in 1945. Something of an all-round sportsman, Bob belonged to a five-generation racing family and went on to become one of Australia's best trainers from his Mentone stables. Equally at home with training sprinters or stayers, some of the many champions he trained included Rose of Kingston, winner of the VRC Oaks and AJC Derby; Blue Diamond winners Aare and Love A Show; and Sydeston, winner of the Caulfield, Moonee Valley and Sandown Cups. In 1978, Bob took over the training of brilliant two year old sprinter Manikato

after the death of his brother Bon. Manikato was recognised as Australia's champion sprinter and won 29 times including twelve Group One races (and an amazing five consecutive William Reid Stakes). This was an incredible training feat when you consider the horse had 'dicky' legs and had previously bled. Bob is a nomination for entry into the 2006 Australian Racing Hall of Fame (With acknowledgements to the 'Australian Racing Hall Of Fame').

### **Michael Huysmans**

Michael was another former collegian who came to the club in 1977 and played nineteen games including the senior premiership of that year. A quick left footed wingman who ran and carried the ball, he formed part of a great centre line with Peter Fogarty on the other wing and Mark Lockwood in the pivot. While they provided a lot of goal-scoring power, Michael was also a hard-running player, so vital in the modern game. He was lightly -framed but courageous and strong in the air for his size.

### **Brian Irving**

Brian was a senior premiership player in the 1970 St Bede's Old Collegians' team in the YCW C Grade South competition and became a corner stone player for the seniors in its early VAFA days. Brian played in excess of 150 games for the club, including 108 VAFA games in a career spanning some seventeen years. In the seasons leading into 1977 Brian held down the key defensive post for the senior team and also successfully coached the reserves to the 1976 flag. Combining both activities was difficult and Brian decided to step down from the seniors and focused on captain-coaching the reserves to another premiership win over Bulleen Templestowe. In the grand final 'Irv' moved forward to kick four goals after the side trailed at half time. Brian was also a club committeeman during his playing career and continued his support after his playing days were over.

### **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.

**Peter Kerr**

One of the premiership mascots in 1968, Peter not only went on to play junior and reserves football, but provided fantastic off-field service to the club. As well as coaching roles in the juniors, Peter has also been a team manager and bench assistant for fifteen years, including the 1993 and 2006 senior premierships. A true Tiger, 'Nobby' is one of a group of unassuming people who have formed the backbone of the club with their tireless and largely unrecognised service. A former secretary, current Life Member and winner of the Best Clubman award in 1997, Peter has been involved with the club in some capacity for almost forty years.

**Norb Knuppel**

Norb Knuppel is credited with securing the entry of St Bede's Old Collegians into the VAFA. The club had twice applied to enter the Amateurs, the first time being in 1965. On both occasions the club had been unable to properly organize itself, much to the annoyance of the Association, and by 1971 the VAFA signalled their disinterest in any future applications from the club. In 1972, Norb, along with a small club delegation, paid a personal visit to Jack Fullerton, the long-time VAFA Secretary. It was well known that Fullerton did not suffer fools gladly, and when the group knocked on his door and stood there in the pouring rain as they introduced themselves, Fullerton responded 'St Bedes? – We don't want anything to do with them'. Norb was able to talk his way into Jack's house for a hearing, although it was only a remote chance that they would be able to turn Fullerton around. Apparently during the conversation it was discovered that Norb and Fullerton had at one time both worked for Patons Brakes, and from that point onward the tone of the meeting changed and the club was able to achieve its long held ambition of

being admitted to the Amateur competition. President of the club from 1970 until 1973 and Treasurer in 1970 and 1971, after stepping into the breach when the club experienced a difficult season in 1969, Norb initially agreed to attend a club meeting with his future son-in-law and came away as President. The first priority was the club's finances and he asked for a loan of \$200 each from six or so club members in order to keep the club afloat. The club played in the YCW league that season and went through the 1970 season as undefeated premiers under Norb's presidency. **[Dec.]**

**Timm Kurth**

In a career that commenced in 1969 and concluded in 1981, Timm Kurth played in excess of 200 games for his much loved Beda's. A senior player from 1969-1977, he was a premiership player in the 1970 team that won the flag in YCW C Grade South, appointed club captain in 1973 when the team finished runners up in F Section to Fawkner, and was a reserves premiership player in 1977 in F Section. Timm was the appointed captain coach of the reserve's team which won the VAFA E Section reserves premiership in 1978, runners-up in 1979 in D Section, and then were premiers in D Section in 1980. Tim was also an outstanding member off the field, serving as club Treasurer in 1981 and being made a Life Member in 1992.

**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 OCFC 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.

**Steve Latcham**

Universally known as 'Tex', Steve was a laconic, beanpole ruckman who made his debut for the Tigers in 1975 after playing for Sandringham. Struck down with injury, he forced his way back into the senior team in 1976 and became a handy ruckman/forward. In the grand final, he got the team off to a sensational start by kicking two of his only four goals for the season in the first few minutes of the action-packed opening quarter.

**George Le Fevre**

George (whose son Don played at the club) provided outstanding service to Mentone as a treasurer for eight years from 1954 to 1961. He oversaw the club's finances during one of the most successful periods of its history. He took the club finances from being in the 'red' in the mid fifties to the black. George was a typical treasurer, keeping tight control of the outwards money and always making sure the club balanced its books each year to ensure it had the financial security off the field to support and drive its on-field success. **[Dec.]**

**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 premierships 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.]**

**Jim Kelt**

Making his senior debut in 1966, Jim won the Best First Year Player award in that season. He held down the centre half forward position in the 1967 and 1968 premierships teams, and combined very well with his good friend Ted Vale, always playing well up the ground to give his full forward room to lead into. Jim's contribution to the overall team performance was probably never given sufficient recognition, as he played very serviceably in the most difficult position on the ground, giving his team a formidable goal-to-goal line.

**Michael Ladds**

Mick Ladds was a quiet man on the field, but great company off it. A 'Collingwood six-footer' in size, he could play on tall and small alike. Mick was renowned for his solid defensive play and ability to spoil in the air. A steady and reliable left-foot kick, he kept his cool when many around him were losing theirs. Mick played 36 games during 1977 and 1978 and was in the back pocket for the 1977 senior premierships team.

**Mark Lockwood**

As a fresh-faced sixteen year-old Mark played his first senior game in 1976 but always had the presence of a mature athlete. It is hard to believe that he achieved almost 50 senior games over three years before his eighteenth birthday! St Bede's were fortunate to have this delightful young champion as a key player in its premierships year of 1977 before he went on to play the game at a higher level with Melbourne reserves in the Victorian Football League.

**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 premierships 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.

**Glen McDonnell**

Described in the *Federal League Record* as an 'outstanding centre half back' who could 'take a great mark ... and dominate a game', Glen had an outstanding career with the Mentone juniors. Named as Best Team Player in the Fourths in 1969 and captain of that team in 1970 where he won the Best and Fairest award, Glen followed this up with another Best and Fairest trophy in the Thirds in the next season, when the team played off for the premierships. Glen then enjoyed a stint with the St Kilda Thirds and Reserves before returning to the club. Something of a young 'veteran', Glen won the Most Improved Player for the seniors in 1974, and had already played 80 games for the club when he held down the key defensive post in the 1976 grand final.

**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.

### **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 premierships 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.

### **Edward McGowan**

At just a shade under six feet, Ted was a stylish leading full forward with sure hands and a straight kick who starred for the Tigers as their leading goal kicker in the 1956 season. During the season he booted ten goals in three quarters against Parkdale and was an important member of their premierships-winning team. Recruited from Melbourne to Mentone, he had also previously played for Hamilton.

### **Kevin McGuire**

Appointed captain coach of St Bedes OCFC in 1970, Kevin led his club to win the 1970 premierships, 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.

### **Nick McKenzie**

A dashing, blond wingman, Nick cut his teeth in the Mentone junior teams, where he was nominated as the Most Promising Player in the Fourths in 1970, and was captain of the Thirds in 1973, when he was named 'Best Clubman' of that team. He added valuable pace to the centre line of the senior premierships team in 1976 and was handy around goals. Drawing on his experience of more than 80 games for the club, Nick also had a reputation for slipping away from opponents, and was among the best in the 1976 finals series.

### **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 premierships 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.

### **Steve Matthews**

Referred to in the press as the 'Boy from Rupanyup', Steve made his debut for the club in 1975. He was a strong player who was difficult to move off the ball, an excellent overhead mark in pack situations, and part of a tall forward line in the 1976 premiership team. An accurate kick, Steve headed the senior goal-kicking list for the season with an excellent tally of 47, and finished a creditable fourth in the Best and Fairest award, polling 23 votes.

### **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.

**Warren Mercer**

Warren was in the 1956 runners-up junior side to Black Rock and was a member of the 1957 and the outstanding undefeated 1958 junior premiership teams coached by Mick Beckwith. Warren won the Mentone goalkicking in 1957 and after 55 games at the club was recruited to North Melbourne where he played one game in 1959. A classy rover with good balance and excellent ball skills, his opportunities were limited at the Kangaroos behind champion North player Alan Aylett and second rover Gerald Eastmuir. He later went to Deniliquin where he is fondly remembered for his role in their 1966 premiership victory and for winning the competition goal kicking in 1965. **[Dec.]**

**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.

**Stan Moss**

A clever, long-kicking half forward flanker with accurate disposal, 'Dick' was a former Mentone junior player who had previously won four flags with the club, including the

juniors between 1950 and 1952, and the Reserves in 1954. His 'golden touch' continued in 1956 when, at age 21, he starred in the centre for the Reserves in their losing Grand Final team, but then added a senior premiership pennant to his tally when he was selected in the senior team the following week.

### **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.]**

### **Bob Mulavin**

Bob is a great example of a man who gave quality time to the club despite an infirmity. Joining the club after playing with the Melbourne Under 19s, his deteriorating eyesight cut short a promising career as a dominant ruckman. He played nineteen senior games before his premature retirement in 1973, but remained with the club for almost ten years as an official and VAFA delegate. Club Secretary from 1974 to 1977, Bob was the recipient of the George Alexander Best Clubman award in 1979 and is a Life Member of the club. A true gentle giant and a delightful man.

### **Gerard Mulcahy**

In 1977, an eighteen year old, 185cm debutant in Gerry Mulcahy was selected for the season's opener and went onto play eighteen senior games. The team's formidable half back line was settled early with Gerry playing along side former Melbourne reserves players in Vaughan and Boyce. Gerry's disciplined team play held the side together at crucial stages, as his opponents struggled to have any influence on games. Chronic knee problems ended his career prematurely in the early part of 1978 although there were occasions where he did pull on the jumper when numbers were short. Gerry's commitment to the club did not waiver with stints on the committee from 1978 to 1984, holding the position of senior team runner in 1985 and 1986, acting as 'chairman of selectors' for John Turner in 1984, and earning the ultimate recognition as a recipient of the George Alexander Best Clubman Award in 1985. Gerry has also sponsored the club since 1993.

### **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.]**

### **Norm Oldham**

A versatile player, Norm could play key positions as well as being an on-baller. This is exemplified in the 1956 season when he was on the bench in the senior's second Semi Final game, played the following week in the replayed match, followed this up by playing centre half back in the Reserves Grand Final team, and was then selected as a ruck rover in the senior premiership team. Norm also played in the 1954 finals series.

### **John O'Neill**

In a fifteen year career from 1950 to 1965, John played 231 games with Mentone. He started his career with four premierships in 5 years with the Len James-coached juniors of 1950-52, and the Reserve premiership side of 1954. He was a member of the runners-up Reserves team of 1956, and then played in the 1960 Reserves premiership team before winning the Reserves Best and Fairest award in the following season. John worked hard at his game to develop himself into a senior player and in 1963 he was regarded as one of the better utility players in the Federal League, playing in the team that was beaten by Springvale in that year's Grand Final. John was awarded Life Membership in 1960 in recognition of his loyalty and service to the club.

### **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.

### **Bill Rhoden**

Bill became the first official trainer for St Bede's OC and gave enormous amounts of time and energy to his roles as medical man, timekeeper, and statistician. He was one of those precious individuals whose contribution kept the organization focused and successful, and he took on key committee roles such as Treasurer in 1968 and Secretary in 1971. In 1970 he was also part of the now famous delegation that visited VAFA Secretary Jack Fullerton in order to lobby for the club's inclusion in the Amateurs. As club trainer in the premiership years of 1970 and 1977, Bill played a vital role in the medical support on offer in the club's first VAFA premiership. Bill also played for many years as a successful cricketer with St Bede's, and his laconic wit and strong ethics added a touch of class to the football club's social scene.

### **John Riley**

A former Mentone junior player, John won two flags with the Tigers before graduating to the Melbourne Thirds. A clever and tenacious rover, he also played with Oakleigh in the Victorian Football Association, earning three votes in one game during the same season that he played in the 1956 premiership team. John later captained Parkdale, but returned to become coach of the Mentone Fourths in 1962.

### **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.

### **Paul Robinson**

'The Koondrook Kid' joined the Bede's as a junior in 1973 playing two games in the Under 19 team of that year. He was a great talent, with beautiful timing, the ability to

bounce the ball effortlessly with either hand, a superb kick, and a powerful mark. A classic footballer that always had extra time to make the play, he won the club Best and Fairest award in 1976 from a strong playing list and culminated his career at St Bede's as a premiership player in 1977.

**Stan Rule**

Stan joined Mentone after a successful 74 game career as a back pocket with Melbourne. His League career included playing in the Demon's 1948 premiership team which won the flag as a result of the grand final replay against Essendon. Stan's first stint with Mentone was as a playing coach and he led the club to runners-up in 1959, with the Mentone side in front until McKinnon's five-time Federal League Best and Fairest winner, 'Icy' Hamilton, received a free kick with only a short time to go in the match. Stan also took the club to the preliminary final in 1960. As a playing coach, Stan was remembered for the great courage he showed when playing with injuries. Stan returned as a non-playing coach in 1963 and took a young side that played an exciting brand of football through to the grand final, where the team was defeated by Springvale. Stan was a major influence on his players with his key message that the team always came first.

**Norm Ryan**

A courageous and dynamic rover, Norm had good pace and also knew where the goals were. Named as a forward pocket in the 1968 premiership team, Norm kicked one goal in a low scoring match. An excellent clubman who was well liked and respected by his peers, Norm later won the Reserves Best and Fairest award in 1970.

**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.

**Kevin Scott**

Transferring from Melbourne to Mentone, Kevin was a fast and vigorous wingman. A member of the 1956 senior premierships team, he went on to represent the Federal League in 1957 and 1958. He recalls how after the flag celebrations, team-mate Brian Chesters had to return him to the Cerebus Naval Base so that he could be at the Garden City Naval Base in New South Wales the next day.

#### **Keith Seddon**

A talented ex-junior who had already won a senior Best and Fairest award in 1966, Keith rejoined the club in 1968 and was highly respected by all his team mates. Only small, but very quick and fearless, Keith did a great job on the wing when he came into the side for the 1968 grand final. Observers recall that he was pressured by a particularly aggressive opponent all day, but Keith kept the ball as his target and refused to be intimidated. Unfortunately, Keith was killed in a car accident before the 1969 season, and in memory of his courage and commitment the Keith Seddon Shield was struck in his honour and subsequently awarded to the senior club champion. **[Dec.]**

#### **Gerry Shannon**

Gerry played junior football at Mentone, winning a Fourths Best and Fairest award in 1964 and playing in a Thirds premierships in 1966. Gerry joined St Bedes OCFC in 1968 and played in the club's first senior premierships 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.

#### **Kevin Sharp**

Kevin was a hard working member of the 1956 premierships team. He won the Reserves Best and Fairest award in 1957, and also played in the Reserves finals team in that season. He later served as the Reserves captain in 1959, and was a Reserves premierships player in 1960. Kevin is remembered as a loyal clubman who gave his all whether playing in the seniors or Reserves. **[Dec.]**

#### **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.]**

#### **Ray Shaw**

Returned to Mentone in 1956 after two years with Oakleigh in the Victorian Football Association and three years with the Melbourne Thirds, including a year as their captain. A great footballer who could drop kick on the run using either foot, he was described in

the Federal League *Record* as 'A strong and clever rover', whose accuracy and balance when kicking for goal was outstanding. A member of the 1956 senior premierships team, and winner of the 'Most Consistent' award in 1957.

**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 premierships side and member of the 1935 premierships 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.]

**Neil Sherritt**

Coming to the club in 1968 from the Army, Neil played in the senior premierships team and also won the Most Promising Player for the Reserves in the same year. An excellent worker on the track, Neil played on half-back flank, and was a tough, direct, no nonsense player whose strengths were his total commitment and absolute lack of fear. Cleared of attempting to strike a Glenhuntly player in the preliminary final, Neil went on to perform a vital role in the 1968 grand final, and was named among the best players.

**Rex Short**

Following a stint with the Melbourne Reserves, Rex played finals football with the Tigers in 1954 and at age 24 was regarded as a senior member of the 1956 premierships side. A hard-at-the-ball but scrupulously fair half-back flanker, Rex was a strong and genuinely tough player who prompted even his team mates to get out of his road when he attacked the ball. In 1956, Rex stood out for his courageous mark between three Dandenong players in the Semi-Final. He received a ten-year service certificate in 1958, and was made a Life Member in 1960. Rex will always be remembered as someone who gave his all for the Tigers each and every week. [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 premierships 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 premierships and played in the 1963 senior grand final team. A strongly built, key position player who could take a good mark, Brian went on to play with St Kilda from 1964 to 1968 for 89 games, including being a member of the club's only premierships team in 1966. Brian then went on to 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.

### **John Smith**

A migrant from Scotland, John was introduced to Australian Rules at the age of eighteen when former Collingwood star Bruce Andrews was responsible for teaching him the finer points of the game. For almost 20 years John gave Mentone terrific service on and off the field. He was Most Improved in the Reserves in 1964, Best Team Man in 1966, and Best and Fairest in the Reserves in 1977 and 1980. Described in one annual report as 'A man who just does not know how to be beaten', 'Smithy' was a fierce competitor in his 208 games and was renowned for his fitness and for being first on the track and last off it. Off the field, he coached the Reserves and the Fourths, was the club's Federal League delegate, served on the committee, and readily became involved in organising social activities for the club. John was rewarded with Life Membership in 1970. After football, he was heavily involved in coaching professional athletics, enjoying regular success with his stable at the Stawell Easter meeting.

### **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.]**

### **John Stein**

An outstanding junior player, John sacrificed his last year as captain of the Thirds in 1965 to play senior football. A good kick and mark, John was a star at centre half back in the

1967 premiership team, playing as a big, strong, bullocking backman. He was training with Melbourne prior to the 1968 season, but was badly injured in a car accident mid-way through pre-season training and did not play football again. John was an excellent size for a centre half back and according to astute judges could have achieved success in the Victorian Football League.

**Andrew Sutherland**

For more than 20 years throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Andy shuffled across the road from his Brindisi Street house to open and close the clubrooms during the week for senior and junior training. On the weekend, he was the ever-reliable gatekeeper who would stand in all weather conditions fronting the bluff of opposition supporters trying to avoid paying the entry fee. Andy also undertook the cleaning of the rooms including giving the old parquet floor a regular polish, and he served on the committee in 1965. In recognition of his loyal and tireless service, Andy's efforts were consistently acknowledged in countless annual reports, and he was awarded Life Membership in 1969. [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.]

**Geoff Terrell**

The year 1972 was important as it signalled the club's first season in the VAFA as well as the arrival of a young and exciting player by the name of Geoff Terrell. Geoff was the one of those naturally talented players who had the ability to kick a freakish goal after taking the mark of the day. In the period leading into 1977, Geoff had won a senior Best and Fairest award and captained the club. Through out the 1977 season Geoff shared the ruck-roving role with another exciting high marking player in Doug Henderson. Together they combined to damage the opposition both around the packs and in the air. For all players and supporters the mark taken by Geoff in the 1977 second semi-final was not only one of the best that they had ever witnessed but was the straw that broke Bulleen Templestowe's back and triggered the Beda's 77 point victory. Geoff was also a member of the losing 1978 grand final side and went onto play 161 games for the club. Thirty years later, Geoff's sons Matt, Luke and James have all represented the club at senior level. Luke also emulated his father's feat by being a member of the 2006 senior premiership side.

**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 premiership teams. 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 premiership wins 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 VAFA 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.

### **Bob Turra**

The 1977 season featured nine players who were new to the club and ultimately formed part of the senior premiership team. One of the recruiting coups was the signing of the enigmatic Bobby Turra. A classic half-forward, who had deft hand and foot skills, he was courageous and tough, and one of the side's key play makers and architect for many goal-scoring opportunities. Although he missed several games during the season through injury he was always a walk-up selection. Some recall the very first practice game and the debut of Turra that season. Right from the outset it was clear that he was a great team player and one that would prove to be a thorn in the side of many opposition teams. In addition to his 1977 senior premiership success, Bob also played in the 1978 reserves premiership team.

### **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.

### **Peter Varney**

A true clubman from the time he commenced his playing career in 1961, Peter played in two junior premierships and was awarded Best Team Man for the Thirds in 1962. He then went on to provide Mentone with loyal and dedicated service until his last game in 1979 when he pulled on the boots one final time as coach of the Reserves. In his 133 games, Peter had an uncompromising approach to football, based on ensuring the body was fit, the mind was strong, and you hit the ball hard. He carried that philosophy into his coaching and made sure he gave something back to the game by coaching the Mentone Fourths from 1972 to 1974, the Thirds in 1975, and the Reserves in 1979. He also served on the general committee in 1971, 1972 and 1974, and was heavily involved in the social committee, organizing a number of functions, including several at his own home. Peter was awarded Life Membership in 1970 and together with his wife Margaret they received recognition as Best Club Persons in 1973, where the annual report noted that their efforts were considered to be 'above the normal call of duty'.

### **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.

### **W. 'Bill' Waldron**

Bill was one of the six players to play in all the Len James-coached junior sides that won triple premierships from 1950 to 1952, the side losing only one game during that period. A talented full back who was a huge kicker of the ball, Bill played tight on his opponent and was always hard to beat. He displayed plenty of confidence with drop-kicks a plenty and was a vocal team-mate on the field. Bill went on to play with Melbourne Reserves and two seasons with the St Kilda seniors before playing with Moorabbin in the Victorian Football Association and local rivals, Parkdale.

### **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 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.]**

### **Kevin Wyld**

A half back flanker in the 1967 premiership team, Kevin was a sturdy, reliable and close checking backman. Whilst never spectacular, he was totally disciplined in all he did, and had a reputation for never being beaten and never giving in. The epitome of a team player and an ever-reliable performer, Kevin played almost 100 games for the club and won Best and Fairest awards for the Reserves in the 1969 and 1972.

**MENTONE AND ST BEDE'S OLD COLLEGIANS AFC  
HALL OF FAME ENTRIES, 2004-2007**

*Page 47*

**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